

IT'S A MEAN WORLD

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There's no justice and no democracy even in democratic countries, says Dr M

By SHAHANA AZ HABIB

KUALA LUMPUR: There is no more justice in the world and all talk about fair play, democracy and human rights "is sheer nonsense," said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Prime Minister said the world now was "not a very nice place" to live in and that there was no democracy even in democratic countries.

Dr Mahathir said he had written to United States President George W. Bush, French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder on the Israeli siege of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

"The impression I get is that there is no justice in the world today. If someone is disliked, then anything can be done to him even though it is unfair.

"In the case of Arafat, it looks like he is hated by certain quarters. As such, he will not get fair treatment because justice does not exist anymore in this world.

"All talk about justice is mere bunkum and hypocrisy. It is all a lie and only talk," he told a press conference upon returning to the country yesterday after attending the Asia-

Europe Meeting (Asem) and a private visit to Europe.

Israeli troops yesterday pulled out of Arafat's compound in Ramallah after 10 days of siege on the Palestinian leader.

To a question, Dr Mahathir said: "At the moment, the world is not a very nice place at all.

"All this talk about democracy and all is sheer propaganda."

Asked whether efforts by the United Nations to get Israel to adhere to its call to end the siege on Arafat was a futile effort, Dr Mahathir said duty had to be done, regardless of whether it was effective or not.

"I don't think it is going to be effective. That's all," he added.

On whether the bleak picture he was painting of the world would only disillusion the young people, Dr Mahathir said:

"Well, I don't like to lead them up the garden path and say that the world is heaven. It is not. They should learn."

He said when young people here talked about democracy, they should know that Malaysia was more democratic than most other democratic countries.