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IRAQI VEEP LEAVES FOR HANOI AFTER FOUR-DAY VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, May 12 (Bernama) -- Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasseen Ramadhan left for Hanoi today ending a four-day visit to Malaysia to strengthen bilateral ties.

He was seen off at the KL International Airport in Sepang by Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Leo Micheal Toyad and Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman who was minister-in-attendance.

Taha, 60, is the highest ranking Iraqi leader to visit Malaysia since the two countries established diplomatic ties 35 years ago.

His visit was at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He was granted an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah and called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He also met Abdullah and held discussion with Petronas President Tan Sri Hassan Marican.

-- BERNAMA

NHD RYN