

15/10/2003

OIC to confer award on Dr M

THE 57-member OIC grouping yesterday unanimously agreed to present Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad an unprecedented award in recognition of his contributions to the development of the ummah.

The meritorious award, which has never been awarded to anyone by the OIC since its inception in 1969, will also recognise the Prime Minister's contributions towards the development of Malaysia.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said the matter was agreed upon by delegates at the end of the Ministerial Preparatory Meeting yesterday following a proposal from Sierra Leone.

"Sierra Leone tabled the proposal to write a letter of thanks and commendation to Dr Mahathir for his contribution to the development of the Muslim ummah and Malaysia.

The meritorious award will read: "We the Monarchs and Heads of State of the OIC agree to award His Excellency Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia a certificate of merit in recognition of his excellent, remarkable and outstanding contribution to the socio-economic development of Malaysia and for his unflinching support and effective contribution in the objectives of the OIC."