

# Dr M: Al Arqam can be a threat to security

KUALA LUMPUR: The Al Arqam movement can be a threat to national security and it is important to take action before it gets out of hand, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The Prime Minister said, however, it was necessary to get the people's support before the Government took effective action against Al Arqam.

"If we do not explain the dangers (of the movement's deviationist teachings) to the peo-

ple, they might believe that we are oppressing an Islamic movement which Al Arqam is obviously not," he said after opening the World Islamic Civilisation Festival here.

"Look at the other Islamic countries where small deviationist groups grew and became a threat when leaders became ambitious," he said when commenting on reports that Al Arqam had established a 313-strong armed unit led by leader Ashaari Muhammad.