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New curriculum on Islamic studies for national schools

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Government will introduce a new curriculum on Islamic studies to improve the subject in national schools, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

Dr Mahathir said the Government had no plans to continue financing the Sekolah Agama Rakyat (SAR) or People's Religious School as the money was used to teach lessons contrary to Islam and to instill hatred among the students against other Muslims.

"The new curriculum is aimed at ensuring the students can foster good relationships with other Muslims and regard everyone as brothers and sisters and to ensure they are well behaved," said Dr Mahathir who is also Umno president after chairing the party's supreme council meeting at PWTC today.

On another matter, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia feared the attack on Iraq by the United States and its allies would have an adverse effect on the country's economic growth.

"We are hoping for a good economic growth this year but we fear that it might be jeopardised if there is a war on Iraq. Malaysians have to be careful in spending their money as this will help to strengthen the country's economy."

Meanwhile, Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the supreme council had also approved the application to form 107 new branches as proposed by its 28 divisions.

Abdullah said the party had also agreed to form two new Umno clubs in Moscow and Damascus, Syria.

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