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INDIAN MEDIA SEE DR MAHATHIR'S RETIREMENT AS THE END OF AN ERA

By: Mahesh Prasad

NEW DELHI, Nov 2 (Bernama) -- The services of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in building a modern Malaysia continue to receive the attention of major newspapers in India.

The leading English daily, the Indian Express, carried a report on the change of guard in Malaysia with a photograph of Dr Mahathir, describing it as the end of an era in Southeast Asia.

Dr Mahathir, 77, assumed power in 1981 and spearheaded Malaysia's transformation from a rubber-and-tin-producing backwater to one of Southeast Asia's most prosperous modern countries, the Indian Express said.

This is the third day that the Indian media has been carrying articles and reports praising Dr Mahathir for his services.

The Indian papers have been praising Dr Mahathir from Oct 31 the day he handed over power to Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Yesterday, in a report the leading English daily, the Hindu, said "During his tenure, Dr Mahathir had sought to reinvent Malaysia as a modern economy that could aspire for the status of developed country by 2020.

"In doing so, he waged political battles with the leaders of the rich and powerful countries and also "investment gurus" like George Soros and others."

-- BERNAMA

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