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Abdullah-Messages (UPDATE 1)

BLAIR, VAJPAYEE CONGRATULATE ABDULLAH ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi continues to receive congratulatory messages from world leaders on his appointment as the new Prime Minister, the latest coming from British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"Under your leadership I am sure that our two countries will continue to build on our strong relationship across a great many areas, ranging from business to security and education," said Blair.

He said that he looked forward to seeing Abdullah at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Abuja, according to a press release from the British High Commission here.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said he was confident that the two countries can build a "forward-looking" relationship during Abdullah's leadership.

In congratulating Abdullah, Vajpayee wished him success in his endeavours.

He said the two countries had enjoyed friendly and multi-faceted cooperation over many years in the bilateral, regional and international spheres.

"I am confident that during your leadership of Malaysia, we can build a contemporary and forward-looking relationship on these strong foundations," he said in his message.

A copy of the message was faxed to Bernama by the Indian High Commission here.

In a smooth transfer of power, Abdullah was sworn in as the country's fifth Prime Minister before the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail at Istana Negara here last Friday, succeeding Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

-- BERNAMA

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