

A more effective OIC

Malaysia, Pakistan working towards making it better

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GOOD TIES: Abdullah and Musharraf discussing OIC and bilateral issues at their meeting on the sidelines of the UN summit in New York on Thursday. — Bernamapic



BY JOHAN FERNANDEZ

NEW YORK: Malaysia and Pakistan are working towards making the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) a better organisation.

"We believe that we have to make OIC more effective and therefore, the proposed summit in Mecca in early December should be attended by all leaders," said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The Malaysian Prime Minis-

ter said this after meeting Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf on the sidelines of the UN summit here on Thursday to discuss OIC and bilateral issues.

"At the summit in Mecca, we'll be able to discuss the report of Muslim scholars," Abdullah said, adding that the scholars had been told that OIC would like to hear their views on a number of issues affecting the organisation.

"Nobody is going to stop

them from giving their views, the discussion is open. We should display courage to take whatever decisions we think can help make OIC a better organisation," he added.

He said he anticipated that as a result of the discussions of the Muslim scholars in Saudi Arabia recently, there were some suggestions on what should be done in the OIC.

"It may take the form of reform and if that is suggested, then we would certainly take a

hard look at it," he said.

Abdullah added that bilateral relations were good and Malaysia and Pakistan were happy with the level of bilateral cooperation.

Earlier, the Prime Minister held a dialogue with the US-Malaysian Business Council mainly to discuss economic cooperation between Malaysia and the United States.

He said there were many US companies in Malaysia and they were committed to

remaining in the country.

Abdullah said the companies were pleased with the steps taken by the Government since he became Prime Minister to promote good governance and integrity.

"They are also pleased with the efforts to eradicate corruption. We assured them that we will not relent in our efforts and will continue to charge people in court. At the same time we will continue with our prevention efforts to reduce crime."