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Dr M gets down to business three hours after arrival

Ahmad A. Talib; Cheah Chor Sooi in London

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who arrived here early yesterday, started on a hectic five-day working visit which includes a meeting with his British counterpart Tony Blair tomorrow.

Barely three hours after touching down at the London Heathrow airport, Dr Mahathir visited the Crossness Sludge Incinerator at Abby Ward, followed by another visit to Frazer & Nash at Mychett, Surrey for a demonstration of electric vehicles.

In the evening, he is scheduled to address Muslim intellectuals and professionals, which would be followed by a dialogue session at the London Muslim College. The event is organised by Dr Zaki Badawi who is the principal of the college.

Prior to his meeting with Blair tomorrow evening, Dr Mahathir will be interviewed by the editor of Financial Times, Peter Montagnon, during a breakfast meeting with senior executives of the newspaper.

On Thursday, Dr Mahathir will be presenting a keynote address entitled "Malaysia-British Partnership for the 21st Century: Strengthening Growth and Prosperity" at the conference on Malaysia-British Partnership for the 21st Century at One Whitehall Place here.

The event, jointly organised by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute, Asia House London and the Malaysia-British Business Council, will be opened by the British Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Stephen Byers.

After a dialogue session with participants at the conference, Dr Mahathir will open the Malaysia Products Centre showroom. This is followed by the launching of the Products Centre website Streetmarkets.com at Sale Place here.

In the afternoon, Dr Mahathir will visit Harrods Knightsbridge and hold a meeting with owner Al-Fayed, before viewing an electric motorcycle demonstration by Elliot & Co.

On Friday, Dr Mahathir will visit the Lotus Hethel plant in Norwich to open the company's new building block as well as unveiling the SENG engine.

He will then leave for Manchester to have a meeting with Malaysian students at the University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology.

On Saturday, Dr Mahathir will visit Cambridge University where he will deliver a keynote address and open the conference on "Malaysia in the New Millennium" at the Lady Mitchell Hall.

He will have a dialogue session with participants before meeting with university lecturers.

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