

10/07/2002

Iranian President to visit KL

SRI KEMBANGAN, Tues. - Iranian President Mohammad Khatami will make an official visit to Kuala Lumpur on July 22 and 23, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said.

Syed Hamid said the visit will enhance bilateral relations between the two countries.

"We are now making all the arrangements for the visit," he said after signing the minutes of the fifth Malaysia-Iran Joint Commission Meeting here today.

Present at the meeting was Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazzi who said Khatami's visit will be an indicator of the close relationship between Iran and Malaysia.

"From this visit, we can expect further co-operation regionally and internationally as Malaysia and Iran share some similar positions on international developments," he said.

He added that Khatami and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would be able to discuss several international issues and work out some problems faced by Islamic countries.

Meanwhile, Syed Hamid said four memoranda of understanding (MoU) were expected to be inked during Khatami's visit.

It would cover areas such as tourism, women and family affairs, trade and trade facilitation and technical co-operation in the information and communication technology.

Earlier, in his closing remark at the meeting, the Minister said the two-day meeting had identified areas where both countries have expressed desires to develop further co-operation.

At the end of the meeting, Syed Hamid presented a cheque for 31,138 euro (RM116.00) to Kharazzi as humanitarian aid for Iran which was hit by an earthquake last June 22, killing some 500 people.