

Abdullah wants UN to meet over Israeli raids

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KEPALABATAS: Malaysia wants the United Nations to hold a special meeting to discuss the-Israeli raids on Lebanon.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday that Kuala Lumpur was lobbying to hold a special meeting so that a ceasefire could be implemented immediately.

"This is very important.

"Otherwise, even the UN won't be able to do anything and the situation in Lebanon and West Asia will deteriorate" he said after launching the fitness programme *Karnival Nur Kecergasan 2006* here.

Expressing his sadness, regret and anger at the developments in West Asia, Abdullah, who is also president of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, suggested that the ceasefire be implemented simultaneously with the handing over of two Israeli soldiers held by the Hizbollah.

He said innocent people were being killed and the infrastructure in Lebanon had been destroyed by Israel's non-stop bombing.

Abdullah said he had suggested to the Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora about the release of the Israeli soldiers.

"I have also discussed it with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and Iranian President Iran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. We are trying our best to push the UN to step in and help solve the conflict."

The Prime Minister said the UN and superpowers like the US should not allow the conflict to escalate further.

"Moderate Muslim nations look upon the IS as a middle man (that can help solve the conflict). A middle man should be fair in making decisions and not favour any side."

Abdullah said the US should not use its veto power to object to any resolutions calling for a ceasefire between the two sides.