

# Stay united or fall, PM warns Muslim nations

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**DAMASCUS:** Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad warned yesterday Muslim countries could fall one by one if they stay disunited and not be able to manage the resources which they have at their disposal.

"The invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq should serve as a wake-up call for us Muslims. We can no longer stay disunited if we do not want to fall one by one," he said.

Mahathir said Muslims must acquire information knowledge and technology and keep abreast of the developments in the Western world, **Bernama** reports.

"Malaysia strongly believes that with financial wealth and natural resources at our disposal, Muslim countries can become strong if we manage our internal affairs well," he said at a state dinner hosted by Syrian President Dr Bashar Al-Assad at the People's Palace.

Mahathir is leading a 10-member delegation on a two-day visit beginning yesterday.

The prime minister earlier held four-eye talks with Al-Assad at the Presidential Palace.

He also co-chaired a delegation meeting between both countries with Syrian Prime Minister Mustapha Mero.

The leaders then witnessed the signing of nine agreements and memorandums of understanding including on science and technology cooperation, and a news exchange programme between **Bernama** and the Syrian Arab News Agency (Sana).