



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with the King of Bahrain, Sheikh Hamad Isa Al Khalifa, at Sakhir Palace in Manama yesterday PIC FROM PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

## Strong bond between kings has helped boost bilateral ties, says Anwar

**MANAMA:** The close relationship between His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia and the King of Bahrain, Sheikh Hamad Isa Al Khalifa, has been instrumental in strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said this solid relationship had also brought greater prosperity to the citizens of Malaysia and Bahrain.

"I had the privilege of meeting with the king of Bahrain at the Sakhir Palace, where I expressed my appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to the Malaysian delegation by the government of Bahrain during this official visit.

"I am confident that the strong bond between His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim and King Hamad has significantly contributed to strengthening the cooperation between our two nations, thereby bringing greater prosperity to our people," he said in a statement.

Anwar's audience with the king of Bahrain at Sakhir Palace here concluded his official visit to the Gulf nation.

Anwar spent about an hour with the king, discussing various matters to further enhance the relationship between Malaysia and Bahrain.

He said the meeting served as an opportunity to solidify the close ties between the two nations in areas of mutual interest, particularly in investment and trade.

"The vision and wisdom of His Majesty King Hamad in leading Bahrain's growth are an inspiration for me to continue working hard to drive Malaysia towards greater progress in all aspects.

"May Allah SWT bless King Hamad and the people of Bahrain, and may the relationship between our two countries continue to grow, *InshaAllah*," he added.

Earlier, Anwar met with Sheikh Al-Azhar Al-Sharif Professor Dr

Ahmad Muhammad Ahmad At-Tayyeb, who is also Muslim Scholars' Council chairman.

During the meeting, both leaders reassessed the cooperation agreed upon during their previous meeting in Cairo in November.

Anwar said they also discussed the formal establishment of the Muslim Scholars' Council in Malaysia, as well as matters concerning Islam and the situation in Palestine.

"The discussions focused on a memorandum of understanding for the establishment of the Arabic Language Institute at Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) in collaboration with Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, as well as the offer of scholarships for Malaysian students to pursue studies at the institution.

"I also introduced Datuk Mohd Nakhaie Ahmad to Sheikh Al-Azhar Al-Sharif as Malaysia's new representative in the Muslim Scholars' Council."