

First fasting month without Endon for Pak Lah

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SEPANG: This fasting month will not be the same as the previous ones for Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi because it will be the first without his wife, Datin Paduka Seri Endon Mahmood.

"I will have to cope with it. It is a reality I have to face. It is okay as my family is with me," he said.

The Prime Minister was speaking to reporters at the KL International Airport upon his return from a trip to Finland, Cuba, the United States and Britain yesterday.

Abdullah said before her death, he would be with Endon for almost every breaking of fast.

He also wished all Muslims happy fasting.

On the coup in Thailand, he said it did not affect Malaysia's economy and neither did it cause an exodus of Thais fleeing the country.

Abdullah said even the Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Musa Hassan, who was at the airport to receive him, had reported to him that the situation at the border was calm and that it was being monitored closely.

On oil prices, Abdullah said the price drop to US\$61 (RM224.54) per barrel spelled good times for the country, especially for the transportation industry.

When asked on the rejection by Western countries of a motion by Arab countries requesting Israel to declare its nuclear weapons stock during a meeting in Vienna on nuclear power, Abdullah said it was not fair and that the West was practising double standards.

He said the support for Israel by the West in the Middle East conflict was at an inappropriate level and that the West should let Israel deal with the Arab world.