



Anwar receiving a warm welcome on arrival at the Bahrain International Airport yesterday. - **BERNAMAPIC**

Anwar arrives in Bahrain for official visit

MANAMA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim arrived here early yesterday morning for an official visit to Bahrain at the invitation of Bahrain's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman Hamad Al Khalifa.

The aircraft carrying Anwar landed at Bahrain International Airport at 12.45am.

Anwar, accompanied by Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Dr Zulkifli Hasan and senior government officers, was then greeted with a static guard of honour.

They were received by Bahraini Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Abdullatif Rashid Al Zayani, Deputy Governor of Muharraq Brig-Gen Jassim Mohammed Al Ghattam, Malaysian Ambassador to Bahrain Shazryll Zahiran and

Bahraini Ambassador to Malaysia Dr Waleed Khalifa Al Manea.

Anwar, who is on his first visit to the country as prime minister, was then escorted from the airport to his accommodation.

Throughout the 20-minute journey, the *Jalur Gemilang* could be seen along the streets, highways and on skyscrapers.

He is set to hold a courtesy meeting with Crown Prince Salman and have an audience with Bahrain's King Raja Hamad Isa Al Khalifa, a high honour for Malaysia that reflects the strong bilateral ties between the two nations.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, will meet his Bahraini counterpart Shaikh Salman Khalifa Al Khalifa and pay a visit to the Bahrain Economic Development Board to explore

economic cooperation opportunities.

He is also expected to meet with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, Prof Dr Ahmed El-Tayeb as well as engage with the Malaysian diaspora at an event.

Anwar is also scheduled to deliver a speech at the Intra-Islamic Dialogue Conference to be attended by 298 scholars from 75 countries.

Bahrain, the first Gulf nation to discover oil in 1932, was Malaysia's ninth-largest trading partner in West Asia last year, while Malaysia ranked as Bahrain's third-largest trading partner among Asean countries.

Bahrain is home to the world's fourth-largest aluminium processing plant, a key export to Malaysia. - Bernama