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Syed Hamid-India/BM

MALAYSIA WON'T INTERVENE IN KASHMIR CONFLICT, SAYS MINISTER

TAIPING, Sept 29 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will not intervene in the conflict between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

He said the conflict concerned only the two South Asian countries and Kuala Lumpur need not get involved, including as a mediator.

Syed Hamid said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would not raise the Kashmir issue during his visit to India on Oct 16 and 17.

"The prime minister's visit is to study the development of the information technology industry in Hyderabad and Bangalore, and deliver a keynote address at the Asean-India Business Summit (in New Delhi)," he told reporters after launching the Barisan Nasional election machinery for the Bukit Gantang parliamentary constituency in Changkat Jering near here.

Syed Hamid said the Malaysian government had never considered playing the mediator's role in the conflict as India and Pakistan were big countries.

"They are capable of resolving their 'own internal' conflict and Malaysia had never offered to be a mediator," he said.

Syed Hamid said that during his visit, Dr Mahathir would also hold talks with Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee aimed at boosting bilateral ties.

-- BERNAMA

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