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Bosnians say thanks with giant card

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Fifteen Bosnian children today signed a giant Hari Raya card in a show of appreciation to Malaysian families who have hosted their stay here since 1993.

About the size of a door, the blue-coloured card carrying the words Bajram Mubarek Oslum, or Selamat Hari Raya, addressed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the people of Malaysia, will be handed to the Prime Minister on the first day of Hari Raya.

The event was organised by the SAL Group of Colleges in Seri Kembangan, near here.

SAL Group chairman Abdul Rashid Abdul Ghani said the card not only represented the heartfelt appreciation of the 15 children but also of other Bosnians in Malaysia and in other parts of the world.

Imam Sakib Saleh, the community leader of the 16 Bosnian families residing near the area, said he would like to thank all Malaysians for giving the Bosnians shelter since war broke out in their country in 1992.

Meanwhile, the children, aged five to 13, repeatedly said Selamat Hari Raya, and spoke in fairly fluent Malay - having spent more than six years among Malaysian children and learning their customs.

For 11-year-old Daud Sharif, the Malaysian way of celebrating Hari Raya with open house has taken over his memories of how Hari Raya was celebrated in Bosnia.

"Tak boleh ingatlah (Can't remember)," was his response when asked how Hari Raya was celebrated in Bosnia, although he said he preferred Bosnia due to its cooler climate.

Merisa Senad, 11, said she would not mind celebrating Hari Raya at any of the two countries although she missed having all her family members present on the first of day Syawal.

The children also received duit raya of RM20 each and some goodies from the group.

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