

## Visitors scramble to take pix, speak with Anwar

**ALOR STAR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was greeted with massive cheers as he arrived at the first Malaysia Madani Aidilfitri open house here yesterday.

Tens of thousands of people flocked to the Raia Hotel and Convention Centre here to take photos with and shake hands with Anwar, creating an atmosphere of excitement.

Fuad Omar, 71, from Tikam Batu near here, said he had a brief but meaningful conversation with Anwar, in which he reminded the prime minister of their encounter during the umrah in Makkah in 2006.

"I have met him four times, the first during a PKR Hari Raya open

house in Kubang Semang," he said.

"This recent one is very meaningful because he is now the prime minister.

"However, the most memorable encounter with him was during my umrah where I met him at Masjidil Haram in Makkah in 2006."

"I am sure he remembers me."

Kamarul Ariffin Mohd Fauzi, 26, and his sister Nurul Farhana, 37, were ecstatic after taking a video with Anwar.

Kamarul said he and his sister arrived at 7am and waited for the chance to meet Anwar after travelling from Besut in Terengganu yesterday.



*People lining up at the Malaysia Madani Aidilfitri open house in Alor Star yesterday.*

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"It was worth the journey, and we are so happy to have gotten a chance to take a video with the prime minister.

"We'll cherish this video because we really wanted it."

Dr Ashraf Al Haq, a senior lecturer at Universiti Utara Malay-

sia, shared his joy after finally having a conversation with Anwar, despite struggling to get through the crowd.

Ashraf said he was determined to get Anwar's attention as he had received his scroll from Anwar at a postgraduate convocation in

2004.

"Alhamdulillah, my checklist today is settled. I really admire him.

"Now I will have more stories to share with my friends and family after getting to celebrate Hari Raya Aidilfitri with him."