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PM: Certain quarters want me to intervene in India-Pakistan issue

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday certain quarters were trying to get him to intervene in the ongoing India-Pakistan conflict.

He said someone had informed Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf that he (Dr Mahathir) wanted to speak to him.

"This same person told me that Musharraf wanted to speak to me (concerning the conflict)," he said, adding that the same thing was done involving Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Based on this, Dr Mahathir said he had called both the leaders on Wednesday.

However, he said when he called them, he realised that both Musharraf and Vajpayee thought it was him who wanted to talk to them.

"It is obvious that somebody is trying to get me involved, but I am not competent to do anything (to resolve the conflict)," he said at a Press conference in Putra World Trade Centre.

Dr Mahathir was responding to questions on his telephone conversation with Vajpayee released by the Indian High Commission here yesterday.

"We have already stated our stand very clearly. We adhere and believe in the United Nations resolution to condemn all forms of terrorism, whether cross-border or not," said Dr Mahathir, reiterating Kuala Lumpur's contention that the root causes must be identified and removed.

"Of course you can accuse States of being involved, Israel is definitely involved, while Pakistan denies any involvement. It is not for me to judge.

"The fact is that the causes are there and people are blowing themselves up as they are angry," he said.

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