

'Stop politicising PM's Saudi visit'

KUALA LUMPUR: The Saudi Arabian government had asked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to extend the period of his recent official visit to the kingdom in order to arrange meetings between him and Saudi leaders, Anwar's political secretary Ahmad Farhan Fauzi said yesterday.

He said Anwar, however, had to politely decline the request because of a scheduled *iftar* (breaking of fast) with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah.

Ahmad Farhan said the prime minister was also scheduled to make a one-day official visit to Cambodia today and then, beginning Wednesday, make a visit to China, where he is scheduled to meet President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang.

"I am aware of the views expressed by quarters with vested interests that are deliberately politicising the recent visit of the prime minister to Saudi Arabia.

"I urge those people who are bankrupt of issues to cease this polemic and together support the efforts of the unity government to strengthen Malaysia's image, as well as consolidate foreign relations and cooperation," he said in a statement yesterday. - Bernama