

Anwar congratulates Japan's first woman prime minister

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has congratulated Sanae Takaichi on her appointment as prime minister of Japan.

He described the appointment as a defining moment in Japan's political landscape, reflecting both her determination and the steady progress of democratic

maturity in the country.

"Her elevation to office as Japan's first woman prime minister is a landmark in the country's political life, a reflection of her resolve and the quiet evolution of Japan's democracy," he posted on Facebook.

Anwar said Malaysia values its Comprehensive Strategic Partner-

ship with Japan, built on trust, innovation and a shared commitment to regional stability and sustainable growth.

"I look forward to welcoming Prime Minister Takaichi to Kuala Lumpur next week for the Asean-Japan Summit, where our countries will continue to deepen this partnership," he said.

Takaichi, 64, made history as Japan's first woman prime minister after she secured 237 votes in the 465-seat Lower House, thereby winning the parliamentary vote without the need for a runoff.

As Liberal Democratic Party president, she was elected following an agreement with the Japan

Innovation Party to form a coalition government.

At an earlier event yesterday, Anwar told reporters that Russian President Vladimir Putin may attend the Asean Summit and related meetings, although Moscow has so far only confirmed the participation of its deputy prime minister.