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No difference in views between KL and Bangkok

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - There is no difference between Malaysia and Thailand on the issue of East Timor, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

He said leaders of both countries had agreed that because the conflict was within Asean, parties within the region must play an important role.

However, the role would be within the context of the United Nations.

"Asean should play a leadership role in the UN peacekeeping operations, but it is not Asean to the exclusion of others."

He said this at a Press conference after meeting with German Foreign Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Ludger Volmer.

On Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here on Sunday, Syed Hamid said Arafat told Dr Mahathir that he was committed to the peace process and believed that an independent Palestine would be formed.

Arafat also updated the Prime Minister on the peace process in the Middle East.

He added that Arafat had said that when Malaysia as a member of the UN security council voiced its views to Israel, it had strengthened Palestine's position.

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