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Link among militant groups, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said he believes there is a link among militant networks suspected to be operating in Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Singapore.

"Yes, there is a link (among) Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and I believe Singapore also.

"I have no facts so I cannot make (further) comment," the Prime Minister told reporters after attending the Treasury's Hari Raya open house at the Government complex in Jalan Duta here.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on whether 15 terrorist suspects arrested in Singapore had Malaysian links.

Asked about a report that the militant group unearthed in Singapore had stored up to four tons of ammonium nitrate in Malaysia, he said he had not received facts about the matter.

A statement by the Singapore Government yesterday said a group of terrorist suspects arrested by it last month attempted to procure 21 tonnes of explosives to build truck bombs and had conducted surveillance on American targets and embassies as well as Singapore's Defence Ministry.

Revealing details of the arrests, the Singapore Government said members of the cell belonging to the clandestine Jemmah Islamiah (JI) organisation were asked to get 17 tonnes of ammonium nitrate as they already had four tonnes in Malaysia with one member, Faiz Abu Bafana, who was among those detained.

Faiz, 36, a former Singaporean, is now a Malaysian citizen.

Also present at today's event were Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Finance Ministry secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Samsudin Hitam.

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