

Ethiopian PM heads home after official visit

SEPANG: Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed Ali has departed for home after concluding a two-day official visit to Malaysia.

Abiy was given a red carpet ceremonial send-off and a guard-of-honour by the First Battalion of the Royal Ranger Regiment.

The Boeing 777-200LR Ethiopian Airlines flight carrying Abiy, First Lady Zinash Tayachew and the African country's delegation departed from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport at 5.15pm yesterday.

Deputy Energy Transition and Water Transformation Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir was present to bid bon voyage.

In his maiden visit to Malaysia after assuming office, Abiy had earlier attended a meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to discuss bilateral relations and exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest, Bernama reported.

Ethiopia and Malaysia had, among others, agreed to deepen collaboration across several key areas, including agriculture, industry, mining, trade and investment

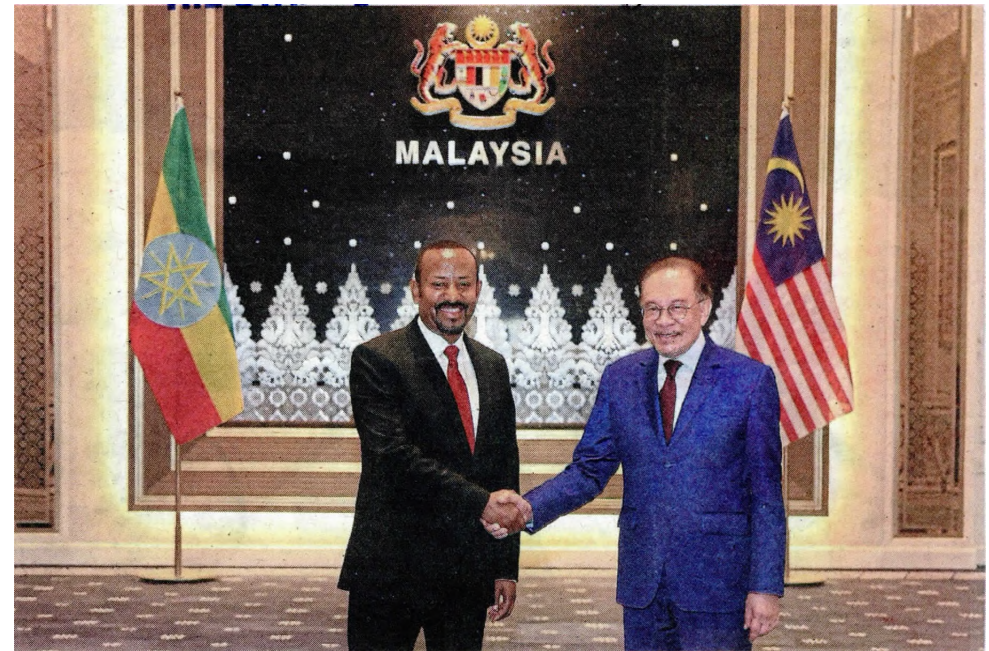
during the meeting held at the Seri Perdana Complex.

Abiy also visited Proton's manufacturing facilities in Tanjung Malim, Perak, on Friday.

Ethiopia was Malaysia's 26th largest trading partner in the African continent last year, with the trade balance in Malaysia's favour.

Trade between Malaysia and Ethiopia was recorded at RM446.8mil, with Malaysia's exports to Ethiopia amounting to RM358.6mil, an increase of 24.6% compared to the previous year.

Malaysia's exports to Ethiopia include electrical and electronic products; palm oil and palm oil-based agricultural products; chemicals and chemical-based products; as well as textiles, clothing, and footwear.



To better ties: Anwar shaking hands with Abiy after their meeting at the Seri Perdana Complex in Putrajaya. — Bernama