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Dr M, Abdullah Chinese dailies' focus of attention

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi were the focus of attention in major Chinese dailies over the past few days.

Making headlines in Sin Chew Daily and Nanyang Siang Pau yesterday was Dr Mahathir's strong hint on the date of the next general election. China Press was also quick to comment on the matter.

Echoing Dr Mahathir's advice that Barisan Nasional component parties must look at the bigger interests by putting an end to in-fighting, China Press said this must be heeded.

The message was crystal clear, said the editorial, that all in-fighting must be resolved as soon as possible before the solidarity of BN is threatened and voters' support deteriorates.

Also making headline news in the Chinese Press was the top marks given to Abdullah during his tenure as acting Prime Minister.

The vote of approval from Dr Mahathir when asked to comment on Abdullah's performance during his two-month break was front-paged by Sin Chew Daily, Nanyang Siang Pau and Oriental Daily News on Friday.

On Saturday, Abdullah's "report card" received high praise from Sin Chew Daily. In its editorial, Sin Chew Daily said Abdullah had showed his class and charisma during the two-month stint, notably his convincing display of leadership in leading the Government in the fight against Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and the swift reaction to the war in Iraq.