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PM to tell how KL bridged racial-religious gaps

By **MERGAWATI ZULFAKAR**
merga@thestar.com.my

MADRID Malaysia will get to share with other world leaders its experience as a successful moderate Islamic country with a multi-racial society and serve as an example to other nations.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, specially invited to the First Alliance of Civilisations (AoC) annual forum here from tomorrow will explain how Malaysia was able to bridge the religious and racial gaps among its people.

The two-day forum, to be opened by the President of Spain, Josi Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, will be attended, among others, by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and former Portugal President Jorge Sampaio, who is also UN High Representative for AoC.

Malaysian ambassador to Spain Datuk Naimun Ashakli Mohammad said the Spanish Government had cited Malaysia as a successful

Muslim country, which practised a democratic process that could be emulated by others.

Naimun said the forum organisers had invited the Prime Minister to be one of the panel members in a plenary session to discuss the topic *The Alliance of Civilisations: Managing Diversity in the era of Globalisation*.

Abdullah, who arrived today, is also expected to hold bilateral discussions with Zapatero and extend an invitation to the Spanish leader to attend the third International Conference on Islam and the West in Malaysia.

The conference to be held on June 9 and 10 is in line with the Malaysian government's aim to create an alliance among civilisations through the involvement of governments, scholars and civil society.

The two leaders are also expected to touch on the situation in Myanmar and West Asia.

On trade ties, Naimun said trade volume amounted to RM3.7 bil, in Malaysia's favour, between last January and October. Malaysia exported telecommunication equipment, electrical goods, vegetable fats, textile and rubber gloves.

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