

SUN - 6 JUL 2001

## Muslims must develop culture of viewing drugs as something dirty, says Dr M

By **Ferida Abdul Kudhus**

**KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs:** Muslims must develop a culture in which drug abuse is viewed in the same way as they view pork, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said only through such a culture, would the Muslims avoid drug abuse.

"I am sad to see that most social problems mainly involve the Malays ... truancy, drug abuse and crimes.

"I don't know why. We are Muslims and Islam teaches us to be good people," he said in a dialogue with scientists at the Science Convention 2001 in

Seri Kembangan here today.

He was earlier asked by a participant about the rampant drug abuse among Malays where they constitute up to 90% of addicts.

Mahathir said although Islam stresses on noble values, Muslims don't put much emphasis on them.

He said the school curriculum on religion stresses on prayers but not so much on the good values.

Mahathir noted that external restraint such as laws is not enough to curb social problems.

He said it is the internal resistance which determines whether a person is successful in fighting against drug abuse.

"If we can create a cul-

ture whereby we see drugs as something dirty such as when Muslims see pigs, then maybe the problem can be reduced," he said.

Later at a press conference, Mahathir said he is saddened with too many incidents of rape.

"We found that the cases are increasing now. We also found that the society now have become too free.

"Sometimes parents and teachers have no idea what their children are doing. The moral has declined and not as good as in the past."

Mahathir also said Muslims must scrap the perception that science is not at all related to religion, in order to progress together with the other races.