

Dr M disappointed over US-British air strike on Iraq

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SHAH ALAM, Sun: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad expressed his disappointment over the US and British air strikes on Iraq.

"I'm very sad as I had very high hopes in the new US government," Mahathir said.

"I'm even more saddened to learn that the attack is on humanitarian basis and I did not know if killing people can also be called humanitarian," Mahathir told reporters at a press conference.

The prime minister was commenting over US and British warplanes bombing areas around Baghdad yesterday, killing a woman and a man and wounding 20 other civilians.

The air strike, termed as a "routine mission", was to ensure that the president of Iraq abides by the ceasefire agreement that ended the 1991 Gulf War.

Mahathir said the attack should not have been carried out by the new administration led by President George W. Bush, as he had been given enough time to study the previous government policies.

On the speculation that Bush authorised the air strike to celebrate his victory and acceptance by the US citizens, Mahathir said he does not wish to speculate.

"I do not wish to speculate, as I want a good relationship with the new government," he said.