

Top security for world leaders

PM issues guarantee in light of planned protest during summit

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PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia has given its assurance that the security of world leaders attending the 47th Asean Summit will be fully guaranteed, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister said that while he respects the people's right to express their views, the security and safety of these leaders are of paramount importance.

"I am fine with people protesting in Kuala Lumpur against me, but when it comes to the safety of leaders who come to Malaysia, I cannot allow them to sabotage the process.

"Security is our utmost consideration," he said during a special briefing with top editors last night.

A coalition of Malaysian civil society and political groups has planned a public protest on Oct 26, a few hundred metres away from the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, where the summit is being held.

The demonstration appears to be aimed at voicing opposition to US President Donald Trump, who



Media engagement: Anwar speaking during the special briefing with top editors at Putrajaya. With him is Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan. - Bernama

will be in Kuala Lumpur on the same day to attend the summit.

The summit marks the culmination of Malaysia's Asean chairmanship, themed "Inclusivity and Sustainability".

Several world leaders are expected to attend the summit, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, among others.

Anwar said that as host of the

47th Asean Summit, Malaysia must categorically assure leaders of their security when they are in the country.

On whether he is concerned that US-China trade negotiations will outshine the Asean Summit, Anwar said any outcome from such negotiations will benefit not just Malaysia but Asean as a whole.

"If there is some sort of progress or achievement with China



and the United States, I will be happy, and Malaysia should be proud that positive results were made here," he said.

On Oct 18, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent was reported to have said that he and China's Vice-Premier He Lifeng are likely to hold talks in Malaysia as part of efforts to set the stage for a meeting between their respective presidents.

When asked about the conclusion of the trade negotiations between Malaysia and the United States, Anwar hinted that 99.9% of the discussions have been resolved.

"The 0.01% will be resolved during the Cabinet meeting on Friday," he said without elaborating.

In relation to the South China Sea, Anwar stated that Asean will maintain its engagement with China, adhering to the Code of Conduct (COC) established for the region.

The COC for the South China Sea is intended to reduce the risk of conflict in the disputed waterways, where several Asean member states and China are involved in overlapping territorial claims.

On Timor-Leste, the Prime Minister said its upcoming inclusion in Asean was one of the major achievements under Malaysia's chairmanship.

"Timor-Leste should be given a place in the Asean fraternity. I am glad that all this is happening while Malaysia holds Asean chairmanship," he added.

Timor-Leste's official accession is planned for Oct 26.

Anwar was also asked whether Malaysia, as the Asean Chair, would exert pressure on Cambodia to shut down scam centres.

He said he believed that the matter would be raised during this meeting, adding that the issue had been discussed among member countries on many occasions.

The Star, on its front page, reported calls for Malaysia to leverage its position as Asean Chair to exert pressure on Cambodia to shut down scam centres amid the alarming resurgence of job scam operations in that country.