

28 JUL 2000  
Hasina-Visit

MALAYSIA-BANGLADESH TIES SET TO BE ENHANCED

KUALA LUMPUR, July 28 (Bernama) -- Bilateral relations between Malaysia and Bangladesh will be further enhanced with the four-day visit by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina beginning Monday, Wisma Putra said today.

The visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would promote closer trade and economic cooperation between the two countries, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

It would be Sheikh Hasina's first official visit to Malaysia.

She will be accompanied by a 73-member delegation including senior officials, correspondents and businessmen.

Members of the official entourage include Labour and Employment Minister, M.A.Mannan and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury.

Sheikh Hasina will call on Dr Mahathir in Putrajaya and attend a bilateral meeting.

Wisma Putra said the two leaders were expected to discuss and exchange views on various bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Sheikh Hasina is also scheduled to have an audience with Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah.

She would also attend a business luncheon organised by the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (NCCIM) and visit the Multimedia Development Corporation and the Petronas Twin Towers.

The Bangladesh leader will also make a trip to Pulau Langkawi.

Malaysia is Bangladesh's third largest investor after the United States and Britain.

Currently there are 33 Malaysian companies registered with the Bangladesh Board of Investment.

As of Dec last year, Malaysia's investment in Bangladesh was estimated at US\$1.32 billion (RM5.01 billion).

Malaysian investment was mainly in telecommunications, transportation, education, power generation, petrol-chemical, data-software, furniture and agro-based industries.

In 1999, Malaysia's total trade with Bangladesh stood at RM534.8 million. The balance of trade was in Malaysia's favour with exports amounting to RM507.2 million and imports at RM27.6 million.

Malaysia's main export item was palm oil, constituting 15.7 per cent of the country's total export.

Malaysia's main import items from Bangladesh were crustaceans and mollusc, photographic equipment, commodities, fish sacks and bags made of jute.

Malaysia and Bangladesh also have close cooperation in the fields of education, maritime transport, tourism, agriculture and information.

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