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ARB, IDB sign deal on haj saving services

AMANAH Raya Berhad (ARB), a trustee company, will open financial institutions in several Islamic countries to provide haj pilgrimage saving services, said Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah.

He said an agreement was signed by the ARB and Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for the purpose and to date, three countries had agreed to the services.

"The money collected will be invested to generate income and provide benefits for all depositors. The haj pilgrimage travel and packages will be handled by Lembaga Tabung Haji," he told reporters after handing over a RM550,000 allocation to build a *surau* at Kampung Baru Tersusun in Jelapang Jaya, near Ipoh yesterday.

"Most Islamic countries are using tour and travel agency services to manage haj pilgrims. They have no comprehensive facilities in managing haj pilgrims like Tabung Haji," he said. — *Bernama*