

Floods in Yemen disrupt Mahathir's programme

SEIYUN, Fri: The programme of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Seiyun in Yemen's Hadhramout region today was disrupted by a flash flood which blocked a portion of the road from this city leading to Ta'arim.

It has been raining in parts of Hadhramout for some time before the arrival of the Yemenia aircraft carrying the Prime Minister and the Malaysian delegation from Aden.

The drama unfolded some 15km from the Seiyun Airport as the convoy headed towards Ta'arim, 40km from the airport, where Mahathir was supposed to meet with Malaysian students at the law faculty of the Al-Ahqaq University and Hadhramout.

ulamas at Darul Mustafa

A chaotic scene ensued as Yemeni authorities learnt late about the flooded road and consequently had to turn the convoy back to the Seiyun airport.

At the airport, Mahathir boarded a helicopter to go to the intended destination. He was accompanied by, among others, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr Abu Baker Al-Qirbi and Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik.

The rest of the delegation, including members of the media, had to contend with visiting an ancient palace which has been turned into a

museum in downtown Seiyun.

The delegation proceeded to a nearby mosque to perform Friday prayers after which they were taken to a nearby hotel where they waited for Mahathir and for lunch to be served.

All are scheduled to fly back to the Yemeni capital Sana'a later in the day.

Hadhramout is the largest governorate in Yemen with a population of nearly 900,000 people. History has it that the people of Hadhramout, through their trading activities, contributed in the spreading of Islam in Asia including Malaysia.

It has long been famous for its mosques, schools and libraries of Ta'arim, citadels and gardens.

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