

PEACEMAKER

Anwar praises Qatar's Gaza role

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim praised Qatar's efforts, through its Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Abdulrahman Al-Thani, in pursuing peace in Gaza.

He said he received a phone call late on Tuesday from Sheikh Mohammed, who is also the country's foreign minister.

Anwar said they discussed the latest situation in Gaza, including Israel's violation of the ceasefire, which undermined the agreement brokered by Qatar, Egypt and the United States.

"I reiterated Malaysia's continuous commitment to steadfastly support every initiative, including providing humanitarian aid while aiming to end the Israeli occupation and illegal settlement in Gaza," he said in a Facebook post.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had threatened to resume "intense fighting" in Gaza if hostages were not released this weekend.

He said the Israeli army would resume intense fighting until



*Sheikh Mohammed
Abdulrahman Al-Thani*

Hamas, the group that governs Gaza, was decisively defeated.

Under the terms of the ceasefire, which has largely halted more than 15 months of fighting in Gaza, Hamas would free captives in batches in exchange for Palestinians in Israeli custody.

So far, Israel and Hamas have completed five prisoner swaps.

Netanyahu's statement came on the heels of US President Donald Trump's statement that "hell" would break out if Hamas failed to release all Israeli hostages by Saturday.