

M'sia to seek OIC's view on Bosnian crisis

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LANGKAWI: Malaysia will send a special envoy to meet the Organisation of Islamic Countries on the settlement of the Bosnian conflict.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday Malaysia did not wish to cause embarrassment to any party and wanted to seek the views of the OIC first.

"We cannot say any more until we get the OIC's views," the Prime Minister told newsmen after opening the RM28 million district police headquarters.

Asked who the envoy would be, Dr Mahathir said a decision had not been made.

The Prime Minister was also asked to comment on Pakistan's claim that 22 of its peacekeeping troops with the United Nations were killed and 50 injured in Somalia.

"We have made a commitment and

we will still send (our troops). We will take precautionary measures, but we must remember that missions like these are dangerous ones.

"We cannot tell the world that we will only send our troops if their safety is guaranteed," he said when asked whether Pakistan's claim would affect Malaysia's decision to send its troops to Somalia.

On whether "special training" would be given to the troops picked for the Somali mission to prepare them for the dangers, Dr Mahathir said this was up to the armed forces to decide.

Defence Ministry deputy public relations director Lt Kol Wan Abu Bakar Omar was reported to have said yesterday that an advance group from the 19th Battalion Royal Malay Regiment would leave for Mogadishu in the middle of this month.