

Anwar slams Israeli attacks on Iran

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday called on global leaders to speak plainly and act decisively to prevent further escalation of Israeli airstrikes on Iran.

“Events in the Middle East have made it clear how the tables of diplomacy could be overturned by the fury of calculated violence.

“The incessant, punitive and unprovoked Israeli strikes on Iranian territory, which were undertaken even as talks were underway, are aimed at shattering the possibility of dialogue itself.

“Such actions, carried out with utter impunity, constitute a blatant violation of international law, further eroding the norms that hold the global order together.

“We call on those with power

and influence to speak plainly and act decisively to restrain further escalation.”

Anwar said this in his keynote address at the 38th Asia-Pacific Roundtable.

He called for international action to uphold humanitarian law regarding the tragedy in Gaza.

“The staggering civilian casualties, overwhelmingly women and children, demand far more than pious proclamations of concern.

“They require concerted international action to uphold humanitarian law, secure an immediate ceasefire, and ensure the delivery of aid to those in desperate need.

“The credibility of the so-called rules-based order is on trial.”

Anwar said the unresolved tensions between Pakistan and India

remain a delicate fault line.

He said their future hinges not only on old grievances but also on present choices of whether to invest in stability or continue edging towards the cusp of catastrophe. The same pressures, he said, are in Asia Pacific, specifically in the Taiwan Strait, the Korean Peninsula and the South China Sea.

“Here, as ever, we must insist on the primacy of dialogue over disruption, of law over disorder, of restraint over escalation.”

Anwar said Malaysia envisions a regional security framework that is inclusive and rules-based, where non-alignment is respected.

He said that while reshaping the region may not be possible, efforts must be made to prevent its worst outcomes.