

M'sia, Japan deepen ties

Nations sign security assistance, space cooperation agreements

TOKYO: Ties between Malaysia and Japan have been elevated to a "strategic comprehensive partnership," say Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida.

They said this in a joint statement yesterday before they both witnessed the signing and exchange of notes of the official Security Assistance Grant Aid by Japan that will provide monitoring and surveillance equipment to Malaysia.

The two leaders also witnessed the exchange of a memorandum of cooperation on Space Development and Application between the Malaysian Space Agency (MySA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (Jaxa).

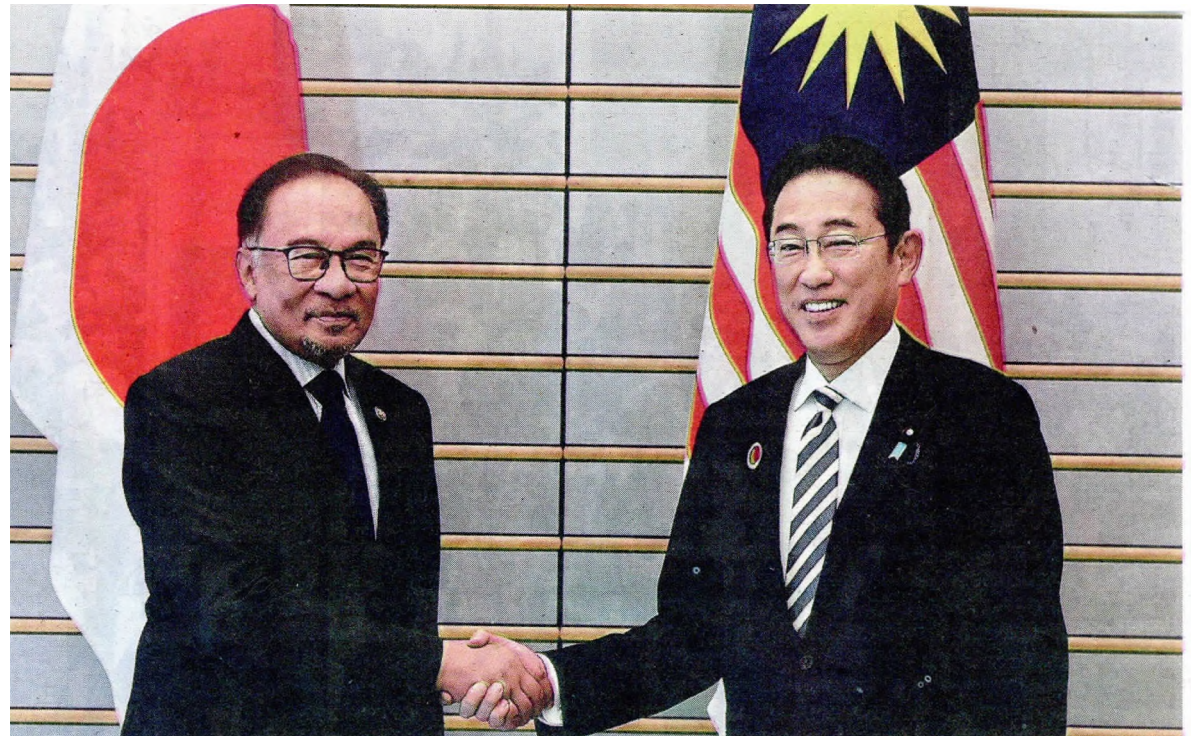
Before the announcement and

the signing ceremony Anwar and Kishida had a brief bilateral meeting.

Anwar said Malaysia is appreciative of Japan's commitment to South-East Asia, including Malaysia, since the 1980s that had contributed to the growth of the region.

"I appreciate Malaysia-Japan relations and am happy with the commitment and the wide cooperation shown by Japan in trade and investment in the region," he said, according to Bernama.

He also said that Japan had



Strong bond: Anwar and Kishida shaking hands during their bilateral meeting at the latter's office in Tokyo, Japan. - Bernama

played an important role in Malaysia's growth since the 1980s through private-sector investments.

Kishida thanked Malaysia for the hospitality shown during his recent visit to Malaysia and its instrumental role in shaping

Asean into what it is today and wanted to see greater engagement of Japan with the grouping.

At the signing of the official Security Assistance Grant Aid, Malaysia was represented by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan and Japan by its

Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa.

For the second memorandum on cooperation in the space domain, Malaysia was represented by MySA director-general Azlikamil Napih and Jaxa by its president Hiroshi Yamakawa.