

SUN 5-5 '2000

# Stay focused and fight till the end: PM tells shuttlers

**KUALA LUMPUR**, Thurs: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad advised the Thomas-Uber Cup shuttlers not to question the training methods to avoid going out of focus.

He said if they stay focused, disciplined and train hard, victory can be theirs.

"You must fight till the end, even when the odds are down," said Mahathir.

The prime minister, who feted the players and officials to a dinner at Sri Perdana, his official residence in Putrajaya last night, said: "If you think you are beaten, you will be beaten. You must never give up.

"All of you should should remain calm and in control of yourselves even when under pressure."

He said his hopes together with those of 20 million of Malaysians are with the team.

The prime minister also said the tough road ahead should not deter the team.

"We tend to feel that we are not capable. But let me assure you that we have proven to the world that we can do it through the spirit of *Malaysia Boleh*," Mahathir said.

Meanwhile, the shuttlers today said Mahathir's advice has inspired them.