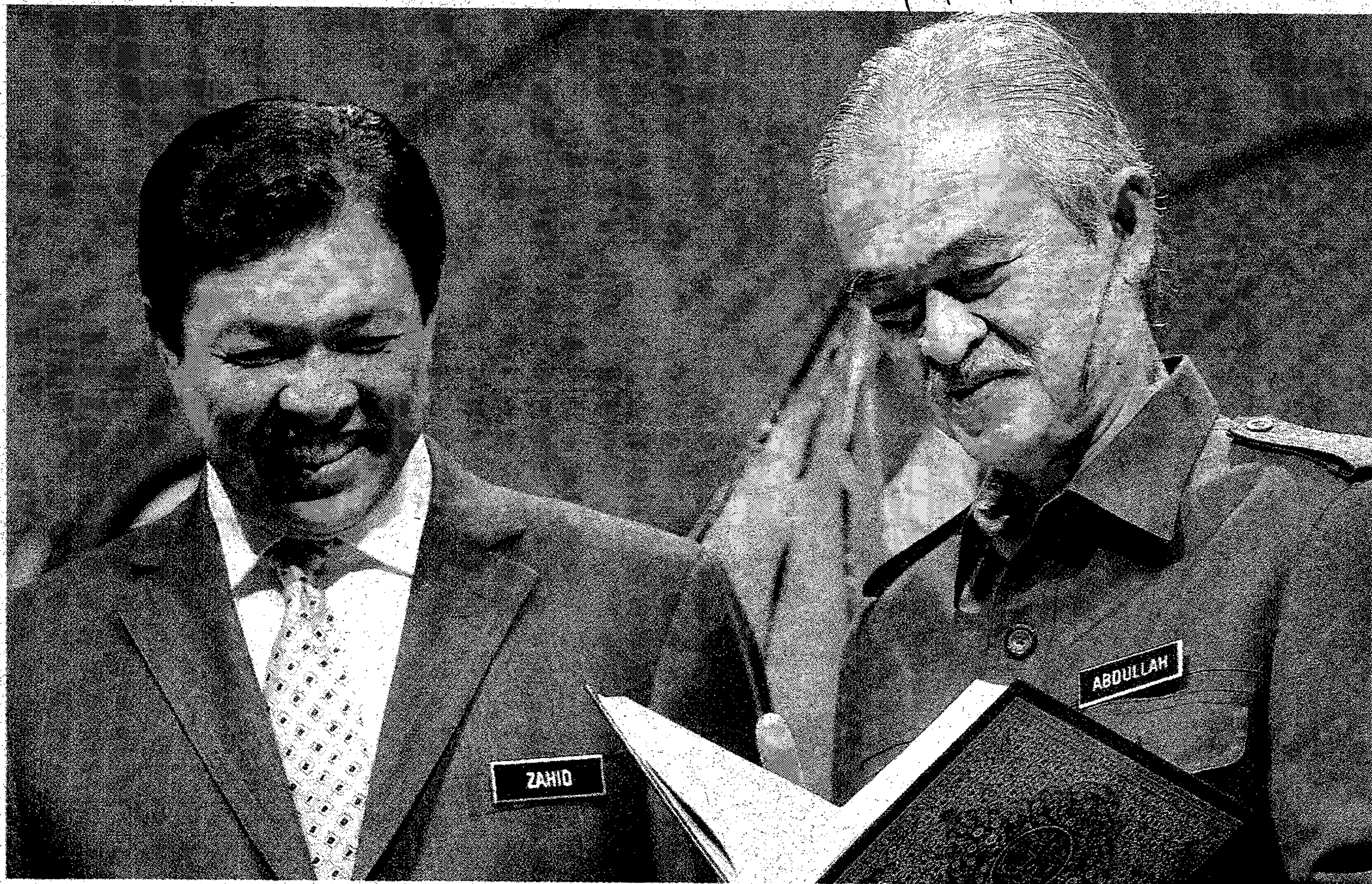


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PM urges Muslims to help each other get ahead

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Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi looking at a Quran at the launch of the Quran donation programme 'Wakaf Al-Quran' by the Islam Hadhari Charity Hall, watched by Deputy Information Minister Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

■ By Azura Abas
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KUALALUMPUR: Muslims should endeavour to help their brothers and sisters across the world to deepen their faith and advance with the times, the prime minister said.

Launching a Quran donation programme or "Wakaf Al-Quran" by the Islam Hadhari Charity Hall (Damai), Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the study of scripture would give Muslims the strength to meet present-day challenges.

The programme invites Muslims in Malaysia to make mone-

etary contributions through the short messaging service.

By doing charitable deeds such as donating the Quran, both the givers and recipients would benefit and receive divine rewards, Abdullah said.

He said Islam did not want its followers to be poor, illiterate and fall far behind.

"Aside from learning how to read, they can benefit from the knowledge gained from the Quran."

Abdullah said knowledge had to be used correctly because it could benefit, as well as destroy.

"Worldly knowledge alone will not ensure a person will be good.

"It requires he to be both knowledgeable and apply the teachings of religion," he said, adding that knowledge was one of the 10 principles of Islam Hadhari to generate quality human capital in Malaysia.

"Islam, which is successfully administered in this country with tolerance and mutual respect among the races, has continued to draw the attention of the international community and will remain a pillar of the nation's success," he said.

"There is no discrimination against any quarter.

"In fact, power-sharing in this country has had many positive re-

sults as proven during 50 years of independence," he said.

Later, the prime minister received copies of the Quran from donors, including Bank Islam and Lembaga Tabung Haji, to be distributed in several countries where Muslims were minorities.

The countries are Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Laos, Philippines, Myanmar and China.

Under the Wakaf Al-Quran programme, donations can be made through SMS to 32776 or 32728 by typing Wakaf 1 for RM1 contribution and maximum amount of RM10 by keying in Wakaf 10. For larger amounts, Damai can be reached at 03-26971868/67/69.