

PM and wife visit twins in Riyadh

RIYADH: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali yesterday visited conjoined twins Ahmad and

Muhammad Rosh at the King Fahad Hospital here, where they were told that the four-year-olds were expected to return home to celebrate Hari Raya Aidilfitri in

early December.

Dr Mahathir told reporters that the twins were doing very well and he was surprised that they had

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already begun to stand up.
The twins were successfully separated after a 26-hour operation at the hospital.

"The programme now is to fit them with artificial legs and hopefully by Hari Raya, they can come back.

"I am very impressed with the operation because as a doctor, I know how difficult it is," he added.

Dr Mahathir was accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin and Malaysian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad.

Meanwhile, Dr Siti Hasmah said she hoped Malaysians would pray for the speedy recovery of the twins so that they could return home for Hari Raya.

Dr Mahathir and his delegation were also taken on a tour of the hospital and briefed about its operations by the hospital's chief executive officer Dr Fahad Al-Jabar.

Dr Abdullah Al-Rabeeah, who led the 26-member medical team for the operation, said they expected the twins to be able to walk using their artificial lower limbs during Ramadan before they were allowed to return home.

"The good news is that both Ahmad and Muhammad have started to stand on their single lower extremity during the past few days, and they can now stand for about 10 minutes and are getting stronger every day.

"The twins have done remarkably well and their hearts, kidneys, liver and gastrointestinal systems have been normal since the Sept 17 operation," he said.

Dr Abdullah said measurements were taken last week for the artificial lower limbs (prostheses) for the brothers and they were expected to be ready in the next three weeks.