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Kuwait Emir bestows top award on Dr M

Ahmad A. Talib in Kuwait City

KUWAIT CITY, Sun. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was conferred the Mubarak Al-Kabir award by the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at his residence today.

The award is the highest to be accorded to a foreign head of government by the Kuwaiti Government and was in gratitude for efforts in improving brotherhood between the two nations. The Prime Minister is the first Asian recipient.

Translated into English, the award means Mubarak the Great, after one of the founding fathers of the Gulf state. The award presentation ceremony was held soon after Dr Mahathir held bilateral talks with key members of the Kuwaiti Cabinet.

"I am honoured to be given this award," Dr Mahathir said after receiving the award held in a brief ceremony. "I accept it on behalf of the Government and the people of Malaysia. I must say I am surprised at this gesture as I was informed of it only this morning."

Also present at the ceremony were Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, Terengganu Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Affifuddin Omar and several members of the Kuwaiti Cabinet.

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