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Syed Hamid-Gus Dur

NEW INDON PRESIDENT TO VISIT MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 26 (Bernama) -- Indonesia's new president Abdurrahman Wahid is expected to visit Malaysia soon as part of his tour of Asean countries.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today the date of the visit had been fixed but would be officially announced later.

He said it was normal practice for Asean leaders to visit their counterparts in the region upon their election.

Abdurrahman was expected to discuss bilateral issues and exchange views with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, he told a media conference at Wisma Putra, here.

Abdurrahman, fondly known as Gus Dur, had expressed his desire to visit Malaysia when Malaysian ambassador to Indonesia Datuk Rastam Mohamad called on him following his election as Indonesia's fourth president recently.

The conference was called to announce Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai's visit to Alor Setar this Saturday.

Syed Hamid said Chuan and Dr Mahathir would witness the signing of an agreement on the sale of gas between the Malaysia-Thailand Joint Development Authority (JDA) and Petronas.

The two prime minister would also discuss bilateral, regional and international issues.

"Currently the bilateral relations between Malaysia and Thailand and the personal relations of the prime ministers are very good...there will be an informal Asean Summit (in Manila on Nov 24-28), maybe they will touch on it, maybe East Timor," he said.

Syed Hamid also said that he would visit the Philippines on Nov 3-4 to hold discussions with its Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon.

The familiarisation tour was part of the preparation for the informal summit, he said.

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