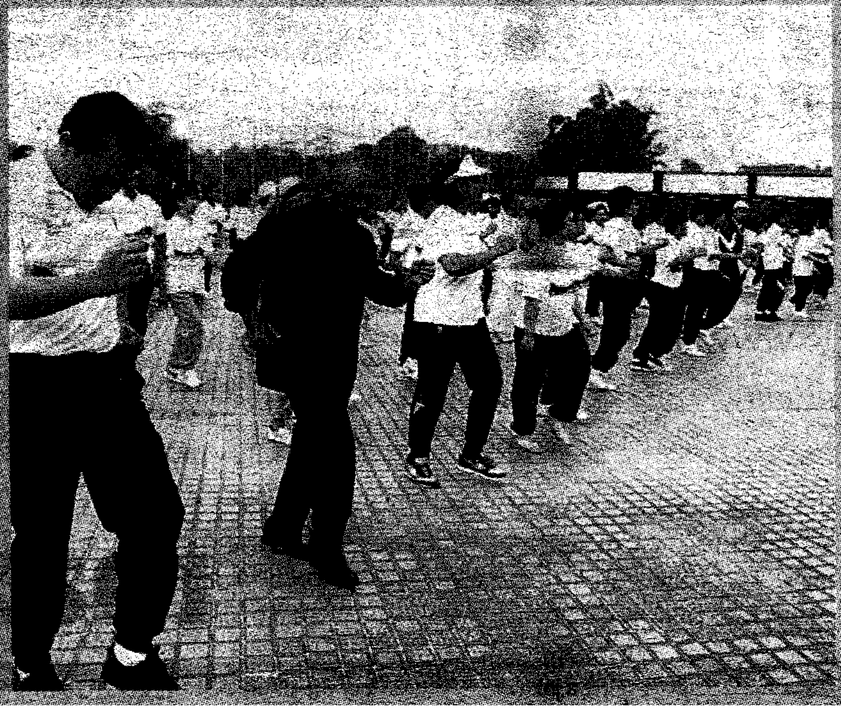
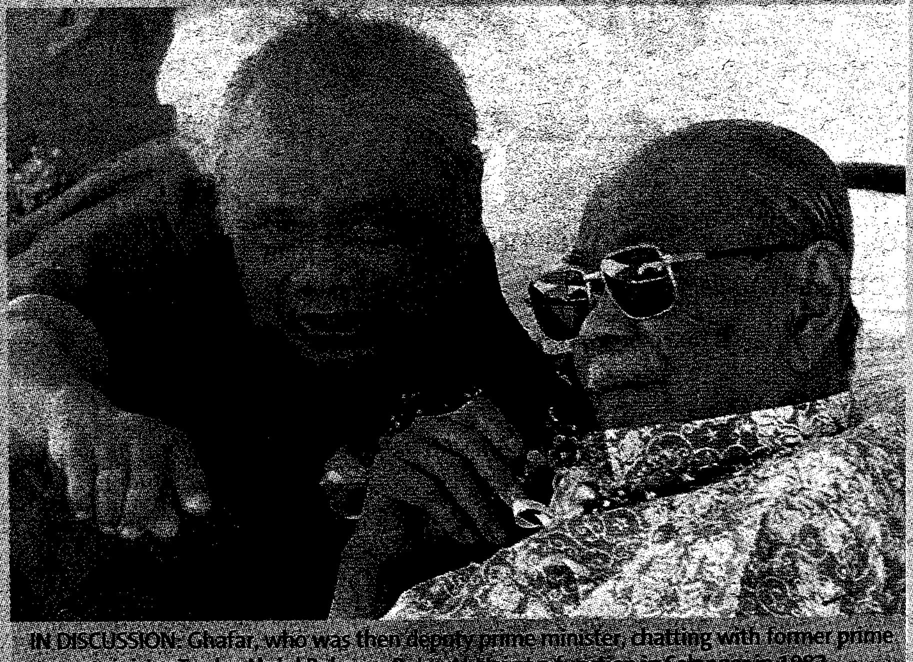
# The life and times of Ghafar

THE STAR- 24/4/2006.

EARLY DAYS: An undated photograph of Ghafar and his first wife, Toh Puan Asmah Alang.

ON OFFICIAL DUTY: Ghafar (right) accompanying Tun Abdul Razak during one of his official visits.


WARMING UP: Ghafar (in black) together with the people limbering up before a run in 1992.


IN DISCUSSION: Ghafar, who was then deputy prime minister, chatting with former prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj at a function in Selangor in 1987.

### TUN ABDUL GHAFAR BABA

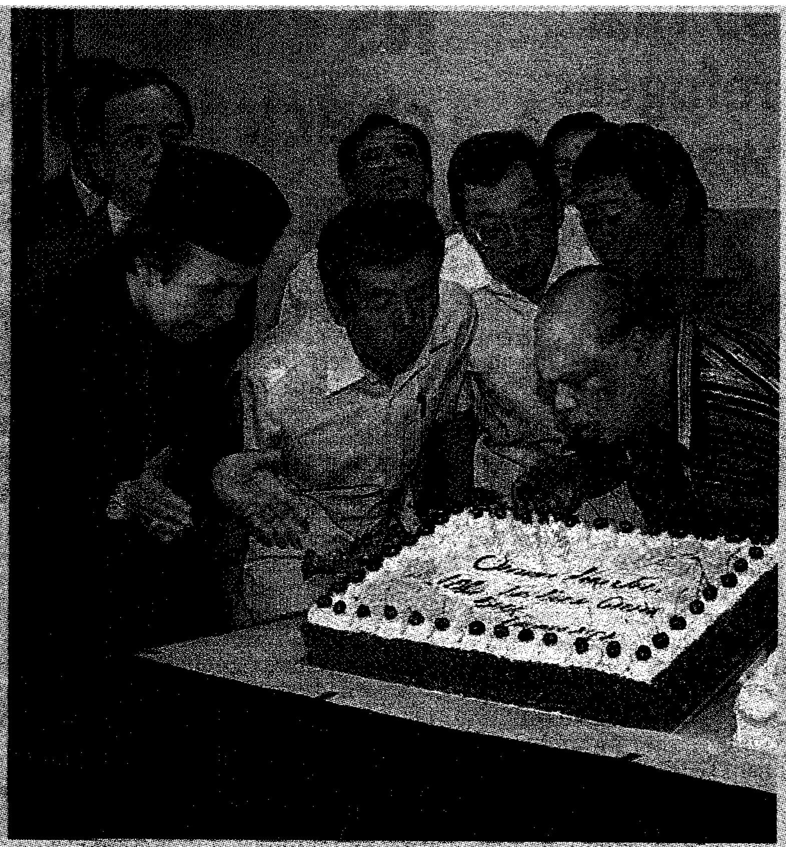
**Date of Birth:** Feb 18, 1925, Kuala Pilah, Negri Sembilan
**Wives:** Toh Puan Hajjah Asmah Alang (died on April 16, 2004, aged 78) and Haryati Abdul Rahim (divorced)
**Children:** Four sons, five daughters - Sharani (deceased), Kartini (deceased), Mohd Tamrin, Sofi, Hamidah, Sally, Asri, Azman and Kartika Sri.
**Education:** Sultan Idris Teachers' Training College, Tanjong Malim (1946-1949)

**> CAREER**

Deputy Prime Minister - May 7, 1986 to Oct 15,1993
Malacca Chief Minister - June 1959-Aug 1967
National and Rural Development Minister (later Rural & Economic Development Minister) -1969-1974
Agriculture and Rural Development Minister -1974 to 1976
Assumed duties of the Prime Minister, Home Minister and Justice Minister while the then Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was recuperating from his coronary by-pass operation (Jan 18, 1989)

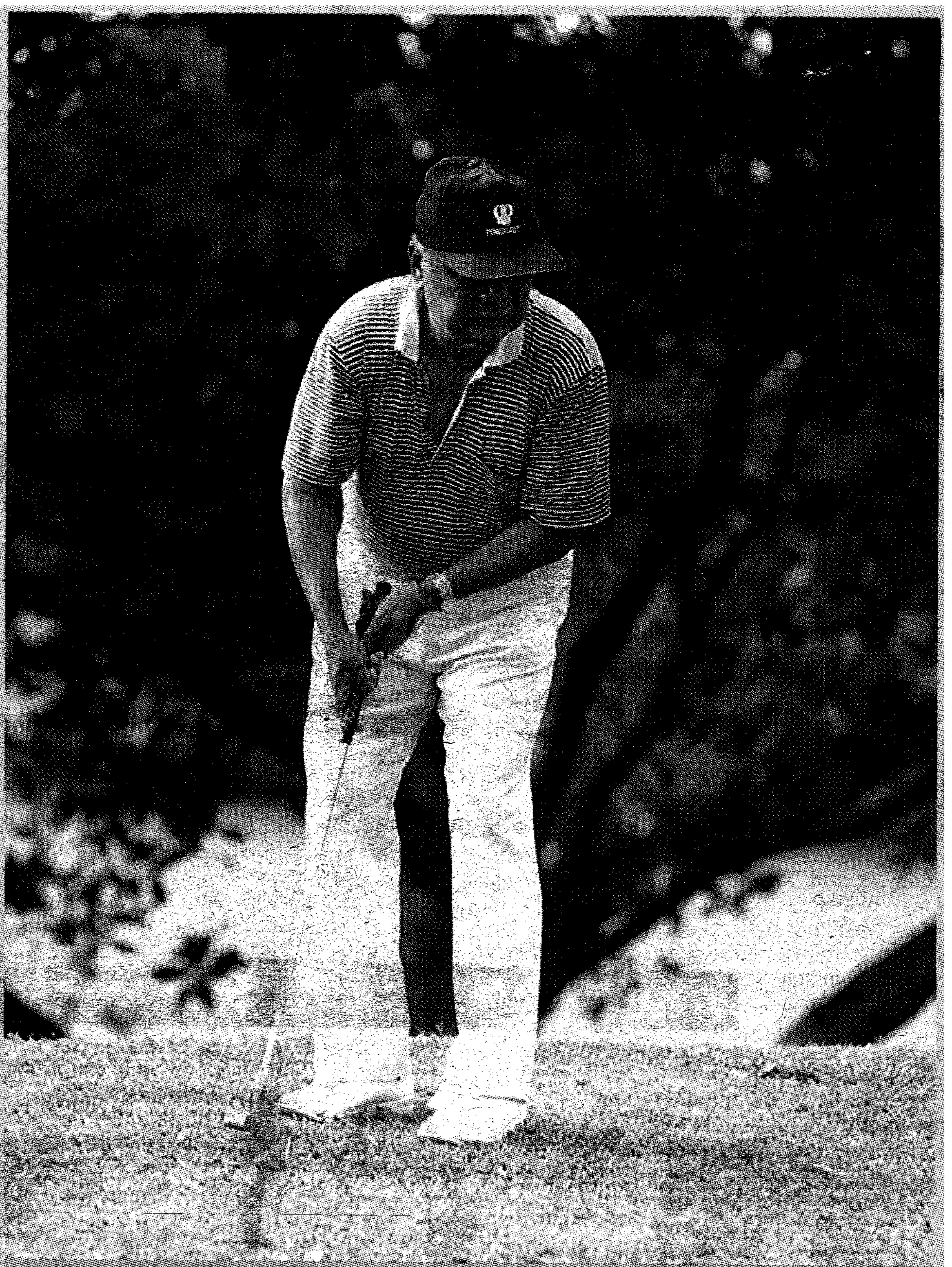
**> POLITICS**

Joined Malay Nationalist Party or Parti Nasional Melayu (PNM) under the leadership of Dr Burhanuddin Helmi - 1946
Joined Umno - 1951
Won Malacca Luar constituency in the first general election on an Alliance ticket - 1955
Malacca Umno chairman - 1956
Umno vice-president - 1962-1987
Umno deputy president - 1987 to1993
Umno Liaison Committee chief in Sabah -1991
Resigned as Umno deputy president -1993
Lost to Datuk Abu Zakar Ismail in the contest for Umno Jasin division - 1995
Elected Batu Berendam MP with a majority of 7,105 votes. He polled 37,656 votes defeating Keadilan's Khalid Jaafar who obtained 30,551 votes - 1999.


HAPPY OCCASION: MCA top officials Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn and Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik helping Ghafar blow out the candles on his cake at his 75th birthday celebration in 2000.

PRIVATE CHAT: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad having a quiet word with Ghafar.

FAMILY MAN: Ghafar with his son and grandchildren during a Hari Raya open house at the Putra World Trade Centre in 1987.


AVID GOLFER: Ghafar concentrating as he makes his put for the second hole.

SPORTS ENTHUSIAST: Ghafar showing his skill at sepak raga bulatan in Kepong in 1990.

LIGHT MOMENT: Prime Minister Datuk Hussein Onn and Ghafar, who was Umno vice-president then, sharing a joke before the start of the Umno economic conference in Kuala Lumpur.