

## EMPHASIS ON DIPLOMACY

# Anwar concerned over rising US-Iran tensions

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has voiced deep concern over escalating tensions between the United States and Iran.

In a statement posted on his official social media account, Anwar said the growing concentration of military assets and increasingly absolutist public rhetoric had narrowed the space for restraint “at precisely the moment when it is most needed”.

“I view with grave concern the

mounting tensions between the United States and Iran, and the growing risk that an already volatile situation could tip into open conflict,” he said.

Anwar cautioned that any confrontation between Washington and Teheran would have repercussions across an already fragile Middle East, including the risk of proxy escalation, maritime insecurity and economic shocks that could extend well beyond the region.

“No strategic interest could justify such human and material devastation,” he added.

Emphasising the need for diplomacy, Anwar said the imperative of peace must prevail over all other considerations, urging all parties to step back from the brink and recommit to dialogue with urgency and seriousness.

“Channels of communication must be used to their fullest extent,” he said.