

Dr M: Militant groups wanted to overthrow Govt

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DUNGUN: Militant groups, led by students who graduated from a **madrasah** (religious school) in Pakistan, had planned to set up a Daulah Islamiah (Islamic state) after they overthrow the governments of Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said, however, the Government had succeeded in detecting their activities early and identifying those involved.

The Prime Minister did not name the groups but he said such radical movements exist in countries that aim to topple governments through undemocratic means.

He said many Muslim countries were poor and could not carry out development projects because of such groups.

"They will create chaos, problems and **instability** in their countries and the government will have to spend a lot of effort and money to attend to these problems," he said after visiting the house of a settler, **Mamat Abdullah**, at Felda Kertih Lima, near here, yesterday.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir launched the national-level Settlers' Day 2001 celebration at Ketengah **Jaya**.

He said the radical group in Malaysia had connection with similar groups in Indonesia and the Philippines who had also graduated from **madrasah** in Pakistan.

Asked whether the opposition parties were involved in the militant activities, Dr Mahathir said: "We don't know whether or not they (opposition parties) are involved.

"However, we know that nearly all of those involved in the militant movement in Malaysia are members of PAS, PAS Committee and PAS Youth Committee and not Umno," he said.

In Singapore, **ZUHRIN AZAM AHMAD** reports that Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah **Ahmad** Badawi discussed the issue, among other matters, with Singapore Premier Goh Chock Tong during a courtesy call on him at the Istana yesterday.

Abdullah gave an assurance that Malaysia will continue to monitor any terrorist-related activities, espe-

cially by the KMM militant group.

He told a press conference that the authorities in Malaysia would take appropriate and stern actions against anyone found to be involved in the activities.

Abdullah, who is also Home Minister, was on a two-day visit to the republic to take part in a golf competition between the Home Ministries of both countries.