

Dr M: I don't know about appointment

PUTRAJAYA: Proton adviser Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is in the dark about the appointment of a chief executive officer for the national carmaker.

"I don't know. I read about it in the papers but I know nothing about this. There is no necessity (for Proton) to consult me," he said yesterday.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on speculation that

Perodua Auto Corporation Sdn Bhd deputy managing director Syed Zainal Abidin Syed Mohamed Tahir would be appointed Proton CEO to fill the position vacated by Tengku Tan Sri Mahaleel Tengku Ariff.

"Maybe I know him (Syed Zainal Abidin), but I don't know him by name," Dr Mahathir said after receiving sponsorship from various cor-

porations for the inaugural Perdana Global Peace Forum 2005 next month.

On his discussions with Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Dr Mahathir said he had briefed the Wisma Putra representative who was present at the meeting.

• **Abdullah, Hawke to speak at forum — P23**