

US lauds PM for brokering

Thai-Cambodia ceasefire

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Meeting mediated by Anwar as Asean chair was attended by premiers of both nations, envoys of US, China

KUALA LUMPUR: The United States (US) has commended Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's leadership in brokering the immediate and unconditional ceasefire agreement between Thailand and Cambodia.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the US applauds the ceasefire declaration between Cambodia and Thailand announced on Monday.

"We are grateful to Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim for his leadership and for hosting the ceasefire talks," he said in a statement released by the US State Department.

Rubio urged Thailand and Cambodia to fully honour their commitments to end the

conflict and prevent further escalation along their disputed border.

"President Donald Trump and I are committed to an immediate cessation of violence and expect the governments of Cambodia and Thailand to fully honour their commitments to end this conflict.

"We urge all parties to follow through on their commitments."

A special meeting brokered by Anwar in his capacity as the current Asean chair, was held at the Seri Perdana Complex in Putrajaya on Monday.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and Thailand's acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai attended the meeting which began at 3pm, Bernama reported.

This was their first face-to-face encounter since tensions erupted between the two neighbours on July 24. The meeting lasted nearly two and a half hours.

Also in attendance were US Ambassador to Malaysia Edgard Kagan and Chinese Ambassador to Malaysia Ouyang Yujing.

The US was a co-organiser of the meeting, while China was an observer to promote a peaceful resolution to the ongoing situation.

At a joint media conference after the meeting, Anwar announced that Thailand and Cambodia had agreed to an immediate and unconditional ceasefire.

The two Southeast Asian neighbours have a long history of diplomatic rows over an 817km undemarcated stretch of their shared border.

Tensions between both nations have been simmering since May 28 following a skirmish between their troops near the disputed Preah Vihear border area, which claimed the life of a Cambodian soldier.