

# Dr M: Islam

## must prove

Sun 7 OCT 1993

## itself first

PETALING JAYA, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Islam should prove itself to be dynamic and progressive and able to satisfy both spiritual and material needs if it was to provide the alternative route for human society.

The Prime Minister said it was not enough for the religion to merely offer a retreat from reality and the vicissitudes of life.

It was up to Muslims to take up the challenge and to mould an Islamic culture compatible with its teaching and yet providing for the needs of the world community, he said.

Dr Mahathir said this in his message in the programme book of the *Conference on Globalism and The Muslim Ummah* which began at the International Islamic University today.

The two-day conference is jointly organised by IIU and the Ummi Foundation.

Dr Mahathir said that while it was clear that the world order was undergoing tremendous change and that the nature and the speed of change was truly unprecedented, these changes appeared to confound the theoreticians.

In the context of the rapidly changing global scenario, Muslims needed to understand the changes to be ready for the challenges posed by the globalisation that was taking place in the new unipolar world.

Dr Mahathir said the entire communist mini-world order, established 70 years ago as a direct challenge both to religion and capitalist economy, had crumbled.

The West, he said, had its own problems and might not be able to provide a viable model for the rest of mankind.

Dr Mahathir said the demise of communism as the main alternative to the dominant Euro-centric capitalist world economy and imperialist world order had resulted in Islam becoming a viable alternative.

This was because the collapse of communism did not mean victory for the liberal democratic system with its accompanying free market which was showing signs of decay.

The Prime Minister hoped that the conference would analyse and study the implications of these changes for the world of Islam.