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Mahathir-Forum

MALAYSIA'S VIEW ON CAPITAL AND TERRORISM AT NY TRADE FORUM

By: Salmy Hashim

NEW YORK, Feb 3 (Bernama) -- The annual World Economic Forum (WEF) being held here will hear Malaysia's view on capital flows and its fight against terrorism Sunday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who arrived here Saturday night, will present a special message on Islam in a modern state and participate in a workshop on capital flows on Sunday.

The prime minister arrived here in a city heavily barricaded and secured by some 4,000 policemen. The trade forum, normally held in Davos, Switzerland, earlier attracted about 2,000 noisy but peaceful protesters carrying "No WEF" signs and some yelling "US Out Of Afghanistan" and "Shut Down Capitalism".

Three dozen protesters were arrested for tossing plastic shields at police officers, injuring three of them.

The five-day meeting of 2,700 business and political leaders and celebrities around the world, held outside Davos for the first time, partly shows solidarity with New York which was struck by terrorists on Sept 11.

The gloomy business environment has turned away many top Japanese executives, although leading American business leaders like Bill Gates of Microsoft turned up promising \$50 million (RM190 million) to fight the scourge of HIV/AIDS.

While in the boom years, executives talked about the Internet revolution and the endless fibre optic future, the post "9-11" environment appears to cast a gloom in this year's meeting rooms where participants, obsessed about terrorism, keeping corporate headquarters secure, and keeping biological and chemical materials out of the wrong hands.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to visit "Ground Zero", the site of the former World Trade Centres which were struck down by two planes hijacked by terrorists in September.

He leaves for Antarctica on Tuesday for a six-day working visit followed by a vacation.

-- BERNAMA

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