

# New dates to be fixed for Putin trip

BY PAUL GABRIEL

STAR 8-7-2003

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Russian Embassy here is working on new dates for the visit of President Vladimir Putin, who put off his arrival here yesterday following Saturday's suicide bombing incident in Moscow.

Russian Ambassador Vladimir Morozov said it was very unfortunate that events in the Russian capital had "obstructed" the president's desire to be here.

"We are working on new dates and will be submitting proposals to Wisma Putra. President Putin is definitely still very commit-

ted to coming here.

"But of course, the new dates should be acceptable to His Majesty the King and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he said when contacted yesterday.

Morozov and his embassy staff had been working very hard to prepare the groundwork for what would have been the first-ever visit to Malaysia by a Russian president.

Morozov said at least three MoUs, on communications, science and technology and the purchase of Russian-made Sukhoi fighter jets, were to have been signed between both countries.