



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim shaking hands with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during a visit to Ankara, Turkiye, in February. Erdogan will visit Malaysia soon to foster ties with the country. **AFP PIC**

## 'Erdogan committed to boosting ties'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has affirmed his commitment to strengthen the relationship between Turkiye and Malaysia, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

In a post on Facebook, Anwar said Erdogan affirmed his commitment to visit Malaysia soon and foster ties with the country.

Anwar had a virtual meeting with Erdogan on Saturday afternoon.

"Before we began our discussions, President Erdogan offered prayers for the success of the unity coalition in the upcoming elec-

tions in the six states in Malaysia.

"During this session, President Erdogan clearly affirmed his commitment to visit Malaysia in the near future, in response to my invitation, to further strengthen the relationship between our two countries," said Anwar.

Also discussed during the meeting was investment cooperation between the two countries.

"I reiterated Malaysia Airport Holding Bhd's commitment to invest £200 million in Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen International Airport.

"As a result, Batik Air has been chosen as the operator for the KUL-ISG route.

"Batik Air flights are expected to start in October," said Anwar.

In addition, he said, the meeting discussed defence cooperation, following the Turkish Defence Industry Agency's participation in the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition.

Anwar said he was impressed by Turkiye's advancements in defence technology and believed that Malaysia would greatly benefit from the close cooperation between the two countries and had agreed in principle to finalise a memorandum of understanding on defence cooperation in the near future.