

THE STAR

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Mahathir factor

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Dr M still the
man in
the news –
five years on

PETALING JAYA: Despite having retired five years ago, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is still hogging the headlines.

His name was brought up again and again and in various context yesterday – from his role and influence in Umno to alleged influence over Anti-Corruption Agency investigations.

> No interference in ACA investigations

Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail said Dr Mahathir was investigated by the police for alleged interference in ACA investigations on a senior government official in the late 1990s. However, he was later cleared by the AG's Chambers.

> Patch up with Pak Lah call

Following Dr Mahathir's continued criticism of the leadership of the party, several Umno leaders have urged party president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to again meet up with Dr Mahathir to patch up their differences. The two met in October 2006 after a similar bout of criticisms from the former prime minister.

> Go gracefully, says Karpal Singh

DAP chairman Karpal Singh said Dr Mahathir should retire with dignity and honour and refrain from criticising the present Prime Minister. He said retired prime ministers did not usually interfere in the performance of their successors.