

Asiaweek's choice of photos irks Dr M

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad seemed somewhat annoyed at the choice of photos of him in the Jan 26 issue of Asiaweek magazine which he said deliberately made him look like an idiot.

"I think it was deliberate. They were so very friendly that I was taken in by them. They came and were smiling and talking nicely to me.

"They even got me to come from my office down here to take photographs.

"They must have taken at least 200 photos but they chose the 'right photo' for that (article). To find a picture as

if to make you look like an idiot, that is deliberately done," he told reporters after officially declaring Putrajaya a Federal Territory.

The issue featured *The Mahathir Dilemma* as the cover story and had four photographs of the Prime Minister.

Asked to elaborate, Dr Mahathir said: "You can look at the pictures yourself."

The article had said that during the interview, Dr Mahathir was "slumped in his chair and appeared tired and worn down by the unprecedented criticism of his rule."

To this, he said "well, maybe" he was tired as he was af-

ter all 75 years old, adding however, jokingly, "I am going to run a race with any 75-year-old and see who wins."

"Anyone would look tired if you work. I work almost 24 hours a day. I rest very little.

"I can't do any work in my office because so many people come to see me. And when I go home, I write my letters, speeches and correspondence.

"You work, so sometimes of course you look tired," he said.

In the article, Dr Mahathir was asked how he thought he would be remembered, to which he replied: "I don't care."

Asked about this, he said it was true that he really didn't care whether people might remember or forget him.

Citing an example, he said Lawrence of Arabia was a great hero and then somebody debunked everything.

"It's going to happen. What does it matter?

"What matters to me is what I have done. If people recognise it, it's okay and if they don't, it's okay also.

"Whatever they can say about me, I won't be around anyway."

Gesturing towards the sky, he said: "I'll be hovering up there looking down."