



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking to the press in Bangkok at the end of his working visit to Thailand yesterday. He called for cooler heads to prevail in the issue of the Jalur Gemilang error on the front page of a Chinese daily. AFP PIC/PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

'FOLLOW LEGAL PROCESS'

# 'NATIONAL FLAG ERROR NOT A TRIVIAL MATTER'

**Jalur Gemilang an important symbol for country, exercise care when using it, says Anwar**

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**T**HE Jalur Gemilang error on the front page of a Chinese daily recently is "not a trivial matter", Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said.

He said for any country, the national flag was an important symbol.

He urged all quarters to exercise care when using the national flag as an image or illustration.

"My advice is for everyone to be careful. However, let's give room to *Sin Chew Daily* to explain its mistake and apologise.

"Nevertheless, this is not a trivial matter. Let the process of law run its course," he told the media at the end of his working visit to the Thai capital here yesterday.

He was commenting on the incomplete image of the Jalur Gemilang used on the front page of *Sin Chew Daily* on Tuesday.

Anwar called for cooler heads to prevail.

"I ask that we not go overboard. There is a legal process that must be followed."

The authorities have launched an investigation into the matter.

His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia has rebuked the daily for the error, describing the mistake as "unacceptable".

In **Kuala Lumpur**, Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil said the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) had completed its investigation into an incident involving a Facebook post by *Kwong Wah Yit Poh* and the e-paper version of *Sin Chew Daily*.

Speaking to the press after the Art, Live Events, Concerts and Festivals Association's Eid Synergy event yesterday, he said the investigation paper had been submitted to the deputy public prosecutor for further action.

"There are three aspects to the investigation. One under the Home Ministry via the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984.

"Police are also investigating un-

der other laws, including the Penal Code and the National Emblems (Control of Display) Act 1949.

"MCMC also conducted its own investigation under Section 233 of the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998."

Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Seri Ayob Khan Mydin Pitchay said police had called in 42 witnesses in connection with the case and more would be summoned.

"The investigation is ongoing. Forty police reports have been lodged," he said at the Bandar Country Homes police station in Rawang.

He said the editor-in-chief and deputy chief sub-editor of *Sin Chew Daily* who were detained on Thursday had been released after their statements were recorded.

The daily suspended two top editors over the Jalur Gemilang error, pending an investigations.

In a statement, *Sin Chew Daily* said the top management made the decision based on the principle of accountability.

The daily had issued an apology, saying the missing crescent moon on the Jalur Gemilang was the result of a technical error. **Additional reporting by Mohamad Al As**