

04/03/2002

N Korea head arrives for state visit

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - North Korea's president of the Presidium Supreme People's Assembly, Kim Yong-nam, arrived today for a three-day state visit to expand bilateral ties with Malaysia.

He was received by Acting Foreign Minister Datuk Azmi Khalid on his arrival at the Bunga Raya complex of the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang.

Kim made a one-hour visit to the North Korean Embassy in Persiaran Madge, off Jalan U-Thant here, later in the evening.

Kim, 75, is North Korea's highest-ranking leader to visit Malaysia since diplomatic ties were established in 1973.

Kim will be accorded a state welcome at Parliament House tomorrow after which he will take a state drive with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail at Istana Negara.

At 11.30am, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will pay a courtesy call on Kim at Istana Hotel. In the afternoon, Kim and his delegation will visit the Prime Minister's office in Putrajaya.

North Korea and Malaysia are expected to sign a memorandum of understanding on, among others, economy and culture to be witnessed by Kim and Dr Mahathir tomorrow.

Kim leaves on Tuesday night.

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