

PM MEETS BAHRAINI COUNTERPART

MALAYSIA, BAHRAIN TO COOPERATE IN BANKING, TECH

**Anwar also invites Prince Salman to
Malaysia for top Asean meetings**

MANAMA

MALAYSIA and Bahrain will explore new areas of cooperation, including in the semiconductor and Islamic banking industries.

These were among the topics raised in discussions between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his Bahraini counterpart, Sheikh Salman Hamad Al Khalifa, who is also the nation's crown prince.

Anwar said the new areas of cooperation included investments and trade, finance, as well as connectivity covering the tourism sector.

"(I had an audience with) the crown prince who is also the prime minister of Bahrain, Sheikh Salman Hamad Al Khalifa, at the Gudaibiya Palace, Manama. In our meeting, we assessed the progress in the bilateral relations between Malaysia and Bahrain.

"We also took the opportunity to explore new forms of cooperation," he said in a statement on the meeting, which lasted about an hour.

Anwar said the two leaders touched on regional issues, particularly the situation in the Middle East, especially Palestine.

He said the Palestinian issue



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required comprehensive cooperation and determination.

"I also took the opportunity to invite Prince Salman to Malaysia to attend the Asean-Gulf Cooperation Council Summit and the Asean-GCC+China Summit.

"Hopefully, the relationship between Malaysia and Bahrain will continue to be strengthened, thus, attracting more investments for the advancement and economic potential of the country," he said.

Anwar is on his first official visit to Bahrain as prime minister, at the invitation of Prince Salman.

Among the items on his schedule is an audience with King Hamad Isa Al Khalifa today.

Anwar arrived in Bahrain yesterday at 12.45am.

He is accompanied by Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Dr Zulkifli Hasan and senior government officers.

A Bahraini guard-of-honour waiting to greet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim when he disembarks from his plane at Bahrain International Airport yesterday.
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