

# Syed Hamid meets Dr M in cordial setting

**Sunday Star 17 June 2007 Page 20**

KUALA LUMPUR; Foreign Minister Datuk Sen Syed Hamid Albar sat next to his former boss when he and Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad attended a public lecture by religious historian Karen Armstrong.

"It was a friendly and warm atmosphere. There was no problem," said Syed Hamid, when met after the lecture at the Mandarin Oriental Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

He said he had, said "hello" to the former prime minister and had introduced Dr Mahathir to Armstrong, who had spoken on bridging the gap between Islam and the West.

"Then I left him with Armstrong. No problem (between us)," said Syed Hamid. The Foreign Ministry is one of the key organisers of Armstrong's itinerary in the country.

Asked whether, Dr Mahathir had raised the issue of the aborted Johor bridge or other Issues of concern during that short time, Syed Hamid responded: "'Takkanlah duduk jumpa macam ini he'll raise it. (Surely he won't raise it in such a casual meeting.)"

Last year, Dr Mahathir had criticised the Government for cancelling the bridge project and the Foreign Minister had borne the brunt of the criticisms.

The Foreign Ministry then issued a lengthy explanation to counter the arguments Dr Mahathir raised and why the decision was made to call it off.