

PM begins official visit to Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim began his official visit to Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan yesterday, which will end on May 19.

The visit is at the invitation of President Sadyr Japarov of the Kyrgyz Republic, President Kasym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan and President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan, according to a Foreign Ministry's statement.

Accompanying him on the Central Asian visit are Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hassan, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz,

Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Mohd Naim Mokhtar.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir will join the delegation in Kyrgyzstan.

In the Kyrgyz Republic, the prime minister will be received in a full state welcoming ceremony before meeting with Japarov to discuss bilateral, regional and international issues of concern to both countries.

At the request of the Kyrgyz government, the prime minister will also visit the indigenous community's craft and wares exhibit at Ala Archa

National Park.

Trade between Malaysia and the Kyrgyz Republic totalled RM1623 million last year, a 312.6% increase compared with 2022.

Malaysia exported RM161.1 million worth of goods to the Kyrgyz Republic in 2023 and imported RM1.22 million worth of electrical and electronic products, as well as chemical products.

In Kazakhstan, where President Tokayev will host the prime minister, Anwar is expected to have a Kazakhstan-Malaysia investment roundtable meeting with a number of Kazakhstan industries.

The prime minister will meet with

Tokayev on May 17 to discuss matters of importance to both countries and exchange views on regional and international issues.

Malaysia's total trade with Kazakhstan in 2023 stood at RM474.5 million, with RM465.6 million being exports of Malaysian goods to Kazakhstan and RM8.9 million being the value of imports from Kazakhstan.

In Uzbekistan, Anwar is scheduled to meet Mirziyoyev for a bilateral meeting to discuss relations between Malaysia and Uzbekistan, as well as explore potential areas of cooperation.

The prime minister will then visit the Imam Hazrati Complex where the

original manuscript of the Caliph Usman Quran (Mashaf Uthmani) - the oldest in the world - is kept and displayed.

From Tashkent the prime minister will travel to Samarkand on May 18, where he is expected to address the High-level Uzbekistan-Malaysian Business Forum held at the Silk Road Samarkand Tourism Complex.

The forum, hosted by Uzbekistan, will also be attended by Prime Minister Abdulla Nigmatovich Aripov.

Last year, Malaysia's trade with Uzbekistan totalled RM451.1 million, with exports to Uzbekistan amounting to RM449 million and imports accounting for RM1.99 million. - Bernama