

16 SEP 2003

BANGLADESHI MINISTER NOMINATES DR M AS UN SEC-GEN

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 16 (Bernama) - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was today "nominated" as the next United Nations Secretary-General by a delegate from Bangladesh at the International Conference of Young Muslim Leaders here.

A.N.M Ehsanul Hoque, a State Minister of Education from Bangladesh, made the "nomination" during the winding-up of a resolution for the establishment of a World Muslim Economic Foundation on the last day of the conference.

Ehsanul said Dr Mahathir was a great leader and was recognised by the Muslim world as worthy and capable of filling the UN top seat.

During the question and answer session with Dr Mahathir in the closing ceremony, another delegate also made a similar suggestion.

However, the Prime Minister replied: "I would prefer to be a free man ... I believe I can still contribute in many ways even not as the UN secretary-general".

-- BERNAMA

NER JM EMK