

PAVING WAY FOR STRONGER TIES

# PM GETS GRAND WELCOME AT KREMLIN

Anwar leads delegation that includes five ministers in meeting with Putin

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was accorded a formal welcome as he arrived at the Kremlin for a meeting with President Vladimir Putin.

The meeting is the highlight of his official four-day visit to Russia and has been described by Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil as "historic".

Anwar was received at the Kremlin's main protocol entrance by senior Russian officials,

including State Protocol Department director Igor Viktorovich Bogdashev and Moscow Commandant Lieutenant-General Sergey Udovenko.

Upon arrival, Anwar was accorded a formal welcoming ceremony at Alexander Garden, where he received military honours from the Kremlin's ceremonial guard.

He was then escorted through the ceremonial hallway into the Green Drawing Room, where Putin formally greeted him before both leaders proceeded to the St Catherine Hall for a restricted meeting.



Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim attending a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier near the Kremlin wall in Moscow, ahead of his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday. REUTERS PIC

Accompanying the prime minister were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Plantation and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir, Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu and Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Chang Lih Kang.

Putin was joined by senior Russian officials, including Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Deputy

Chief of Staff Maxim Oreshkin and First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov, among others.

Following the restricted session, both delegations proceeded to an expanded meeting, followed by a joint press conference.

This was Anwar's second in-person meeting with Putin in less than a year, after their first encounter in Vladivostok in September last year.

The Kremlin talks are viewed as

vital in advancing Malaysia-Russia relations amid shifting geopolitical alignments.

Earlier in Putrajaya yesterday, Fahmi said Anwar was the first Malaysian prime minister in 17 years to receive a formal guard of honour in Russia.

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim being welcomed by Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin in Moscow yesterday.