

Pursue learning, Dr M urges Muslims

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Muslims in the country must pursue knowledge and skills while instilling good moral values and work ethics to achieve greater development.

He said the nation's progress would be meaningless if Muslims failed to fully participate in the development process.

“Although Malaysia has achieved a great deal of development, we are still far from the level of development which can safeguard our wellbeing,” Dr Mahathir said in his *Hari Raya Aidil Adha* message.

He said more sacrifices would be necessary to ensure a better future for the younger generation. The people must also realise that they could not depend on others to protect them, he added.

Dr Mahathir said the conflicts in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine and some other Muslim countries came about because Muslims lacked the knowledge and skills as well as the means to protect themselves.

He said just a little sacrifice in energy and time was needed to defend oneself but due to their unwillingness to do this, Muslims continued to be oppressed.

He said Muslims in Malaysia must be thankful that they are safe from violence and destruction.

However, he said this did not mean that they would be lucky for ever, adding that if they lacked compassion and the inability to contain their desire by sacrificing themselves for the community, the same fate would befall them.

Dr Mahathir said there were Muslim countries which were unwilling to sacrifice even a little for the sake of peace among them.