

Strive to achieve rewards, blessings of Ramadan: PM

KUALA LUMPUR: Make the beginning of Ramadan an opportunity to spend more time in *munajat* (supplication), perform more good deeds, attain the level of *taqwa* (piety) and resolutely achieve the rewards and blessings of the holy month, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Anwar, who is in Berlin on a six-day official visit to Germany, said in a post on his Facebook page that Muslims in the German capital had begun fasting.

He said he had advised members of his delegation, who had their

sahur (pre-dawn meal) at 4am and performed their *fajr* (dawn) prayers at 4.35am, to recite the Quran and its interpretations, Bernama reported.

In the post accompanied by a *Selamat Menyambut Ramadan 2024/1445H* poster, Anwar added that while awaiting the morning events he reflected on messages received from his wife Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail and family members, as well as work matters from Cabinet colleagues.

He said there were also several messages from Indonesian friends regarding a heartbreaking story of

the abuse of *santri* (religious students) in a *pesantren* (Islamic boarding school) in East Java.

"Memories (were evoked) of past incidents in the country, stories of student abuse, including (one) during my stint as the education minister, at a secondary school in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur. The most tragic and shocking was the death of a student at Universiti Pertahanan (Nasional Malaysia).

"Education should not neglect discipline, morals and etiquette. Learning, even religious education, should not merely involve

memorising knowledge and verses without enlightenment, awareness and practice.

"Therefore, all educators and parents need to emphasise this approach and not protect vile behaviour."

He urged schools, religious schools, institutes, colleges and universities to emphasise discipline and morals and firmly prevent immorality from taking root in educational institutions.

Anwar arrived in Berlin on Sunday to begin his official visit to Germany.