

PM: DAP LOOKING FOR EXCUSES

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon.— Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the DAP was "finding all kinds of excuses" to stop the election because "it is not prepared enough."

Dr Mahathir, who is also Barisan Nasional chairman, described as "strange" the DAP's bid to stop the election.

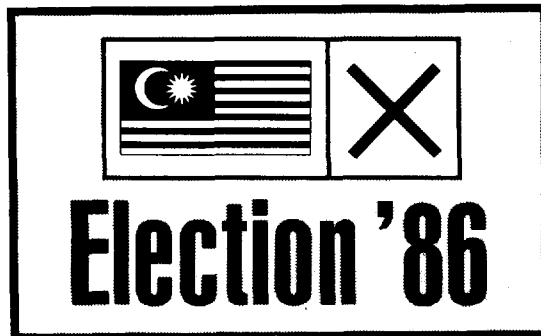
DAP secretary-general Mr Lim Kit Siang filed an application in the High Court here today asking for an injunction to stop the polls.

Mr Lim, who is also Parliamentary Opposition Leader, claimed that the Election Commission's action in fixing the dates for nomination and election was illegal and improper.

Dr Mahathir, speaking to reporters after opening an international seminar on commodities at a hotel here, said: "I thought they were anxious for an election.

"If they were not prepared they should have indicated earlier... then we could have put it off to another day."

He added that if the DAP was not prepared, it should not throw a spanner into the works and spoil everything



for everybody else.

"As far as I see it, the whole country wants to have the election over with. Why is the DAP finding all kinds of excuses to put off the election?" he asked.

Dr Mahathir said the party was given ample time to prepare (for the election).

"All this time the DAP was talking about elections. So we thought they were prepared and went ahead and determined the date of the dissolution (of Parliament).

"Now they are saying this is wrong and that is wrong. *Takut tak payah lawan* (Don't contest if you are afraid)," he added.