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Dr M to meet Izetbegovic, visit Bay mosque in Bosnia

Ahmad A. Talib in Sarajevo

A MEETING with the President of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic, and a tour to the Bay mosque will be among the highlights of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's one-day visit here today.

The Prime Minister, who will be accompanied by his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, will also visit the Camil Sijaric School, which has been rebuilt with funds from donors in Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir is also expected to hand over 200,000 deutschemark (RM342,800) to Izetbegovic as part of the pledge made by the Malaysian Government for the reconstruction of Bosnia.

Dr Mahathir is also scheduled to give a lecture at the University of Sarajevo. He will also be interviewed by Bosnia's TV station and the Ljiljan newspaper, which will publish the Prime Minister's book, "A New Deal for Asia", which has been translated into the Bosnian language.

The Prime Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Edhem Bicakcic, told Malaysian journalists that the meeting between Dr Mahathir and Izetbegovic will be "between two old friends".

He hoped Dr Mahathir's visit would spur more investments from Malaysia.

Bosnia-Herzegovina welcomes all forms of investments in the field of infrastructural development and job-creating projects.

Even though the average Gross Domestic Product growth in the last four years is 21 per cent, the country needs a lot more economic activity to support the population.

"Dr Mahathir has some very interesting views on world economy. We can learn a great deal from him and the Malaysian experience in dealing with the economic crisis.

"Foreign investments are protected in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We look forward to more economic co-operation from Malaysian businessmen," Bicakcic said.

Dr Mahathir is expected to fly home from Sarajevo immediately after his visit.

Prior to that, the Prime Minister had made a ten-day working trip to Britain.

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