

# Pakistan's Asean partnership bid to be discussed

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**PUTRAJAYA:** Pakistan's bid to become a full dialogue partner with Asean will be discussed with leaders of the regional grouping, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"It will be brought up for discussion at the Asean leaders' conference," he told reporters briefly after performing the Aidiladha prayers at the Putra Mosque here yesterday.

He said this when asked to comment on Pakistan's renewed efforts to elevate its partnership status with Asean, Bernama reported.

Yesterday, Pakistan's High Commissioner to Malaysia Syed Ahsan Raza Shah said that Islamabad is renewing its push to become a full dialogue partner, reflecting the country's commitment to strengthening regional cooperation and deepening engagement with the bloc.

Pakistan, which became Asean's first sectoral dialogue partner in 1993, values its cooperation with the regional grouping and aims to further expand the ties.

In October last year, Anwar was quoted as saying that Malaysia fully supported Pakistan's efforts to become a full dialogue partner



**Warm wishes:** Anwar shaking hands with members of the public after attending the Aidiladha prayers at the Putra Mosque in Putrajaya. — Bernama

of Asean. When asked about Pakistan welcoming his offer to mediate in the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, Anwar said Malaysia only hopes for a peaceful resolution.

"I have no role to play; I'm simply offering my opinion," he said.

Earlier, Anwar and his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, performed the Aidiladha

prayers alongside nearly 15,000 congregants at the Putra Mosque.

Anwar, dressed in a light blue baju Melayu, arrived at 7.50am and was greeted by Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs), Dr Zulkifli Hasan.

The Prime Minister also joined the congregation to recite the takbir raya before performing the



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Aidiladha prayers, led by the Grand Imam of the Putra Mosque, Dr Muhamad Zakuwa Rodzali.

He then listened to the Aidiladha sermon, which emphasised the importance of intention, proper conduct and sincerity in performing the sacrificial ritual.

Before departing, he took time to mingle and shake hands with members of the congregation.

Meanwhile, Anwar said Malaysia supports the measures taken by Thailand and Cambodia in addressing the border dispute involving both countries.

He said Malaysia, as the Chair of Asean 2025, will follow the development of the negotiations between Thailand and Cambodia through the Joint Boundary Commission scheduled for June 14 in Phnom Penh, in addition to providing the cooperation required for the talks.

"I spoke with both the prime ministers (of Thailand and Cambodia), and they have taken seve-

ral measures that we support, namely the June 14 talks regarding the Thailand-Cambodia border dispute.

"I'm ready to follow and provide the cooperation (that is) required. So far, both governments have taken the stance of continuing negotiations amicably," he told the media.

On May 28, Thai and Cambodian troops were involved in a brief skirmish in Thailand's Ubon Ratchathani province and Cambodia's Preah Vihear province, which reportedly resulted in the death of a Cambodian soldier.

Cambodia has since announced its intention to bring the border dispute to the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Thailand, meanwhile, has reportedly reiterated its commitment to resolving the issue peacefully in accordance with international law, as well as existing agreements and memoranda with Cambodia.

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