

TIME AND DATE YET TO BE DETERMINED

ANWAR TO HOLD TALKS WITH BIDEN OVER PALESTINE

**Discussions likely to
be held on sidelines
of Apec meeting**

**NURADZIMMAH DAIM
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my**

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is expected to hold discussions with United States President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Economic Leaders' Week meeting in San Francisco.

He is expected to raise the issue of the Israel-Palestine conflict, which has seen over 10,000 Palestinians, including women and children, killed in Gaza.

The date and time of the meeting is yet to be confirmed.

Anwar had previously said he would raise the matter regarding the conflict at the world stage when leaders from the 21-member Apec forum, including the two largest economies, the US and China, convene between Nov 15 and 17.

He had given this assurance

amid calls by Malaysian leaders to boycott the summit as a show of solidarity with Palestine.

"We do not agree with the US' stance (on the Israel-Palestine war), but it is our priority to maintain diplomatic relations, while not budging from our stand on supporting justice," he was earlier reported as saying.

Last month, Anwar, who is also finance minister, told the Dewan Rakyat that Malaysia would not back down on the matter despite being pressured by some quarters.

*"We do not
agree with the
US' stance (on the
Israel-Palestine
war)."*

**DATUK SERI
ANWAR IBRAHIM**
Prime minister

This was following three demarche notes from US officials to the government, expressing concern over the country's stand on the Israel-Palestine conflict as it involved Malaysia's relations with another country.

Anwar has been vocal in representing the voice of Malaysians in calling on other nations to join in solidarity with Palestine.

Apart from the positive feedback from some country leaders he had met, Anwar attributed good relations with Egypt in facilitating the transport of humanitarian aid from Malaysia to ensure that it reached the Palestinian border swiftly.