

14/12/1997

2 Asean leaders arrive for summit

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Two Asean leaders arrived today for the Asean Informal Summit and Asean +3 meeting which begins on Monday.

The Sultan of Brunei, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, arrived at the Palace of the Golden Horses Hotel - the venue of the summit - at 11.55am while Myanmar's Prime Minister and State Peace and Development Council Chairman General Than Shwe arrived at 1.10pm.

Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah was met on arrival at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport by Agriculture Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud, who is also minister in attendance.

Accompanied by ministers and government officials, the Sultan was met at the hotel by Wisma Putra officials and senior hotel personnel.

General Than Shwe was received at the airport by Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik. He is accompanied by top Myanmar officials, including foreign minister Ohn Gyaw and the council's first secretary Khin Nyunt.

They were the first Asean leaders to arrive for the two-day informal summit which will also feature the leaders of Asean dialogue partners China, Japan and South Korea.

President Jiang Zemin of China, Prime Ministers Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan and Koh Kun of South Korea are expected to arrive tomorrow.

Other Asean leaders expected tomorrow include Prime Minister General Khantay Siphandone of Laos and President Goh Chok Tong of Singapore.

Thailand's Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai and Philippines President Fidel Ramos are also scheduled here the same day.

The leaders will attend five meeting sessions starting with the Heads of Government summit meeting on Monday morning.

This will be followed by the Asean +3 meeting with President Jiang, Prime Minister Hashimoto and Prime Minister Koh.

A protocol agreement to implement the initial package of commitments under the Asean Framework Agreement on Services is expected to be signed by Asean Economic Ministers the same day.

A memorandum of understanding setting up the Asean Foundation which will enhance co-operation on educational and cultural matters between member states will also be signed by the foreign ministers of member countries.

Three Asean +1 meetings between the Asean leaders and the leaders of respective dialogue partners are expected to be held on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to hold a Press conference at 1.15pm after the Informal Summit Meeting and at 5.30pm after the Asean +3 meeting on Dec 15.

He is also expected to hold a Press conference after the three Asean +3 meetings at 3pm on Dec 16.

A gala dinner for the delegates will be hosted by Dr Mahathir on Monday which will feature the presentation of the Asean Citation to the signatories, or their representatives, of the Bangkok Declaration 1967 which established regional grouping.

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan is also expected pay a courtesy call on the Prime Minister at the hotel the same day.

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