

PM: Malaysia seriously concerned over conflict in Ukraine



Ukrainian firefighters putting out a blaze at a high-rise apartment block, which was hit by shelling in Kyiv, yesterday. EPA PIC

BANGKOK: Malaysia is seriously concerned over the conflict in Ukraine and strongly urges all parties involved to immediately take steps to de-escalate and prevent loss of lives and devastation.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said at this critical juncture, every effort should be redoubled to seek a peaceful solution based on international law and the United Nations (UN) Charter.

“Malaysia will continue to support such efforts in the interest of maintaining regional and international peace and security, as well as promoting greater prosperity,” he said at the end of his three-day official visit to Thailand here yesterday.

He added that the UN Security Council must carry out its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Ismail Sabri said the Malaysian embassy in Kyiv was currently undertaking evacuation of the remaining eight Malaysian nationals and two of their foreign dependents from Kyiv.

“Thirteen of our nationals had already left Ukraine in the past weeks,” he said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday announced a special military operation in the Donbas region in eastern Ukraine.

Following that, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy declared a state of emergency

throughout the country.

Ukraine had also announced the closure of its airspace for public use, due to the “high risk” to civil aviation.

Russia’s military intervention in Ukraine entered its third day yesterday with the latest reports indicating that Russian troops were heading towards the capital, Kyiv, from several directions.

Putin ordered the military intervention days after recognising the separatist-held enclaves of Donetsk and Luhansk in eastern Ukraine.

He claimed that Moscow had no plan to occupy the neighbouring country but wanted to “demilitarise” and “denazify” Ukraine. **Bernama**