

06 AUG 2003

JGII-Algiers (With pix)

SHAMSURRIJAL, JGII TO MEET DR M IN ALGIERS

JOHOR BAHRU, Aug 6 (Bernama) -- National solo adventurer Shamsurrijal Abdul Jamil is expected to get a boost in his effort to break a record by driving across 118 countries, in Algeria on Saturday.

The Pontian-born lad, who leaves Tunisia today for Algeria, the 28th country on his list, is hoping to meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in its capital city of Algiers on that date.

"Jalur Gemilang II (JGII) expects to be in Algeria for five days and I am trying to arrange a programme to meet the PM who will be on an official visit to the country starting Thursday.

"The presence of the Prime Minister in Algiers will surely inject a new spirit in JGII to continue its flight, especially in this Merdeka month," he said in an e-mail to Bernama here today.

Shamsurrijal said his 38th birthday on Sunday in his 28th country might create a fond memory for him to continue his mission.

Shamsurrijal, driving a Proton Satria GTi, was flagged off by Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman in February and aims to drive 180,000km across all continents of the world before arriving back in Malaysia on Aug 31, 2004.

"I hope this auspicious date of Aug 31, 2004 will come true for JGII to return to her home country with a new world record in the name of "Malaysia Boleh". That is my dream and hope, apart from promoting Malaysia wherever JGII may be," he said.

JGII has so far attracted a lot of attention from the public and the media with the Malaysian flag covering the whole car and equipment like the Global Positioning System which had yet to become easily available, he said.

In Tunisia, Shamsurrijal said JGII had been to several towns like Sfax, Sousse, Monastir, Tunis and Bizerta, which is the northern-most town in the African continent.

He said his next destination might be Italy as the overland border between Algeria and Morocco had been closed for so long.

JGII would return to Tunis and sail across the Mediterranean sea unless Algeria's Transport Ministry allows him to sail from the port of Oran to Morocco, he said.

-- BERNAMA

MNY MNY EMK SRI