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TATARSTAN PRESIDENT IN TOWN FOR FOUR-DAY VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, April 7 (Bernama) -- Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaimiev arrived here today for a four-day visit aimed at strengthening trade, cultural and economic ties between that Russian republic and Malaysia.

Among those accompanying him are First Deputy Prime Minister Ravil Muratov, Foreign Economic Relations Minister Rashid Akhounov, Economic Minister Damir Bikbov and prominent business figures.

According to a statement issued on behalf of the Russian embassy today, Shaimiev has been granted an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar at Istana Negara and is expected to call upon Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir, who is now in Bahrain for a three-day visit, is due back on Thursday.

Shaimiev's visit follows the one made by the Acting Yang Di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan, Tunku Naquiyuddin Tuanku Ja'afar, who led a delegation of Malaysian businessmen to Tatarstan's capital, Kazan, in October last year.

The Tatarstan delegation will conduct meetings with members of the Malaysian business community and visit the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority, the Institute of Islamic Understanding, Petronas and the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange. -- BERNAMA

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