

Mahathir unhappy

over

Star 1994

lack of
quorum

NEW DELHI: Datuk Seri
Dr Mahathir Mohamad
has expressed disappoint-
ment over the lack of quo-
rum at the reconvened
Group of 15 summit here.

The Prime Minister
said despite the confirma-
tion by at least 10 heads
of government to attend
the meeting, they had to
skip it due to pressing do-
mestic problems.

He, however, said it
was clear those present
were serious and interest-
ed in making the G15 a
success.

Besides host India, only
Malaysia, Indonesia, Sen-
egal, Zimbabwe and Nige-
ria turned up for the
"summit" which was now
called an extraordinary
meeting of the G15.

Argentine President
Menem Carlos will arrive
here today for the con-
cluding ceremony.

Dr Mahathir said the
leaders present had de-
cided to continue holding
the summit annually with
the quorum constituting
five heads of government.

"But the majority of
G15 members appeared
to be still committed to
the grouping," he said.

At yesterday's plenary
meeting, Dr Mahathir
said they reviewed the ex-
isting G15 project, partic-
ularly the South Invest-
ment, Trade and Technol-
ogy Data Exchange Cen-
tre (Sittdec).

Meanwhile, Dr Ma-
hathir has been given the
thumbs-up by an Indian
financial daily for his
views against Western de-
mands.

The *Economic Times*
said Dr Mahathir was one
of the few Third World
leaders who commanded
respect in the West.

"For more than a de-
cade, he has excoriated
Europe and North Ameri-
ca, telling his country to
look east instead," it said
in an editorial.

"When others crawled,
he stood up straight in de-
fiance and told the rich