

# **Dr M: Event to go on as planned**

**STAR** 30 JUN 2001

BUTTERWORTH: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday the leadership symposium at Universiti Malaya will go on as scheduled today although the main hall was damaged by fire.

"I want to go on with this (programme) although we have to find an alternative site.

"It will go on unless there are hitches and we are unable to hold the gathering. We will investigate and find those responsible," he added.

The Prime Minister was asked to comment on the 3am fire at the university which police believe is arson.

Speaking to reporters after his two-day visit to Penang at the Seberang Prai Polytechnic here, Dr Mahathir said students were sent to universities to study and the Government spent 10 times more than what they paid for their fees.

He noted there was a tendency for some students to use a militant approach to achieve their objective.

"We can see that there is a tendency towards this ap-

proach. These students go to universities not to study but to be involved in activities which do not have any connection to their studies.

"As for Malay students, they are given scholarships. There is no point for us to keep those who are not interested in pursuing their studies and we can give their places to others," he added.

On the continuous problems involving some of the university's students which include demonstrations and publication of anti-government newsletters, Dr Mahathir said the Government did not want to make any speculation.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he was awaiting the report from the police on the fire and other authorities were also conducting investigations.

"We cannot make any speculation and once we get the report, we will know what actually happened. *Alhamdulillah* (Thank God), there was no casualty," he said.