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Mahathir - knowledge

ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE IN OTHER FIELDS ALSO, DR MAHATHIR TO MUSLIMS

ALOR SETAR, Feb 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight urged Muslims to acquire knowledge in other fields apart from deepening their knowledge in Islam.

Islam also exhorted its followers to acquire knowledge in other fields so that Muslims would be respected and not lag behind people of other religions, he said.

Gaining other knowledge apart from Islamic knowledge was Fardu Khifayah exhorted by Islam, he said when breaking the fast with the people at Masjid Bandar Bukit Kayu Hitam, on the Malaysia-Thailand border near here.

Dr Mahathir said much knowledge in the world today particularly in the fields of medicine, geography and other areas was pioneered by Muslim intellectuals in the past and others respected Islam and held it in high esteem.

"These fields of knowledge is important from the aspect of Islam for Islam does not urge everyone to become a ulama but followers of the faith should also be experts in other fields," he said.

"All this is needed to strengthen Muslims so that we can defend ourselves. If we are not knowledgeable in all this, it can be said we have not fulfilled Fardu Khifayah," Dr Mahathir said.

He advised Muslims to be grateful to Allah for the wealth, peace and prosperity prevailing in Malaysia.

The Prime Minister also hoped Muslims would not remain complacent.

Among the dignitaries present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff, Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman. -- BERNAMA

BD MFJ AAM