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Malaysia-Everest

M'SIAN EVEREST TEAM CELERATES HARI RAYA HAJI ON HIMALAYAN SLOPE

KUALA LUMPUR, April 19 (Bernama) -- The first ever Malaysian expedition to Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, celebrated Hari Raya Haji 6,492m above sea level on the Himalayan slopes yesterday.

Cakes and other goodies were sent from the Everest Base Camp to Camp 2 where the team is currently based, according to the Project Malaysia-Everest '97 secretariat here today.

A three-man RTM crew has also arrived on Thursday at Camp 2, which lies more than two-thirds up the 8,848m peak.

It is estimated that the team will reach the top between May 10 to 15.

The climbers spent the last few days exploring the surrounding areas of the camp to acclimatise themselves. All are reported to be in fine health.

Temperature at the camp is at a maximum of 15 degrees Celsius and dropping to a minimum of -18 degrees at night.

The team will have to ascend two points, Camp 3 (7,200m) and Camp 4 (7,986m) before making the peak.

The 10 climbers are team leader Mej Mohd Rizan Mat Hassan, Amy Zairin Mohamed, Gary Choong, Borhan Ibrahim, N.Mohandas, Teoh Lee Lee, M.Magendran, Mohd Fauzan Hassan, Zahidi Paiman and M.Moorthy.

They were part of a 20-member group that set off for Nepal on Feb 29, a day after a ceremonial flag off by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad.

If successful, Malaysia will become the first Southeast Asian country to conquer Mount Everest. -- BERNAMA

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