



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim meeting congregants during the Aidiladha prayers at Masjid Putra in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

CAMBODIA-THAILAND BORDER CLASH

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MALAYSIA OFFERS TO MEDIATE DISPUTE

PM says he has spoken to leaders of both govts, will provide assistance to facilitate dialogue

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia is ready to help facilitate dialogue between Cambodia and Thailand to achieve a peaceful settlement to their border dispute.

Anwar said he had spoken with both Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who informed him that their respective governments had agreed to hold talks on June 14 regarding the issue.

"I have spoken with both prime ministers. They have taken several steps that we support, including holding negotiations on June 14 to discuss the Cambodia-Thailand border issue.

"I am ready to follow up and provide whatever assistance is necessary," he said after attending Aidiladha prayers at Masjid Putra here yesterday.

This comes in the wake of reports that Thailand's military is prepared to launch a "high-level operation" to counter any violations of its sovereignty, following a border dispute that re-erupted with a deadly clash last week.

A Cambodian soldier was shot dead during a brief skirmish with Thai troops in a disputed border area between Cambodia's Preah Vihear province and Thailand's Ubon Ratchathani province, according to Cambodia's Defence Ministry.

In a statement issued on May 28, the ministry alleged that Thai forces had opened fire first on a Cambodian military post situated in the contested zone.

Thailand, however, denied the claim, with Defence Minister Phumtham Wechayachai stating that Cambodian forces had fired the initial shots.

On Friday, after chairing a National Security Council meeting, Paetongtarn announced Thailand had established a special task force to address security concerns along its border with Cambodia.

"So far, both governments have taken a positive stance to proceed with the discussions in a cordial manner," Anwar said.

Meanwhile, on the India-Pakistan conflict, Anwar said he hoped that both countries would achieve peace.

"I have no role (in the issue),

and can only give my opinion."

He said Pakistan's wish to become Asean's dialogue partner would be brought up at a conference and discussed among Asean leaders.

Bernama had the previous day reported that Anwar had expressed hope that Pakistan and India could achieve a peaceful and comprehensive resolution, ensuring lasting regional stability.

In a Facebook post, he shared that he conveyed this message to Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during a phone call.

Sharif, currently performing the haj, reached out to Anwar during his spiritual journey.

"I pray that he has a successful haj and wish Eid Mubarak (Selamat Hari Raya) to all Pakistanis," Anwar said.

The prime minister also expressed his hope that Sharif's official visit to Malaysia could be rescheduled once conditions in Pakistan allowed.

Malaysia, he added, looked forward to further strengthening its strategic, mutually respectful and beneficial bilateral ties with Pakistan.

Anwar also acknowledged Sharif's compliments on Malaysia's successful hosting of the recent Asean Summit.