

Report in journal directed at Govt — PM

By SUDHEERAN CHANDRAN

23 MAY 1986

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today described the *Asian Wall Street Journal* report on Finance Minister Daim Zainuddin's UMBC deal as "a deliberate attempt directed against the Government of Malaysia, me and Encik Daim".

"You cannot hit at my Cabinet without hitting at me," he added when asked if he thought that he was the actual target of the report in the foreign based journal.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after inspecting preparations being made for the international Quran reading competition at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Saying that the allegations made in the report were not correct and were "lies by omission and lies by commission", the Prime Minister said: "It is typical of the *Asian Wall Street Journal* never to print facts but to twist the facts."

On the Cabinet's approval of the UMBC deal, Dr Mahathir said if the deal had been made before Encik Daim be-

came Finance Minister then the (then) Finance Minister would have approved, but because it was after (Encik Daim became Finance Minister), it had been approved by the Cabinet.

Referring to the power sharing formula proposed by Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan, Dr Mahathir said that he had yet to receive a formal application on the matter. He had also not discussed it with Datuk Pairin.

Application

He also said that the Umno branches in Sabah "had been formed without our knowledge" and that it was left to the Umno Supreme Council to decide if they should be accepted.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah inspected the \$45,000 dais which would be used for the Quran reading competition.

Thirty-four participants will take part in the competition which will be held for four days beginning Saturday at the 3,000-capacity Dewan Merdeka at the Putra World Trade Centre.