

# THERE'S A PRICE TAG TO TRADE CURB: Dr M

**KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. —** Countries which practised protectionist measures will have to pay a price in the end, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We are really interdependent and even the developed countries must one day bow to the developing," the Prime Minister pointed out.

Addressing the "Global community forum '84 Malaysia" here, Dr Mahathir said the inequities in the shrinking world must be reduced and the developed countries could not dismiss these inequities as irrelevant.

He said the collapse of the financial systems in some developing countries had a lesson for all.

As developing countries must be responsible, the developed countries must also stop shirking their responsibilities, Dr Mahathir said.

He said while some nations were exchanging ideas and thoughts on how

to work globally, there were many others who were working and even scheming to make the world anything but global.

"I refer to countries who have now become more inward looking and are only thinking of their own selfish interest. We see States forming groupings or exclusive clubs to keep others out of their combined markets. World bodies and organisations are ignored. Most work now tends to be done outside the framework of the United Nations," he added.

Dr Mahathir said developed countries, instead of showing concern to developing nations, had introduced tariff and non-tariff barriers to hinder and frustrate economic advancement of the developing South.

He said the developed countries had also come out with other measures under the guise of assisting domestic industry and stimu-

lating domestic economic growth.

"In reality, they are nothing but protectionist measure to deprive the entry of products from developing countries," he added.

Dr Mahathir also told the forum that although Asean had not really succeeded in the field of economic co-operation, the groups had become politically cohesive.

He said Asean's combined economic performance must be among the most remarkable in the world today and that even the recession had failed to bring the kind of disaster experienced by other developing countries.

He said this had been brought about by the willingness of the member nations to learn from each other and the "Asean spirit."

"Perhaps the Asean experience could provide a guide for greater pan-Pacific co-operation," he said.