

Armed forces to buy more weapons from Pakistan

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KUALALUMPUR: The armed forces are expected to acquire more weapons from Pakistan following a meeting by Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Pakistan Air Force's Air Chief Marshal Mushaf Ali Mir yesterday.

Najib said Malaysia had bought an anti-tank weapon system and surface-to-air missiles from Pakistan following successful negotiations with the Pakistani government last year.

"We will receive the equipment in due time. Pakistani companies will also refurbish missiles used by our armed forces," he told reporters after meeting Mushaf at his ministry.

Mushaf is on a six-day visit to enhance military and bilateral ties with the armed forces.

He will visit the RMAF airbases in Butterworth and Kuantan and local aircraft

refurbishine company Airod Sdn Bhd.

Malaysia had ordered the Pakistani-made *Anza* Murk- II short-range, anti-aircraft missiles and *Baktar Shikan* anti-

tank weapons following Najib's visit to Pakistan last year.

During the meeting with Mushaf, Najib conveyed Malaysia's appreciation to the Pakistani Armed Forces for providing protection to the Malaysian medical team, who were in Pakistan to assist the Afghan refugees there.

The armed forces sent a 25-member team from its medical and dental corps to provide humanitarian aid to refugees at the Afghan-Pakistan border last year.

Najib also said the armed forces were finalising the technical requirements for the acquisition of the Polish-made PT-91Z battle tank.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who made an official visit to Poland last month, had said that Malaysia was negotiating with Poland on an agreement to purchase the tank.
