

04 MAR 2002

KIM YONG NAM GIVEN A STATE WELCOME

KUALA LUMPUR, March 4 (Bernama) -- Visiting supreme leader of the North Korean People's Assembly Kim Yong Nam was accorded a state welcome at Parliament Square here today.

He was received on arrival by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail. Present was Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Kim inspected a guard of honour mounted by 104 men of the 1st Battalion, Royal Malaysian Regiment, led by Mejar Abu Samah Mohamed Noor. A 21-gun salute was also fired.

Later, accompanied by Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin, he was taken on a state drive through Jalan Parlimen, Merdeka Square and Jalan Sultan Ismail to his hotel, Hotel Istana.

This afternoon, Kim, who is on a three-day visit to Malaysia, is scheduled to meet the prime minister in Putrajaya after which they will have a delegation meeting to discuss bilateral issues.

He will attend a banquet hosted by Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin at Istana Negara tonight.

-- BERNAMA  
SNS AZZ JK