

# Anwar to visit UAE, Saudi Arabia next month

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Thursday said he has been invited to visit the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia next month.

Anwar said he would be in the UAE on Oct 5 and 6 for a working visit before attending the inaugural Asean-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit to be hosted by Saudi Arabia in Riyadh on Oct 16.

“The UAE and Saudi have much stronger collaboration with us. We hope they will invest more,” said Anwar at the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

During a question-and-answer session after delivering his keynote address “Regaining Malaysia’s Lead in Asia” at the Invest Malaysia New York event on Thursday, Anwar said there was growing interest from GCC members in Asean.

“We (Asean) have growing interest from Saudi, UAE and Qatar,” he said.

On Tuesday, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, after a meeting with his UAE counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan on the sidelines of UNGA, said from January to April this year, total trade between the countries rose by 5.7 per cent, from RM11.25 billion to RM11.89 billion.

During a visit to Kuala Lumpur in May, UAE Trade Minister Thani Al Zeyoudi said Malaysian investments in the UAE stood at US\$150 million and that the UAE’s investments in Malaysia had reached US\$220 million.

Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, is Malaysia’s largest trading partner among the West Asian countries, with US\$10.26 billion in total bilateral trade recorded between the two countries last year, an increase of 159.2 per cent from 2021. Among the Kingdom’s prominent projects in Malaysia is the Pengerang Integrated Complex in Johor, through Saudi Aramco. **Bernama**