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Thailand yet to decide on boycott

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Thailand has not decided yet if it will boycott the Asia-Europe meeting next year if Myanmar's leaders are not allowed to participate.

Its Deputy Prime Minister, Korn Dabbaransi, said he believed Asean would arrive at a consensus on the matter following reports that Britain might not grant visas to Myanmar military leaders to attend the meeting in London.

"Thailand believes that Myanmar should not be isolated; the country should be brought into the world community."

Myanmar and Laos were officially accepted as Asean members in July despite objections by the United States and European countries over alleged human right violations.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently stated that he personally felt Asean should boycott the meeting in London next year if there was restriction to Myanmar's participation.

Korn, who is in Malaysia to accept the presidency of the Asia Badminton Confederation, was speaking to reporters after meeting his counterpart Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

On whether the speculative attacks on several currencies in the region was discussed with Anwar, he said they did not touch on it.

"But I believe Asean will arrive at a joint position on measures to counter the attacks when the grouping's finance ministers meet in Bangkok (in the middle of this month)."

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