

# MALAYSIA CALLS FOR MAXIMUM RESTRAINT

**Both countries urged to end hostilities by 11 pm yesterday, but Thailand vows to continue fighting**

KUALA LUMPUR

**M**ALAYSIA called on Thailand and Cambodia to exercise “maximum restraint” and cease military action by 11pm yesterday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said he had telephoned Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun

Manet separately.

“During these exchanges, I conveyed Malaysia’s deep concern about the situation and urged both sides to exercise maximum restraint, cease all hostilities, and refrain from military actions, including the use of force or forward movement of armed units, with effect from Dec 13,” he said in a statement yesterday.

Anwar said he discussed the conflict with United States President Donald Trump, who raised bilateral relations as well as global issues of mutual interest.

“Regarding the tension on the Cambodian-Thai border, I explained Malaysia’s role in urging both countries to remain calm

and return to the negotiating table as well as bilateral and Asean mechanisms.

“Malaysia remains ready to assist efforts to defuse the situation, protect civilians and restore regional stability, in line with the Asean spirit of good neighbourliness,” he said.

He said that as the Asean chair, Malaysia would convene a special meeting of Asean foreign ministers soon to assess the situation and support measures to defuse tensions in the region.

“I also express my appreciation for the active engagement of the United States with Asean and the confidence given to Malaysia as the Asean chairman for 2025.”

He said Armed Forces chief General Tan Sri Mohd Nizam Jafar would lead an Asean Observer Team mission to monitor the situation on the ground.

He said the mission would be complemented by satellite monitoring capabilities provided by the US.

“Findings from the satellite monitoring and field observations will be compiled by the AOT and presented during the Asean foreign ministers’ meeting on Tuesday.

“The report will provide an objective account of the situation, including the positions of both parties, in the interest of accountability, confidence-building and the preservation of peace and stability in the region.

“Malaysia remains committed to working with Asean partners

and the international community to ensure that dialogue, restraint and diplomacy prevail,” he said.

The Cambodia-Thailand border dispute is over the colonial-era demarcation of their 800km frontier.

Five days of clashes erupted in July before the two countries agreed to a ceasefire in Kuala Lumpur on July 24.

Thailand and Cambodia then signed the Kuala Lumpur Peace Accord on Oct 26, during the 47th Asean Summit, witnessed by Anwar and Trump.

Hostilities flared up again on Dec 9, and have displaced around half a million people on both sides.

Trump, in a posting, said Cambodia and Thailand have agreed to end hostilities yesterday, and said he had a “very good conversation” with Anutin and Hun Manet. He praised Anwar for his role in seeking a resolution to the hostilities.

“They have agreed to CEASE all shooting effective this evening, and go back to the original peace accord made with me, and them, with the help of the Great Prime Minister of Malaysia, Anwar Ibrahim,” Trump wrote.

Anutin however, said military action against Cambodia will continue despite Trump’s claim.

Thai officials said they did not agree to a ceasefire, while Cambodia has not commented on Trump’s claim.