

JOHOR

PM delights scouts with autograph

Indonesians among 4,000 at general assembly

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IT WAS a special moment for Khalila Afipa Salsa Bila when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim signed her scout scarf.

The 10-year-old from Batam, Indonesia, said she and her friend Salwa Ghassani Putri, 11, were just trying their luck when they waved their scarves at the Malaysian premier as he greeted the crowd after launching the Johor Scouts 27th General Assembly.

"It's not every day that we get to meet the top leader of a country, so it would have been a shame not to at least try (to get the signature).

"We were not expecting much but then he actually stopped to sign our scarves, taking us all by surprise.

"It was a brief but very special moment for us. I will always remember this," Khalila Afipa said when met during the event held at Pantai Tanjung Leman in Mersing.

Khalila Afipa, who was among more than 4,000 participants at the general assembly, said she was excited to share the experience with her family and friends back home.

Mohammad Waliuddin, 16, from Brunei, said he felt lucky to have the rare opportunity to meet Anwar in person.

"It was an exciting way to start



Khalila Afipa (left) and Salwa, who are both from Batam in Indonesia, showing the scarves signed by Anwar.

my time at the camp, and I look forward to creating more special memories in the days to come."

Mohammad, who has Malaysian family members in Sabah, said he hoped to make more Mends at the five-day international event.

"I already made some friends from Malaysia and Indonesia on the first day; I'm sure I'll meet many more over the next few days.

"In addition, I hope to exchange my scout badges with them to add to my collection," he said.

In his speech, Anwar, who was also a scout during his school days, reminded participants to stay true to the scout ethos, by being disciplined, skilled and knowledgeable.

"As Malaysia works on boosting the economy, digitalisation, renewable energy and artificial intelligence (AI), we must also instil human values.

"These values cannot be shaped with machines and AI, but with morals, discipline and compassion," he said.