

PM HOLDS 'FRUITFUL' TALKS WITH THAKSIN

Ex-Thai PM's vast network can help Malaysia, Asean tackle challenges better, says Anwar

KUALA LUMPUR

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim met former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Thursday to discuss issues related to the economy, technology and bilateral ties.

In a Facebook post, Anwar described the meeting with Thaksin, an informal adviser to Malaysia's Asean chairmanship, as engaging and fruitful.

"Our conversation centred on critical regional priorities: revitalising economies, leveraging emerging technologies, fostering peace in southern Thailand and addressing the Myanmar crisis.

"Thaksin's unparalleled network of relationships in the region, coupled with his unique expertise, promises to create valuable opportunities for Malaysia and Asean to tackle these challenges with greater confidence and efficacy."

He said they discussed ways to strengthen the robust bilateral ties



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra held a discussion on Thursday. PIC FROM PM'S FACEBOOK

between Malaysia and Thailand, aligning them with a shared vision for sustainable development and regional cohesion.

"For decades, Thaksin and I have shared the belief that Malaysia and Thailand could accomplish much more together, not only for our nations but for the region.

"We are committed to turning that vision into reality."

It was reported that Anwar would meet Thaksin in Langkawi to discuss his role as an informal adviser in greater detail.

Meanwhile, Bernama reported that Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba will visit Malaysia and Indonesia from Jan 9 to 12 to deepen cooperation towards a rules-based, free and open Indo-Pacific.

According to the Kyodo news agency, Ishiba is expected to hold talks with Anwar and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshi-masa Hayashi told a press conference yesterday.

Hayashi said: "It's essential that Japan strengthens ties with countries in Southeast Asia located near key sea lanes and seen as a growth engine.

"We hope that the meetings will help build personal ties between the leaders and serve as an opportunity to boost bilateral economic and security ties and confirm coordination over global challenges."

Since taking office in October, Ishiba has travelled abroad for multilateral gatherings. This will be his first trip for bilateral talks.