

Watan says
serry to PM
over report

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Thrice-weekly Bahasa Malaysia tabloid, the *Watan*, has apologised to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for publishing a report that he was going for a second heart surgery soon.

The paper, in its March 16 issue, under the *Gossip Coffee House* column, had said that Dr Mahathir needed the operation following complications from his earlier by-pass surgery two years ago.

"From further investigations, we have discovered that what was published in the column is untrue. Therefore, we retract the article and apologise to the Prime Minister," it said.

The apology was carried on the front-page of its March 19 issue.

The paper added that while the rumour of his second operation was circulating, Dr Mahathir had carried on his duties including attending public functions.