

# 'Muslims must promote Islam boldly'

## Grand Imam also urges fostering of goodwill, acquisition of new knowledge

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Muslims in the country need to exhibit Islamic morality more positively and courageously when interacting with followers of other religions in Malaysia and the Asian region, according to the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif (Sheikh Al-Azhar) Prof Dr Ahmad Muhammad Ahmad At-Tayyeb.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said this was among the views shared by the Sheikh during their meeting on Wednesday night, in an effort to realise Malaysia's aspiration of creating a Madani nation, Bernama reported.

Anwar said the prominent religious figure also urged him to work harder and with greater determination to unite the strength of the Muslim community while ensuring there is a spirit

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Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim

of genuineness, goodwill, mutual respect and *lita'aruf* (knowing each other) among Muslims and non-Muslims in the country.

"We will endeavour to fulfil his mandate and ideals to the best of our ability, especially regarding Muslim strength and his urging

for Muslims to acquire expertise in new fields of knowledge and technology," he said.

The Prime Minister said this in his speech after witnessing the conferment of an Honorary Doctorate in Quranic and Sunnah Studies from Universiti Sains

Islam Malaysia (USIM) on the Grand Sheikh by the university's Pro-Chancellor Tunku Besar Seri Menanti Tunku Ali Redhaudin Tuanku Muhriz during a special convocation ceremony here yesterday.

Also present were Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambray Abd Kadir and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar.

In his speech, Anwar also expressed hope that USIM could help translate the address delivered by Prof Dr Ahmad today to ensure it can be widely disseminated nationwide.

"The analysis in Sheikh Al-Azhar's address demonstrates his eminence and depth of knowledge. I am impressed and captivated by the extensive analysis,"

he said, commending USIM for honouring the religious scholar.

Anwar also said Sheikh Al-Azhar had made significant contributions to the Islamic world, including the Malay archipelago.

"In fact, Azharis (Al-Azhar University graduates) have made great contributions, serving as the main defenders of knowledge, and instilling Islam within our society against various shortcomings resulting from the influence of Western thought, deviant liberal ideologies and fanaticism leading to division," he said.