

21 MAR 1997

MAHATHIR ARRIVES IN SAUDI ARABIA

By: Amin Husaini Harun

JEDDAH, March 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here today to begin a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

He was met at the airport by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman and the Malaysian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Sapii Abu Samah.

Dr Mahathir, who was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, then proceeded to Mecca where he would perform the umrah.

He would go to Riyadh tomorrow to receive this year's King Faisal International Prize for service to Islam at 8pm (1am on Sunday in Malaysia).

The Prime Minister is scheduled to hold a press conference after the award ceremony. -- BERNAMA

AHH SK