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Syed Hamid-Visit

SYED HAMID ARRIVES IN BEIJING

By: R. Ravichandran

BEIJING, June 3 (Bernama) -- Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar arrived here today for a stop-over visit before leaving tomorrow to begin a four-day official visit to North Korea.

He was greeted by the Deputy Director-General of the Asia Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs China, Yang Yan Yi and Malaysian Ambassador to China Datuk Abdul Majid Ahmad Khan at the Beijing Capital Airport.

Syed Hamid is scheduled to receive a courtesy call from Chinese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi at his hotel here tomorrow morning.

The minister is expected to arrive at the Pyongyang International Airport in North Korea at about 12 noon (11am Malaysia time) on Monday, where his programme begins with a visit to the bronze statue of Kim Il-Sung followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the statue.

Kim Il-Sung, who died in July 1994, is the founding father of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Syed Hamid, who will also call on his North Korean counterpart Pack Nam Sun tomorrow evening, is accompanied by senior ministry officials as well as officials from the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the Malaysian Palm Oil Promotion Council.

During his stay in Pyongyang, Syed Hamid is expected to convey a goodwill message from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to North Korean leader Kim Jong Il.

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