

## EN ROUTE TO S. AFRICA

# P M holds 'press conference' mid-flight

**JOHANNESBURG:** The chartered Airbus A350-90G with Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim onboard was cruising uneventfully after departing the Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa when a sudden burst of excitement swept through the cabin on Thursday.

A group of journalists flying with the prime minister were jolted out of their seats about two hours into the flight and frantically started reaching for the overhead compartments to grab their tripods, video cameras and recording devices.

At that time, the plane was cruising at an altitude of 12,192m as it made its way to the Waterkloof Air Force Base in Pretoria, in what was supposed to be a routine five-hour flight from the Ethiopian capital to South Africa's administrative capital.



*Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim chatting with journalists during the flight to Johannesburg on Thursday, PIC FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE*

Members of the media at the back of the plane quickly readied themselves after getting word from Anwar's senior press secretary, Tunku Nashrul Abaidah, that the prime minister wanted to speak to reporters and was ready to take any questions from them.

As the journos sprang into action, Anwar casually made his way to the aft galley of the plane while greeting startled passengers comprising top-notch business leaders, chief executives of publicly listed companies and

government officials.

Anwar spent more than an hour answering questions ranging from the controversy involving his political secretary and a support letter for hospital project bidders to public outrage over FAM's scandal involving seven naturalised players.

He later happily obliged those asking for photographs and selfies.

Anwar then made his way back to his seat before the aircraft touched down in Pretoria about 6.40pm.