

3-DAY VISIT

KL, Islamabad renew push for peace

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia and Pakistan have reaffirmed their commitment to promoting peace and stability in the region.

This includes efforts to foster dialogue between Pakistan and India, as well as support the cessation of hostilities in Gaza.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said both nations shared the belief that regional collaboration and joint efforts were essential to combat terrorism and ensure long-term peace.

"On regional and international issues, we discussed the importance of establishing peace in the Pakistan-India subcontinent.

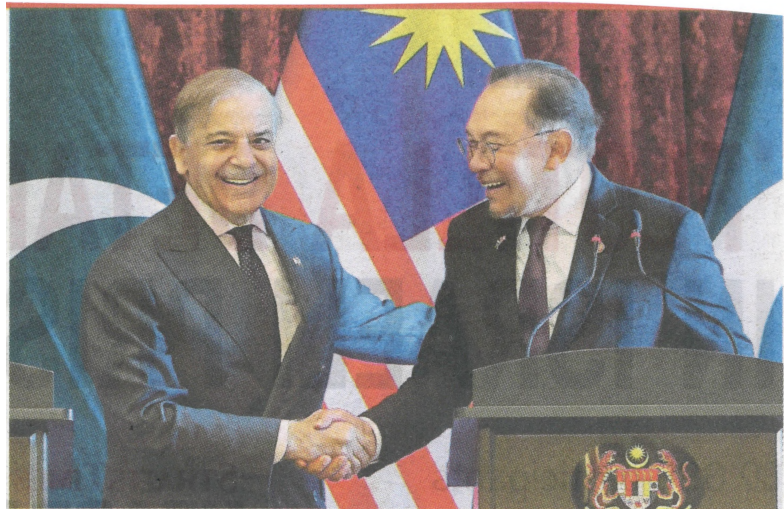
"It is vital for us in the region to strengthen joint efforts and collaboration to counter terrorism.

"I am, of course, extremely appreciative of your stance," he said, addressing his Pakistani counterpart, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, during a joint press conference here yesterday.

Sharif is on a three-day visit to Malaysia to explore new cooperation opportunities in areas such as trade and investment, the halal industry, education, tourism and defence.

He was accorded an official welcome ceremony at the Perdana Putra Complex here when he arrived at 10am.

After being received by Anwar, he inspected a guard of honour mounted by three officers and 103 members of the First Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment, led by Major Muhammad Akmal Hakim Sabarudin.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at a joint press conference with Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Putrajaya yesterday, BERNAMA PIC

An advertisement for the Straits Times. It features the text "NEW STRAITS TIMES HEARD THE NEWS?" in large, bold letters. Below this, it says "Read with me". To the right is a QR code with the text "SCAN ME" underneath it. At the bottom, it states "Supported by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission".

Anwar said the government would facilitate the import of Pakistani meat worth up to US\$200 million into the country.

Malaysia, he said, had also increased its import of Pakistani rice.

He added that Malaysia and Pakistan were also looking to establish stronger collaboration in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics; information and communications technology; technical and vocational education and training; and, in the digital and electrical and electronics semiconductor industry.

Sharif said he hoped Malaysia and Pakistan could harness their potential to grow their economies by moving forward in tandem with mutually beneficial outcomes.

"I want to assure you and guarantee that we will make all pos-

sible efforts to meet your terms and conditions," he said.

"And only on that basis will we achieve not only this quota of US\$200 million, but in time, increase it significantly. Because when consumers are happy, the sky is the limit."

On the recent discussions in Doha, Anwar said both nations supported a common declaration urging concrete proposals to end the suffering of millions of people in Palestine.

"We look favourably upon the 20-point peace initiative by (United States) President Donald Trump, although Malaysia does express some concerns.

"But at least on the point of cessation of hostilities — to stop the insane bombings and killings by the Zionist Israeli regime in Gaza — that, at least, is a clear position taken by Arab countries, Muslim countries and most of the world."