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Abdullah-Pakistan

PAKISTAN HOPES DR M WILL SPEAK TO INDIAN GOVT, SAYS ABDULLAH

PUTRAJAYA, June 12 (Bernama) -- Pakistan today expressed the hope that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will use his good office to speak to the Indian Government to ease the tension in the Pakistan-India crisis.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the Special Envoy of Pakistani President, Najmuddin A. Shaikh, conveyed the hope when he called on him at his office here.

He said Najmuddin handed a letter from Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf to Dr Mahathir who is currently on an official visit to Luxembourg.

Abdullah said the letter would provide a clear explanation to Dr Mahathir on Pakistan's position on the issue.

"They hope that Dr Mahathir can also speak to the Indian Government," he told reporters after meeting Najmuddin.

"Of course, whatever he (Dr Mahathir) wants to say is not for them to be able to be influenced, but in any case, they hope that leaders like Dr Mahathir should call for easing of tension and just to state that we wouldn't want war to take place between these two countries," he said.

He said Najmuddin also stated that Pakistan was ready for bilateral discussion to resolve the issue.

"At the same time, if that (bilateral discussion) is not possible, then they would like a third party, to be agreed by both sides, to help bring upon a solution to the Kashmir issue. Also the commitment of the Pakistan Government not to start war," he said.

Asked whether Pakistan wished to make Malaysia as a third country to mediate in the conflict, Abdullah said: "Dia (Najmuddin) did not say that he wants us (Malaysia) as the third country. He only explained that if the Pakistan-India conflict cannot be settled amicably, it's better to find a third party to resolve the crisis."

Abdullah said Malaysia did not want the tension to continue along the border as it would adversely affect the stability in the region.

"If both sides agree to settle their conflict using a third country as a mediator, it will be a good move to reach a settlement," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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