

02 JUL 1996

Uruguay-Award

MAHATHIR CONFERRED TOP URUGUAY AWARD

KUALA LUMPUR, July 2 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was today conferred Uruguay's highest award given to foreign heads of government.

The Prime Minister received the "Knight Commander" second category award from Uruguay President Dr Julio Maria Sanguinetti, who arrived here today for a four-day state visit.

Dr Sanguinetti, who conferred the award when Dr Mahathir paid him a courtesy call at Carcosa Seri Negara here, will bestow the the first category award, which is reserved for foreign heads of state, on Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Jaafar tomorrow.

Dr Sanguinetti's visit is the first to Malaysia by a head of state of the Latin American republic since the two countries established diplomatic ties in 1987.

It is at the invitation of Tunku Jaafar who visited Uruguay Last September followed by a similar vist by Dr Mahathit two months later.

While in Malaysia, Dr Sanguinetti and his delegation, comprising ministers and senior government officials, will hold talks with Dr Mahathir.

The two countries are expected to sign agreements for cooperation in the economic, scientific and technical fields as well as in veterinary medicine and phytosanitary.

Dr Sanguinetti is also scheduled to speak at a trade seminar jointly organised by the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Malaysian South-South Association and the Uruguay Embassy here.

The Uruguay delegation is also scheduled to attend a briefing to be given by the Economic Planning Unit, and visit the Proton car plant in Shah Alam.

Dr Sanguinetti and his wife, Prof Dr Marta Canessa Sanguinetti, were met on arrival at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah airport in Subang by Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The president and his delegation were then given an official welcome at the Merdeka Square by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. -- BERNAMA

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