

Thailand's Military Stages Coup After Meeting Fails To Produce Solution
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By Minggu Simon Lhasa

BANGKOK, May 22 (Bernama) -- Thailand's Army Chief Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha has announced a coup after opposing sides in the country's political conflict failed to agree on how to end the six-month turmoil.

He made the announcement on television Thursday afternoon.

According to some local media reports, Prayuth suggested ways to end the conflict, including that the caretaker government step down. However, it was rejected.

Protest leaders from both sides have been detained to facilitate investigations.

Over the past two days, the opposing sides have been meeting at the Army Club in the afternoon but failed to agree on a solution.

The caretaker government/pro-government Red Shirts which is confident of securing a victory through the ballot box has insisted on a general election as soon as possible.

The caretaker government, which refused to step down to make way for a new neutral cabinet, has suggested Aug 3 to the Election Commission as the date for the election.

However, the opposition and anti-government People Democratic Reform Committee insists the caretaker government resign and a new neutral prime minister be appointed.

It also wants reforms before an election is held.

The situation in Bangkok remains calm.

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