

Belt and Road Initiative not China's plan to dominate

THE Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by China is a joint development plan with participating countries and not a strategy to dominate, said prime Minister (PM) Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said he now has a clearer perspective of the development plan, and supports it as it will benefit the country.

"We feel that the BRI is not a domination plan by China, which would end up being controlled by China.

"Instead, it is a policy developed by all the countries and not only focused on China," he said.

He said this to reporters at a Malaysian media conference at the end of his five-day visit to China to attend the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) which ended on Saturday.

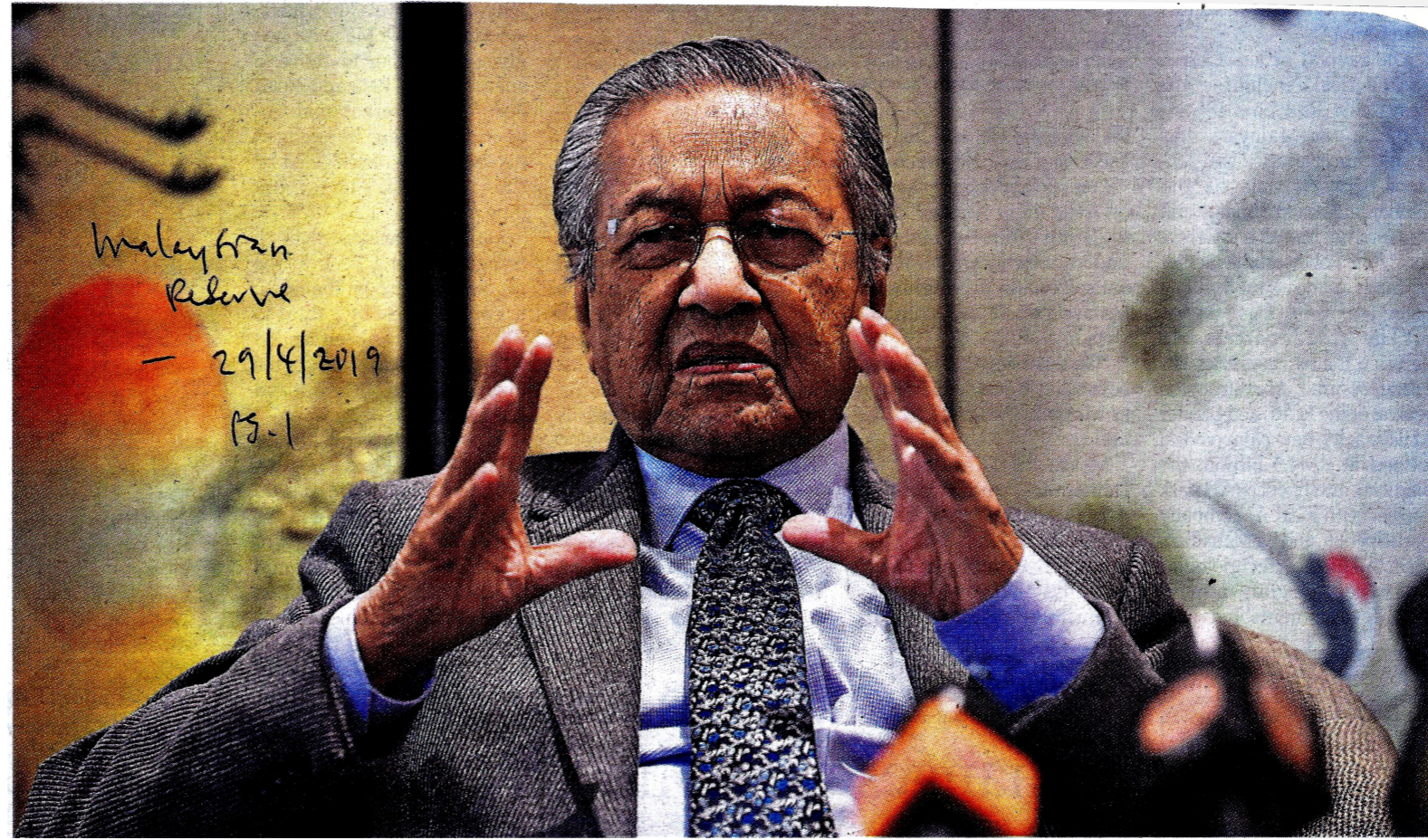
The international forum was attended by 37 world leaders and 5,000 representatives from 150 countries.

The PM also said he initially thought that the BRI was China's attempt to dominate South-East Asia as the trade passage for the project includes the South China Sea and the Straits of Melaka.

However, during the forum, Dr Mahathir said he saw that the initiative was a cooperative effort to develop participating countries via infrastructure development and funding from banks.

"Previously, there were other development plans by developed countries to create a world without borders and free trade, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

"They (the developed countries) made the proposals and asked us to accept them.



JOINT DEVELOPMENT: Dr Mahathir speaking to reporters at a Malaysian media conference at the end of his 5-day visit to China to attend the second BRF which ended on Saturday. He says the initiative is a cooperative effort to develop participating countries via infrastructure development and funding from banks. SEE ALSO P2