

Plot to kill PM

Local politicians hire hitman to also assassinate Abdullah

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon: Police have uncovered a plot to assassinate Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Sources told *The Sun* that the hit on Mahathir was supposed to take place "in a month or two". Police have zeroed in on likely suspects in the conspiracy and are expected to take pre-emptive action soon.

Meanwhile, security at the prime minister's office and official residence *Seri Perdana* has been tightened. Extra security has also been mounted to protect the prime minister and his deputy during the current festive period.

Police are tight-lipped about what action has been taken in view of these developments. But sources report that a number of local politicians are behind the conspiracy and have hired a hitman, nicknamed Raja Commando, to kill Mahathir and Abdullah, who is also home minister.

Special Branch officers are believed to have uncovered the plot a few months ago and have been monitoring the situation closely.

There have been a number of reports in recent years of attempts to assassinate the prime minister.

In 1999, the police uncovered a tape with recordings inciting people to assassinate the prime minister and several Umno leaders. Six people in Kota Baru were called in to assist in the investigation.

In April, a message was posted on an Internet website calling for Mahathir's death. Recently, the prime minister was reported to have received another death threat.