

'UPHOLD SPIRIT OF DIALOGUE'

PM says he has spoken to Leaders of Cambodia, Thailand on finding amicable solutions

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Malaysia has called on Cambodia and Thailand to uphold the spirit of dialogue

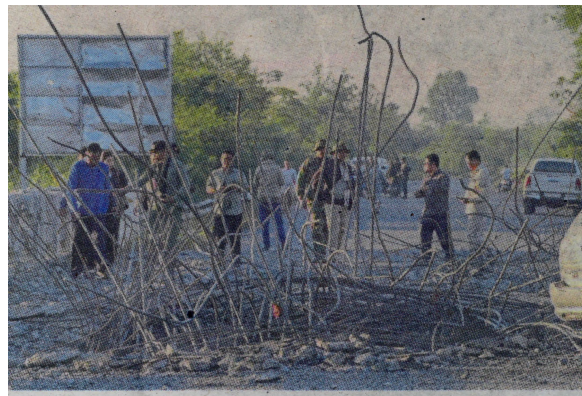
and return to talks to find amicable solutions to their ongoing border clash, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Ahead of the Asean Foreign Ministers' Meeting today, Anwar said he had spoken with his counterparts to exchange views and discuss the best way forward to ease tensions between the countries.

"I stressed the importance for Cambodia and Thailand to uphold dialogue, wisdom and mutual respect to resolve the tensions and preserve peace and stability in the region," he said in a post on Facebook yesterday.

He said the Asean Foreign Ministers' Meeting would provide an appropriate and constructive platform for both countries to negotiate openly, settle differences peacefully and achieve a fair and lasting solution.

Previously, Anwar said the meeting would allow Asean to deliberate collectively, establish the facts on the ground and intensify



Cambodians looking at a damaged bridge after Thailand carried out airstrikes in an area between the Oddar Meanchey and Siem Reap provinces on Saturday.
AFP PIC

efforts to persuade both parties to halt frontline offensives, beginning with an immediate truce.

The long-standing Cambodia-Thailand border tension erupted in July, with armed clashes lasting several days before they agreed to a ceasefire on July 28.

They later signed the Kuala Lumpur Peace Accord on Oct 26, on the sidelines of the 47th Asean Summit in Kuala Lumpur.

Bernama reported that the Foreign Ministry said a special meeting would be convened today, pursuant to the decision of the prime ministers of Malaysia, Cambodia and Thailand on Dec 11.

"The meeting will be chaired by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan.

"It will provide a platform for Asean foreign ministers to exchange views on the situation between Cambodia and Thailand and to consider possible steps that Asean may take in support of ongoing efforts towards de-escalation and cessation of hostilities in the interest of peace and stability between the two Asean

member states and the wider region," said the ministry.

It said the convening of the meeting reflected the commitment of Asean member states to unity and solidarity, as well as Asean centrality in maintaining peace, security, stability and prosperity in the region, in accordance with the Asean Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.

"As Asean chair, Malaysia remains firmly committed to promoting constructive dialogues in the Asean spirit.

"In that respect, we are facilitating both sides to continue upholding the principles of international law, good neighbourly relations and peaceful co-existence, as well as bilateral and multilateral cooperation in pursuit of a peaceful, just and lasting settlement to any dispute."

Page 1 pic: A screen grab of a video released by the Thai military showing an airstrike in Cambodia's Banteay Meanchey province recently.