

'Revaluing does not mean devaluing'

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SEPANG: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has denied a report that suggested that the Government might devalue the ringgit.

He said he never said anything to that effect when asked to comment about the depreciation of the **Japanese yen on Friday**.

"What I said is if the yen goes down (further) and the Chinese devalue their currency, we will have to examine (the value of the ringgit)

"Examine does not mean we will devalue (the ringgit).

"Our condition is if the value of our neighbour's currency goes down by 20% or goes up by 20%, and it remains at that level, then we will consider changing the value of our currency," he said after attending a **familiarisation** tour of the Kuala Lumpur-KLIA express rail link here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Finance Minister, said the ringgit, which is pegged at **RM3.80** to a US dollar, was "doing fine."

The Government decided on the peg following attacks on the local currency in 1997 and 1998.

The stability of the ringgit has been widely regarded as one of the reasons for the recovery of the local economy.

On the latest reports of Israeli acts of violence at the Gaza Strip, Dr Mahathir said there was not much Malaysia could do but protest.

"The problem is, as long as the people with power do not do anything, we will just stand by and look," he said.

Asked if Malaysia planned to raise the matter at the United Nations, Dr Mahathir said the world body was the same as the world powers.