

PM's visit to boost economic relations

Net 15 APR 2002

KOTA TINGGI, Sun. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will discuss diplomatic as well as economic co-operation with leaders of Morocco, Libya and Bahrain during his working visit there from tomorrow.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Alhar said the six-day visit was aimed at enhancing bilateral ties with the Arab countries besides exploring potential investment opportunities.

"This is not just a political and diplomatic mission. It's going to include discussions on the economy and investments to and from those countries," he said.

Syed Hamid, who will join the mission, said this after attending the Kota Tinggi Umno di-

visional meeting at the Diamond Jubilee Hall here today.

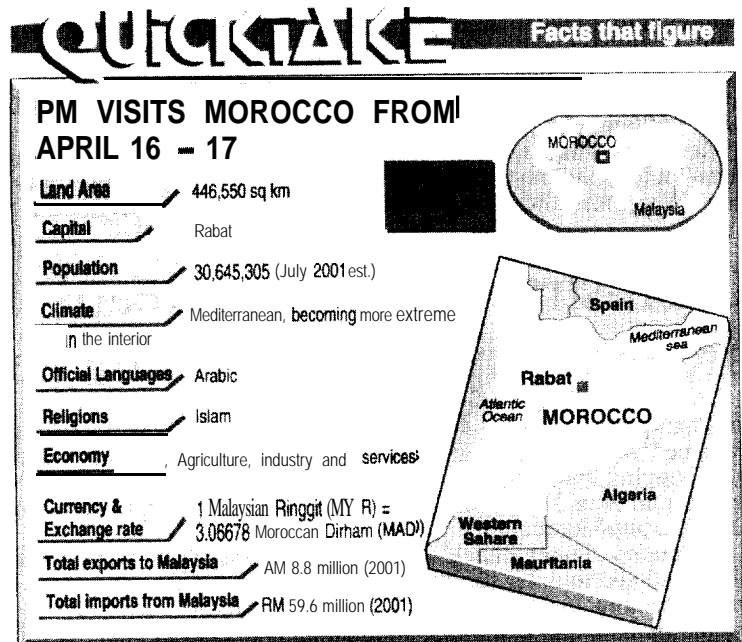
He said the mission would explore new markets for the country's products, particularly in Morocco and Libya, whose trade level with Malaysia is still relatively low.

As for Bahrain, Syed Hamid said priority would be given to enhancing existing diplomatic and economic ties.

Economic ties between Bahrain and Malaysia have been strengthened after the former's co-operation in establishing an Islamic banking system here.

Bahrain also gave a concession to Petronas to explore new oilfields off its shores, he added.

In Sungai Siput, Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said a RM20 million Malaysian trade centre would be built on a



2.8ha site in Bahrain.

"The design of the building is ready and a contractor from Malaysia has been appointed to undertake the project," he said.

Samy Vellu, who will also be accompanying Dr Mahathir on

the mission, said he would submit papers on the centre to the Bahrain Government during the visit.

He said the Public Works Department would oversee the construction of the project.