



Mahathir addressing the UN at its 74th general assembly in New York yesterday. - **BERNAMAPIX**

# End Rohingya crisis now, says Mahathir

**> PM tells UN to play its role in preventing 'man-made miseries'**

**NEW YORK:** Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad called on the international community to put the Rohingya crisis on its radar, with a view to resolving it, seeing that the Myanmar government was unwilling to take any action to resolve the crisis.

He said this yesterday at his first engagement since arriving in New York for the 74th session of the United Nations (UN) general assembly during the "Rohingya Crisis - A Way Forward" event held at the UN headquarters.

Mahathir suggested that the UN play its role since it was established to prevent man-made miseries, *Bernama* reported.

He said the UN's silence (on the Rohingya issue) is deafening.

Mahathir also did not mince words over what transpired in Myanmar's western Rakhine State, where members of the Rohingya Muslim ethnic community fled in droves in search of safety.

"Let's start by calling a spade, a spade. What happened in Rakhine State is genocide. What took place were mass killings, rape and other gross violations of human rights," he said at the event, that was also attended by his Bangladeshi counterpart, Sheikh Hasina Wazed.

He commended Bangladesh for hosting more than 1.2 million Rohingya refugees who fled to Cox's Bazar.

Mahathir added that apart from

rendering humanitarian assistance, Malaysia was also operating a field hospital in Cox's Bazar and hosting close to 100,000 registered Rohingya refugees with many more unregistered.

"While this may seem like a small number compared to those in Bangladesh, plenty of resources have been dedicated to give them a decent life while they await relocation to a third country.

"We will continue to help the Rohingya within our means and capacity," he said.

Mahathir also commended the efforts of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in addressing the Rohingya issue in insisting that repatriation is carried out in a safe, voluntary and dignified manner.

"We hope other countries will support the OIC to ensure the perpetrators do not get away with the heinous crimes they have committed," he said.