

01 NOV 2003

INDIAN PAPERS CARRY REPORT OF MALAYSIA'S LEADERSHIP CHANGE

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (Bernama) -- The Indian media carried reports of the handing-over of duty as prime minister from Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to his successor Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in Putrajaya yesterday.

The English daily, The Hindu, carried the photograph of the handing over of personal files by Dr Mahathir to Abdullah on the front page close to the masthead.

In a report in the inside pages with the headline "Mahathir steps down", the paper said: "During his tenure, he (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 as also investment gurus' like George Soros and others."

Another paper, The Indian Express also carried an agency photograph and report on Dr Mahathir's retirement.

Yesterday two papers had carried three column spread articles with Dr Mahathir's photographs with one of them saying: "His entire 22-year-long political career has centred on opposing Malaysia's Islamic extremists and building a plural society with Malays, Chinese and Indians co-existing and with a level of prosperity unequalled in most of the Third World, leave alone India."

-- BERNAMA

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