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Korea-Visit

PRESIDENT KIM ARRIVES FOR THREE-DAY STATE VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 26 (Bernama) -- South Korean President Kim Young Sam arrived here today to begin a three-day state visit to Malaysia.

Kim, accompanied by his wife, was received by Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport in Subang.

Also present was Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha, who is the minister-in-attendance.

Kim arrived here from the Philippines where he had attended the summit of the 18-nation Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec).

Malaysia is the last leg of his three-nation tour of Southeast Asia which has also taken him to Vietnam.

He is leading a delegation which includes some Cabinet ministers and representatives of the Korean private sector.

An official welcoming ceremony was held at Parliament Square later this afternoon.

He was greeted on arrival by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar, Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

A 21-gun salute was fired.

The national anthems of both countries were played and Kim inspected a guard of honour mounted by officers and men of the Royal Malay Regiment.

Cabinet ministers, heads of foreign missions and other dignitaries were then introduced to Kim.

Tuanku Ja'afar and Tuanku Najihah will host a state banquet for the Korean leader at Istana Negara tonight.

Kim is scheduled to hold bilateral discussions with Dr Mahathir tomorrow on ways to enhance cooperation between the two countries.

-- BERNAMA

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