

Thailand and Cambodia agree to ceasefire, says Anwar

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JITRA: Thailand and Cambodia have agreed to a ceasefire and to withdraw their troops from the border, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said both countries had agreed but requested some time, as their troops were already stationed at the border and needed time to pull back.

"Yesterday (Thursday), I had a phone conversation with the acting Prime Minister of Thailand and the Prime Minister of Cambodia because of Malaysia's position and their respect for us.

"I am grateful because when I spoke with them, both responded respectfully. Why? Because Malaysia is a peaceful and stable country," he said at the National Anti-Drugs Day celebration here.

Earlier, media reports stated that Thai and Cambodian troops clashed on Thursday in the disputed border area, with both sides blaming each other for initiating the latest confrontation.

Tensions between the two South-East Asian nations have been escalating since May 28, following a deadly incident in the Preah Vihear area that claimed the life of a Cambodian soldier.

The two countries have been at odds for decades over their still-undemarcated 817km border and the dispute continues to strain diplomatic relations.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister said enforcement agencies, particularly those operating along the national borders, must further enhance their effectiveness in efforts to combat smuggling, especially drug trafficking.

Anwar acknowledged challenges in addressing the issue due to Malaysia's vast borders over air, land and sea, and that close cooperation among all agencies was crucial to prevent border incursions.

"All enforcement agencies must improve their efficiency to prevent leakages in enforcement management," he added.