



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz joins Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as he breaks his fast at the Federal Chancellery in Berlin yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

## SEEKING END TO CONFLICT

# ANWAR, SCHOLZ CALL FOR GAZA CEASEFIRE

**Both leaders believe international community must work towards a two-state solution**

BERLIN

**M**ALAYSIA and Germany have called for a lasting ceasefire to be implemented in

Gaza, with the release of hostages and humanitarian aid to Palestinians expedited.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, together with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, said the international community must work towards making the goal of a two-state solution a reality and bring an end to the decades-long conflict.

"There have been four decades of atrocities, plunder and dispossession of Palestinians. Let us move forward. I agree with what the chancellor has said on the final two-state solution to ensure there is peace for both countries and to work in concert to ensure that there is economic development and progress for the people in the area," Anwar said.

He was speaking at a joint press conference with Scholz after a four-eyed meeting with the chan-



**NAJMUDDIN NAJIB**

cellor at the Federal Chancellery.

Anwar was asked by foreign media whether he was concerned that Malaysia's ties with Hamas could harm its relations with other countries.

"Our foreign policy position is consistent. We oppose colonialism, apartheid or ethnic cleansing or dispossession of any country, be it Ukraine or in Gaza. We cannot erase 40 years of atrocities and dispossession which has resulted in reaction and anger from the people concerned.

"Our relation with Hamas is the political wing in Hamas. We make no apologies about it. That engagement has helped at least to bring about the concerns, at least about the hostages. We do not have any connection with any military outfit.

"We recognised the African National Congress (ANC) long before the Europeans or Americans did because we believed that the apartheid policy was to be opposed. So we have been consis-

tent with that policy, that we must understand the root cause."

Anwar rejected the narrative that the Gaza crisis stemmed from the Oct 7 attack on Israel.

"It did not begin with October 7, neither did it end on Oct 7. It began four decades ago and is continuing today.

"However, having said that, in our discussion, I said to the chancellor, that we move on. Do we discuss history and past atrocities or do we discuss how to resolve the problem now?"

"This means cessation of the killings, stopping the atrocities, and the entire international community, Malaysia, Germany, its neighbours, must make sure there is no more violence perpetrated by any group against anyone. Muslims, Christians or Jews, they must be allowed to live in peace."

To a question on whether the two leaders' meeting could influence the implementation of an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, Anwar said both countries could play their roles in seeking a solution.

"Germany has good ties with Israel and we have similar ties with