

Malaysia to send medical team

to Pakistan

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PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia will send a medical team to Pakistan as early as Friday to provide immediate help to Afghan refugees there.

The Armed Forces has been told to assemble and prepare the team, which is likely to be based in a Peshawar or Quetta refugee camp.

Announcing the decision yesterday, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the team would be stationed at the Pakistan-Afghanistan border indefinitely.

“We are sending them there for humanitarian reasons. We want to make a small difference to the situation, to ease some of the hardship faced by the refugees,” he said.

He said some of the common illnesses faced by the team were skin disease, diarrhoea, fever and malnutrition.

Najib said it was Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad’s idea to send the team to Pakistan.

“He will be calling Pakistan President (Pervez) Musharraf soon for permission to send the team into Pakistan,” he said.

The team, it is believed, will be led by Lt-Kol Dr Jaseemudin Abu Bakar, a surgeon.

Najib said a platoon of 36 soldiers would accompany the team.