

03 NOV 2003

VAJPAYEE CONGRATULATES ABDULLAH ON APPOINTMENT AS NEW PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- India is confident of building a "forward-looking" relationship with Malaysia during the leadership of new Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee expressed this in his congratulatory message to Abdullah on his appointment as the fifth Prime Minister, succeeding Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

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 today.

In a smooth transfer of power, Abdullah was sworn in as Prime Minister before the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail at Istana Negara here last Friday.

-- BERNAMA
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