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British DPM to meet Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - International efforts to combat terrorism and a new round of World Trade Organisation talks are among the topics that will be discussed when British Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott calls on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Friday.

Prescott will arrive here tomorrow for a three-day official visit, to enhance the already excellent relations between Malaysia and Britain.

Besides the Prime Minister, Prescott will also meet Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding on Friday.

"At the meetings, the British Deputy Prime Minister is expected to talk about the current world situation and major issues such as the United States-led attacks in Afghanistan," said newly-appointed British High Commissioner to Malaysia Bruce Cleghorn in an interview with New Straits Times.

Prescott will discuss the global environment issues when he meets Law.

"The meeting is timely as the World Summit on Sustainable Environment will be held in Johannesburg next year," Cleghorn said.

He said Prescott would also discuss ways to improve bilateral relations between the two countries, in every sector, including socio-economics.

Cleghorn said bilateral trade relation between Britain and Malaysia was holding up well despite the recent global recession.

"The two-way trade has been on the increase despite the recession, with the trade balance in favour of Malaysia," he said.

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