

# Transport and mining openings in Pakistan

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his Pakistani counterpart Benazir Bhutto agreed that Malaysian businessmen should invest in shipping, mining, and transportation in Pakistan.

"Pakistan is willing to accept our investors anytime, and Dr Mahathir said he would ask our private sector to study and evaluate investment potential in Pakistan," Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told reporters yesterday.

He was briefing reporters after Benazir paid a courtesy call on Dr Mahathir at his office for bilateral talks between the two leaders.

Trade balance between the two countries is currently at RM800 million in Malaysia's favour.

Trade with Pakistan makes up 0.6 per cent of Malaysia's total external trade.

Abdullah said Dr Mahathir also said Malaysia was prepared to accept Pakistani skilled and professional labour such as engineers, doctors, and scientists into the country.

Benazir is heading a 21-member delegation on a four-day official visit to the country.

Abdullah said the two leaders also discussed the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina where the two countries have peacekeepers serving there under the United Nations.

Abdullah also said Dr Mahathir welcomed Pakistan's request to join the South Investment, Trade and Technology Data Exchange Centre.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir and Benazir witnessed the signing of two agreements — the Economic, Scientific and Technical Co-operation Agreement and the Promotion and Protection of Investment



MUTUAL EXCHANGE ... Pakistan's Makhdoom (left) and Abdullah exchanging documents, while Benazir and Dr Mahathir witness the event.

Agreement.

Pakistan's Minister of State for Finance Makhdoom Shahabuddin signed both agreements on behalf of his country.

Abdullah signed the first agreement and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz signed the second for Malaysia.

Later, when delivering a speech on Asia — the *Emerging Economic Reality*, Benazir said Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan, and India were the emerging Asian economic tigers which could march confidently into the next century.

On the South-South Summit, she said there was a need to identify areas of the international scene of economic concern to work together to ensure no invisible trade barriers were erected by West against the East.



KEEPSAKE ... Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations director-general Ghazali S.A. Khalid presenting a souvenir to Benazir.

## A role model in fight against militancy

KUALA LUMPUR: Pakistan wishes to emulate Malaysia in fighting militancy, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said last night.

Speaking at a dinner hosted by the Oxford and Cambridge Society and the Harvard Club of Malaysia here, she said: "We have a long way to go to combat militancy in our country and we hope to emulate Malaysia's success."

She said Pakistan would be hosting the Muslim Women's Parliamentary Conference in August and invited Malaysian Muslim women parliamentarians as well as those from the Organisation of Islamic Conference Countries to attend the conference.

Benazir, a graduate from Oxford University, arrived here yesterday at the head of a 20-member delegation for a three day official visit.

Earlier, Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding said the Government will study the feasibility of emulating Pakistan's re-forestation programme that involves the adoption of forests by power producers.

"It is an interesting idea that we might be able to implement among the country's independent power producers," he told reporters after a courtesy call by Pakistan's Parliamentary Committee on Environment chairman Asif Ali Zardari yesterday.

Power plants in Pakistan "adopt" forests or fund re-forestation programmes in order to offset their carbon dioxide emissions.

Asif also said he was impressed with Malaysia's privatisation of sewage and solid waste management and its use of unleaded petrol.