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Pakistani minister to call on PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Pakistani Science and Technology Minister Prof Dr Atta-ur-Rahman said he would call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tomorrow to discuss issues on bilateral co-operation in the various fields of science and technology.

He is expected to present a message from President Pervez Musharraf proposing the setting up of an S&T fund for Islamic nations to which each member will contribute 0.1 per cent of its GDP.

The fund is aimed at equipping Islamic nations with the knowledge and skills to compete with the West.

"Islamic nations must realise that they do not have to depend on the West, and that they can also compete with the West in the fields of science and technology," Atta said.

He said this after addressing 50-odd members of the Pakistani community in Malaysia at a talk titled "Science and Technology and Higher Education for Sustainable Development for Pakistan" at a hotel here today.

The S&T fund will be used to finance the setting up of centres of excellence in fields of importance to each country, and local and foreign experts will be employed.