

PM on three-day official visit to Saudi Arabia

JEDDAH: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim arrived here to begin a three-day official visit to Saudi Arabia, his first outside of Asean since being appointed the 10th prime minister of Malaysia on Nov

24 last year. The special aircraft carrying Anwar landed at the royal pavilion



Anwar and Wan Azizah performing the umrah in Mekah yesterday. - *BERNAMAPIC*

of King Abdulaziz Airport at 6.40am local time yesterday (11.40am in Malaysia).

Anwar is accompanied by his wife Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Zambry Abdul Kadir and Communications and Digital Minister Fahmi Fadzil.

On arrival, he was received by Jeddah governor Prince Saud bin Abdullah bin Jalawi Al Saud at an official welcoming ceremony involving a static parade.

Anwar and his delegation are scheduled to receive a courtesy call from Organisation of Islamic Cooperation secretary-general Hissein Brahim Taha and Muslim World League secretary-general Sheikh Dr Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa.

He is also scheduled to have an audience with the King of Saudi Arabia King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, and Crown Prince Mohammed Salman Abdulaziz Al-Saud, who is also the prime minister, at the Al Salam Palace.

In 2022, Saudi Arabia was Malaysia's largest trading partner, third biggest export destination and biggest import source in West Asia, with two-way trade totalling RM45.52 billion, a 159.2% increase over the previous year's figure.

Of this amount, exports to Saudi Arabia rose by 43.8% to RM7.28 billion while imports from that country increased by 205.8% to RM38.24 billion. - *Bernama*