

Anwar on visit to enhance ties with Uzbekistan

TASHKENT: The official visit of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to Uzbekistan from today until Sunday will enhance bilateral relations in various fields between the two countries.

Malaysian Ambassador to Uzbekistan Ilham Tuah Illias said Malaysia and Uzbekistan have enjoyed close relations since they established ties in 1992.

He said the last visit of a Malaysian prime minister to Uzbekistan was

made by Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in 2008.

"Both countries share many things in international forums. The strength of the relationship between the two countries is more towards education and tourism," he told Malaysian journalists on Wednesday.

He added that with Batik Air flights to Uzbekistan, the relationship between the two countries in terms of tourism and business has been further enhanced.

"Many Uzbek tourists want to go to Malaysia because of the attractive tourist spots such as beaches and tropical forests. Business activities are also increasing from year to year," said Ilham Tuah.

Wisma Putra, is a statement, said Anwar's visit is at the invitation of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan.

The prime minister will travel to Samarkand tomorrow, 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 amounting to RM449 million and imports accounting for RM1.99 million.
- Bernama