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Developing countries victims of twisted reporting

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's strong and rightful concern over distorted and negative reports by the foreign media is shared by a vast majority of nations and societies across the world.

Developing countries are victims of regular twisted reporting by those who own the formidable print and electronic media.

While small incidents are blown out of all proportion, positive developments are either ignored completely or sceptically presented to undermine their significance.

Dr Mahathir has time and again warned against the prejudicial practices of the foreign media, especially those agencies which have a global network and wide reach.

By taking exception to this orchestrated bias, he voices the truth about the disconcerting situation created as a result of such reporting.

We, in Pakistan, have not escaped such biased reporting.

The latest instance is offered by Scott McDonald of Reuters who in his wisdom chose to ridicule Pakistan's Press for using certain phrases (NST, March 5).

Don't laugh or be misled.

The phrases/expressions which seemingly inspired the correspondent are neither from the Pakistani national language, Urdu, nor out of usage.

The idiomatic expressions "to breathe one's last" or "wee hours" irritated him. He also insisted that "robber" rather than "notorious dacoit" was more apt.

Similarly, he decried the expression "flays" or "mafia".

Only those more enlightened can perhaps discover any news in the report and justify its circulation.