

PM to meet state leaders, captains of industries in Doha

DOHA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is kicking off his latest mission to woo new investments from West Asia with his first official visit to Qatar's capital city starting yesterday.

His busy schedule includes an official welcoming ceremony by the Qatari government at the Amiri Diwan here.

He will be received by Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, who will later host a luncheon for the prime minister.

This will be followed by a meeting with his counterpart, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, who is also Qatar's foreign affairs minister.

Among the issues likely to be discussed is an update on the current situation in Gaza, especially as Israel continues its aggression on the Palestinians with the latest invasion into the southern city of Rafah.

> Situation in Gaza, Malaysia's expansive investment landscape, current trajectory of nation's economy among issues likely to be discussed

Anwar, who is also finance minister, will engage with around 30 captains of industry in Qatar, offering insights on Malaysia's expansive investment landscape and the current trajectory of the Malaysian economy.

With petroleum and natural gas accounting for over 70% of Qatar's total government revenue, Malaysia is keen on securing a share of the lucrative sector while simultaneously seeking out new avenues for collaboration.

According to a post on X, Anwar will also participate in the Qatar

Economic Forum as well as officiate at the opening of the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia branch campus in Doha.

After a roundtable discussion with industry leaders, Anwar will also deliver a one-hour public lecture at the Qatar National Library for the Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

He will then conclude his second day in Qatar by meeting approximately 500 Malaysians residing in the country.

There are currently around 5,500 Malaysians actively employed in

various sectors across Qatar.

The Malaysian delegation to Qatar includes Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Abdul Aziz and Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir.

Last year, Malaysia's total bilateral trade with Qatar amounted to RM4.2 billion, as the Gulf state became Malaysia's fifth largest trading partner, sixth largest export destination and sixth largest import source from the West Asia region, Bernama reported.

From January to March, Malaysia's total trade with Qatar jumped by 178.4% to RM1.43 billion from RM514.9 million in the corresponding period in 2023.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Malaysia-Qatar bilateral relations, a significant milestone in enduring ties.