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DR MAHATHIR MEETS YASMINE PRIOR TO HER DEPARTURE ON SATURDAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today met Yasmine Wa'adi, the nine-year-old Iraqi girl who will return to Iraq on Saturday after having been fitted with prosthetic legs sponsored by Malaysian well-wishers.

Yasmine, who lost her legs during the United States-led invasion of Iraq and was brought here on May 5 on the initiative of the Joint Media Team Malaysia (JMTM) covering the Iraqi war, presented a card to Dr Mahathir with the words "Thank You Dear Malaysians For Giving Me Hope For A Better Life" at the meeting which lasted 15 minutes at a hotel here, where he earlier made a farewell call on South African President Thabo Mbeki.

She was hospitalised at the Chinese Maternity Hospital and underwent surgery to remove shrapnel from the stump of her legs, amputated from below her knees, on May 13.

The UEM Group raised RM14,800 for the prosthetic legs.

Yasmine, accompanied by her father, Wa'adi Makhtoor Hassan, has been certified fit to return home by doctors who treated her.

-- BERNAMA

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