

# Cabinet revamp SUN 10.1.2001 soon

By **R. Manirajan**  
manirajan@thesundaily.com

**PETALING JAYA, Tues:** A cabinet reshuffle is imminent, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad confirmed today. The prime minister said the cabinet will discuss the matter at its weekly meeting tomorrow.

"I will hear the views of everyone first. It would not be nice for me to tell you (reporters) first before I discuss with them (cabinet members)," he added.

Asked if it will be announced tomorrow after the meeting, he said: "God willing, hopefully soon."

However, he stressed: "This is a government, we need to make an in-depth study. These things we cannot take lightly. It's not like setting up a replanting committee."

## **Umno says Malay unity talks can go on without Keadilan: Page 4**

Mahathir said this at the RMAF base in Subang near here on his return from a week-long visit to Myanmar.

On whether it will be a major reshuffle, Mahathir said he is not sure and does not know whether it will see several senior ministers dropped or more women in the cabinet.

The present cabinet took office following the 1999 general election. Speculation is rife that the reshuffle will see a couple of senior Umno leaders leaving the cabinet to focus on party

turn to **PAGE 2**

## **New faces may join cabinet**

from **FRONT PAGE**

work, taking the lead from Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Paduka Abdul Hamid Othman.

Abdul Hamid announced his resignation last Friday, saying he wanted to concentrate on party work.

Asked about this, Mahathir declined comment

and said he needs time to think. "He (Abdul Hamid) can still make contributions to the government through other positions," Mahathir said, without elaborating.

Asked if the announcement will be made by the end of the month or week, he said: "Whether it's the end of this month or end of this year ... I don't know ... give me a chance to think about it first."

The talk is that the reshuffle can be anything ranging from minor to major where several senior ministers are affected. Several deputy ministers are also expected to be promoted while some observers expect new faces to be also brought in.

Mahathir joked when Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and Domestic Trade and Con-

sumer Affairs Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin arrived while the news conference was proceeding. "They (the reporters) say that your portfolios have been changed."

Among those present to greet him and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali were Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, Abdul Hamid and Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.