

TWO-DAY WORKING VISIT

PM arrives in London for Oxford Union Talk

LONDON: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived in London here on Thursday night from Dakar, Senegal, after attending the Third International Conference on the Emergence of Africa (ICEA-III) at the Abdou Diouf International Conference Centre.

The prime minister, who was accompanied by his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, arrived at Luton Airport at 10pm and was received by Malaysian Charge d' Affaires Mohd Suhaimi Jaafar and his wife, Fadzdziana Daud.

Dr Mahathir began a two-day working visit yesterday, which will see him deliver an address at the Oxford Union in Oxford, making him the first Malaysian and democratically-elected Asean



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad arriving in London on Thursday night. PIC BY ZAHARAH OTHMAN

leader to do so.

Oxford Union is said to be the world's most prestigious speaker and debating society, which has hosted many distinguished leaders and personalities, such as Margaret Thatcher, Winston Churchill, Morgan Freeman, Dame Judi Dench, Sir Ian McKellen, Natalie Portman, Johnny Depp, Stephen Fry, Anna Wintour, Buzz Aldrin, Michael Jackson, Shakira, Senator John McCain, General David Petraeus, Malala Yousafzai, Sepp Blatter

and David Cameron.

Before leaving for Oxford, however, Dr Mahathir is expected to receive a courtesy call from Commonwealth secretary-general Baroness Patricia Scotland.

Dr Siti Hasmah will have a separate programme, where she will be the guest of Perwakilan London, the association of wives of staff of the Malaysian High Commission and Malaysian agencies in London.

Present to receive Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah at their res-

idence in London was Foreign Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob and heads of Malaysian departments here.

Foreign Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah and Youth and Sports Minister Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman were expected to arrive yesterday.

After the working trip to London, Dr Mahathir and his wife will leave for a two-day working visit to Vienna, Austria. **By Zaharah Othman**

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