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Bangladesh-Mahathir

BANGLADESH MEDIA PRAISE DR MAHATHIR

By Shafiqul Bashir

DHAKA, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- The Bangladesh media, both print and electronic, have heaped praises on former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his bold leadership and efforts to unite the Muslim Ummah and the developing nations.

For the past one week, all the major national dailies of Bangladesh have been publishing special articles on the life and political career of Dr Mahathir with focus on the historic speech he delivered at the just-concluded Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit in Malaysia.

Four TV channels of Bangladesh have also been broadcasting special programmes since Oct 31 on Dr Mahathir depicting Malaysia's economic development during the 22 years under his leadership.

Most of the national dailies of Bangladesh published editorial comments Sunday on Dr Mahathir's retirement from the post of prime minister last Friday.

Leading newspaper The Daily Star, in its editorial comments titled "Farewell to Mahathir". said: "His leadership remains a beacon of hope."

"Mahathir and Malaysia are almost synonymous. So successful were his policies that the once agrarian British colonial hinterland is now a paradise of growth due to his manoeuvring away from the orbit of fundamentalism that was about to engulf his country.

"He also extinguished centrifugal passions of minorities; built an armed force capable of facing geopolitical challenges from within and without; and left alight a beacon of hope to other leaders of the region," it added.

Another daily, The News Today, in its editorial titled "Mahathir's Legacy", said: "Malaysia is not the lone inheritor of the Mahathir Mohamad legacy, it will remain an example for others to draw inspiration from."

Lauding Dr Mahathir's bold stance against Anglo-US imperialism, the daily said: "Mahathir was no bin Laden or Saddam; yet he was and remains an eyesore for the western countries simply because of his courage to call a spade a spade even at the risk of incurring the displeasure of the leaders of the West."

National daily The Independent, in its editorial titled "Mahathir's Adieu", praised Dr Mahathir's role in the international fora including the United Nations (UN), the OIC and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

"We may still see Mahathir in active roles in the UN, the OIC and other group of nations," the editorial said.

"Along with his own countrymen, we also bid adieu to this outstanding and colourful leader of Malaysia and hope that he has a continuing role in the comity of nations and also in his own country."

In its editorial titled "The Mahathir Legacy", daily New Age highly praised Malaysia's progress during 22 years of Dr Mahathir's rule.

The daily said: "Malaysia serves as a model of progress not only in Asia but elsewhere across the globe. In the Third World, the country is happily looked upon as an instance of what good, strong leadership can achieve."

Bangla language daily Janakantha (People's Voice), in its editorial, said: "The period of Mahathir's 22 years' leadership will remain as golden age for that country. He is not only father of modern Malaysia, but also the leader and pathfinder of the developing nations of the Third World."

Janakantha described both Dr Mahathir and Malaysia as great friends of Bangladesh.

The Ittefaq, the oldest Bangla daily of the country, in its front-page commentary, described Dr Mahathir as a great leader of Asia and lauded his role and stance against religious fundamentalism and terrorism.

Bangla daily Jugantar in its editorial expressed the hope that Dr Mahathir will continue to inspire the Muslim Ummah to carry on their struggle to establish their rights.

-- BERNAMA

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