

PM slams failures of global system

TIANJIN: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim took the global multilateral system to task, saying its failures and that of institutions like the United Nations have led to a trust deficit.

This, he said, had resulted in actions that did not necessarily commensurate with ideals. These failures, he said, were evident.

“There has been a deficit of trust in the international system because of our failures in trade, financial architecture and dealing with climate change.

“There is always this disconnect between what’s being preached and the sufferings that will affect the masses, and the actions that are not necessarily commensurate with those ideals.

“The United Nations is no longer seen as having the aspirations to even reform itself.

“Between the aspirations and the realities lies a shadow. And it’s alarming because it has caused so much disparity and atrocities inflicted with impunity.”

Anwar was delivering his remarks at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Plus Summit 2025 here.

The two-day event brought together more than 20 heads of state and government, as well as leaders of international organisations.

Anwar’s presence marks the first time a Malaysian prime minister has attended the summit.

In his remarks, Anwar touched on Chinese President Xi Jinping’s proposal for a Global Governance Initiative (GGI).

In his opening address earlier at the summit, Xi said global governance had come to a new crossroads and called for “a more just and equitable global governance system, advancing toward a community with a shared future for humanity”.

Xi proposed that SCO Plus nations adhere to sovereign equal-

ity, abide by the international rule of law, practice multilateralism, advocate the people-centred approach and focus on “taking real actions”.

Anwar welcomed the proposal and said the SCO’s ideals were consistent with Malaysia’s and Asean’s, which Malaysia chairs this year.

“(Priorities like) economic connectivity, public health, security and energy transition, which are clearly consistent with Malaysia’s position and Asean’s priorities.”

He said the GGI underscored the recognition shared by many that the multilateral system had failed.

He said its ideals were consistent with the moderate path of Zhongyong, a core concept in Confucianism.

This, he said, involved a balanced, moderate position based on justice, compassion, humanity, rules anchored in law, cooperation and multilateralism — all translated into practical action consistent with the ideals.

“We share these aspirations. What it means is rejecting aggression, arrogance of power, colonialism, imperialism and oppression of man by man,” he said.

Anwar said when he and other global leaders attend the Victory Day Parade in Beijing today, he hoped the rejection of such atrocities would remain on their minds.

“Many of my colleagues have mentioned the atrocities inflicted in front of our very eyes in Gaza and Palestine.

“Killings of babies and children with impunity.

“Not only in Gaza and Palestine, they are affecting neighbours from Lebanon to Iran to Iraq. And the international community seems to be somewhat helpless.”

Anwar said he not only supported Xi’s GGI initiative, but called on the Chinese leader to intensify it.