

**OIC summit to address discord**  
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**By LOKMAN MANSOR**

JEDDAH: Leaders of Muslim countries are expected to strengthen their resolve in addressing problems facing the ummah at a high-level meeting in Mecca this week.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak arrived here early Monday morning to attend the fourth Extraordinary Islamic Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), held today and tomorrow.

The meeting was called for by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz, to examine the situation in many countries of the Islamic world, intensify efforts to confront this situation, address the sources of discord and division, reunify the Islamic ummah and promote Islamic solidarity.

"The fasting month is a crucial time for Muslims, and the leaders are making an effort to make it for the summit. This signifies the importance placed on the OIC," Malaysian Ambassador Datuk Syed Omar Syed Mohamad Al Saggaf told Malaysian media here on Sunday.

This is the first time the summit is held during the fasting month, which presents its own unique challenges.

"The summit will start at 11pm and continue until sahur, which will be hosted by King Abdullah. On the last day, we expect the meetings to finish at 2am with the drafting of a joint communique."

OIC is the second largest inter-government organisation after the United Nations, and with a membership of 56 nations across four continents, is the collective voice of the Muslim world.

The previous extraordinary summit in Mecca was held in 2005, and laid down the 10-year Programme of Action blueprint.

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