

# Mahathir reiterates support for currency controls 17

**PARIS:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reiterated on Saturday that he had no intention of lifting currency controls in the near future.

"The Malaysian economy is recovering but it is recovering because we have certain controls in place. We are not certain that if we lifted those controls attacks on the currency would not be mounted again," Mahathir told

reporters following talks with French President Jacques Chirac. *SUN 3/1/2000*

Mahathir again strove to quash rumours that ill health had sparked his pulling out of the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, saying he had changed his mind about participating after organisers replaced his keynote speech with a panel discussion.

"I think Davos would have

been a good forum for me to address with my views," said Mahathir.

"Originally it would have been a keynote speech which would have given me 30 minutes, but subsequently there was a change of plan and I was to be a member of a panel of six or seven people," Mahathir said.

"I'm very healthy, as you can see," the 74-year-old prime minister beamed, ad-

ding that he was now going jogging twice a day, in the morning and in the evening.

Mahathir reiterated his strong concerns about the threat he says globalisation poses to poor economies. But he said imposing strict controls on capital flows had worked for Malaysia, because it had a low level of foreign debt, but would not necessarily work for its neighbours in Southeast Asia. - Reuters