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UiTM-Mountain

UITM STUDENTS TO SCALE KALAPATTHAR MOUNTAIN IN NEPAL

IPOH, April 4 (Bernama) -- Four women will be among 25 students of the Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) leaving on an expedition to scale the Kalapatthar Mountain in Nepal beginning April 10.

Head of the expedition and president of the UiTM Students Sports Council Mohd Shujairi Mohd Ishak said two lecturers will accompany the students to scale the 5,545 metre mountain during the month-long expedition.

He said part of the team's year-long training included scaling Gunung Tahan. Kalapatthar is the base camp before the ascent to Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain.

"We are also planning to display a 4,000 metre Jalur Gemilang in the shape of the letter "M" that signifies Malaysia, Mahathir (the Prime Minister) and Mara, at the peak of Kalapatthar," he told the media after receiving a RM40,000 contribution from the Perak State Government.

Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali was present to hand over the contribution.

Mohd Shujairi said one of the key motivators for the trip was UiTM lecturer Fauzan Hassan, who was a member of the Malaysian expedition that scaled Mount Everest in 1997.

Some 500 UiTM students had applied to join the expedition to Kalapatthar where emphasis was on physical fitness and a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 2.5 and above. The team members are aged between 20 and 25.

He said the team would engage the services of a Himalayan guide, three porters and will bring along three Yak (Asian ox) for the trip.

Mohd Shujairi said there would be seven check-points before they reach the peak where the team would put up two nights at each site to acclimatise themselves.

The university is scheduled to organise a major expedition to scale Mount Everest in 2004, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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