

# PM gets praises from Clinton

By WONG CHUN WAI

WASHINGTON: President Bill Clinton yesterday praised Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad for his leadership in making Malaysia a successful country.

"I admire his leadership and I admire his incredible accomplishments," he told newsmen before the start of their informal meeting at the White House here on Friday afternoon (Saturday morning, Malaysia

time).

"I look forward to establishing a good relationship with him and continue our partnership," he added.

The meeting was the first between the two leaders.

Dr Mahathir, who is on an unofficial five-day visit to the United States, was extended an invitation to the White House last week.

Clinton also said that Dr Mahathir had been a respectable leader in world affairs "so we have to lot to

talk about and I am looking forward to it."

He said he was grateful to Malaysia for its involvement in the United Nations peacekeeping forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia.

Malaysia, he said, had made great contributions to the UN operations in the two countries.

Earlier on Friday morning, Dr Mahathir visited the Senate at Capitol Hill, where he met its Majority leader George Mitchell and Minority

leader Robert Dole.

Also present were Senator William Cohen (Maine), Christopher Bond (Missouri) and John Kerry (Massachusetts).

Kerry, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, is a prominent figure in the United States for his views on Vietnam veterans, particularly soldiers missing in action.

Dr Mahathir also met the chief executive officers of several American companies.