



COMFORTABLE: Abdullah trying out a new chair to be used during the forthcoming summit at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre yesterday.

'Muslims upset over works near Al-Aqsa'

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi urged the Israeli Government to be cautious and be aware that Muslims are angry with construction activities near the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.

"Not only is the Al-Aqsa mosque the third most holiest site for Muslims, it has also been certified as a World Heritage Site," said Abdullah.

"The Israelis have to be cautious and consider how upset

Muslims are," he said, commenting on reports that construction work by the Israeli Government since 1967 was gradually weakening the foundations of the Al-Aqsa mosque.

The mosque, regarded as sacred after Mecca and Medina, could eventually collapse due to the deterioration, reports said.

"A United Nations resolution states that conflicts between nations should not result in the destruction of any heritage owned by a culture or race. I'm

very saddened by the condition of the mosque," said Abdullah.

Malaysia, as chair of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, demanded Israel take Muslim views into consideration, he added.

He was speaking to journalists at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre after inspecting preparations for next month's Asean and East Asia Summits.

"I'm satisfied with the overall preparations. The facilities are in good condition and I'm sure del-

egates will be comfortable."

Abdullah inspected the facilities at the centre, visiting the Conference Room, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration Signing Room and the Banquet Hall.

Malaysia will host the Asean summit from Dec 12-13 and the East Asia summit on Dec 14.

Other meets such as the Ninth Asean-Japan summit, Ninth Asean-South Korea summit, Fourth Asean-India summit and the First Asean-Russia summit will also be held.