

Don't pressure Ghafar, Dr M tells members

By ROHAIZAD A. RAHIM

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno members should not pressure anyone to make decisions, said president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

"Everybody should be free to make their own decisions," he told a packed press conference attended by both local and foreign journalists.

The Prime Minister was asked to comment on a statement by Wanita chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz that members should stop making calls for deputy president Ghafar Baba to back down from his bid to retain the party deputy president's post.

Dr Mahathir confirmed that Ghafar had gone on leave.

Asked to comment on

another statement by Ghafar alleging that certain statements by him and the Prime Minister were misconstrued by the press, Dr Mahathir replied light-heartedly:

"Maybe we should close down all newspapers."

On his meeting with Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun yesterday, Dr Mahathir said it was to discuss his appointment as Sabah Affairs Minister.

On the deployment of Malaysian troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he hoped it would take place by November.

The Government delayed the deployment as the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) was under the impression that Nato was going to take immediate steps by bombing the Serb aggressors.