

# KL plays finest host to 57 leaders

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The 10th Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit beginning today is set to be one of Malaysia's finest ever performance as an international host.

As the heads of 57 countries check into 12 hotels in the city, the state-of-the-art Putrajaya Convention Centre (PCC) will be a hive of activities for delegates, observers and media representatives from local and foreign operations until Oct 18.

Given the current global threats to peace posed by terrorists, Malaysia is not about to allow any such foul play to ruin the summit which will see Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the OIC rostrum as a leading Muslim leader in the world, ahead of his retirement as prime minister and *Father of Modern Malaysia* of 22 years on Oct 31.

More than 7,000 policemen throughout the country have been deployed to beef up security at PCC and hotels reserved for OIC leaders.

While OIC leaders are expected to condemn Israel's military threats against Syria and other Arab countries, and work to resolve problems faced by member countries, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Syed Albar said Malaysia will focus on science, technology, trade and economy for the economic progress of Islamic nations.

On Wednesday morning, United Nations secretary-general Kofi Annan is sched-



## THE OIC:

The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) groups 57 states. It was established in Rabat, Morocco, on Sept 25, 1969 when the first meeting of the leaders of the Islamic world was held in the wake of the attempt to burn down the Al-Aqsa Mosque on Aug 21, 1969 in the occupied city of Al-Quds. Six months after that, the First Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, during which the OIC General Secretariat was established. The conference appointed former Malaysian prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj as its first secretary-general and chose Jeddah as its temporary headquarters pending the liberation of Al-Quds Al-Sharif to which the General Secretariat will then be transferred, as the permanent seat of the OIC.

## Principal Bodies

- The Islamic Summit Conference is the supreme body of the OIC entrusted with defining strategies for the OIC policies and actions. It convenes once every three years.
- The Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) considers the means of implementing the general policy of the organisation and adopts resolutions accordingly. It meets in regular sessions once a year.
- The General Secretariat carries out duties entrusted to it by the above conferences as the Organisation's executive organ. The headquarters are in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The General Secretariat is headed by a Secretary General elected by the ICFM for a period of four years, renewable once only. Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj was OIC's first secretary-general (1970-73).
- The International Islamic Court of Justice was decided by the Third Islamic Summit. It is envisioned to have seven members elected by the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and to have headquarters in Kuwait City, the State of Kuwait.

uled to deliver a special 10-minute address at the OIC Business Forum which is organised by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli).

The two-day forum will be opened by Mahathir at 5pm the same day.

Syed Hamid said Malaysia was ready to work with other countries to make OIC an effective organisa-

tion in dealing with global security and economic challenges.

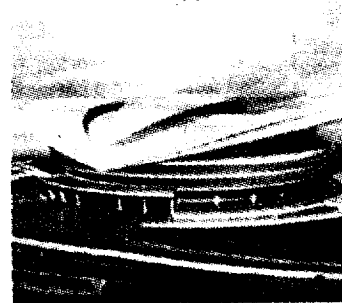
"We want to see the OIC as an organisation with dignity. There is a need to restructure and reform the organisation so that it can work better to resolve problems faced by member countries.

"We should stop discussing 'trivialities' and

**The 10th session of the OIC Summit Conference will be held in Putrajaya from Oct 11-18, 2003.**

The official theme is **Knowledge and Morality for the Progress of the Ummah.**

Putrajaya Conference Centre



instead focus on more substantive issues.

"It is not enough for Islamic countries to have just wealth, they should also strive for modern progress," he added.

Syed Hamid said the task ahead for Malaysia as OIC chairman "is enormous, given the political, economic and social scenario facing the Islamic *ummah* today".