

HIGH-LEVEL COOPERATION

PM, ERDOGAN TO CO-CHAIR TOP MEETING

Anwar in Turkiye for 3-day official visit, to be conferred nation's highest award

ANKARA

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will co-chair the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) meeting here with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during his official visit to the country that began yesterday and ends tomorrow.

Malaysian ambassador to Turkiye Sazali Mustafa Kamal said this first-ever meeting would be the highlight of the visit and a platform for strategic cooperation in areas of mutual interest.



**FARAH
NABILAH
WAZER**

A joint statement is expected at the end of the session.

Anwar is also scheduled to meet Malaysian students, professionals, military officers and community in Turkiye.



A ceremonial guard at the tomb of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the Turkish Republic, in Ankara. (Inset) Malaysian ambassador to Turkiye Sazali Mustafa Kamal says the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council is a platform for Malaysia and Turkiye's strategic cooperation in areas of mutual interest. BERNAMA PIC

He will receive an official welcome from Erdogan at the Presidential Complex today, followed by a private meeting to discuss strategic issues and the direction of bilateral relations.

The prime minister will next deliver a public lecture titled "Power Shift: Strategic Choices for Malaysia and Turkiye" and chair a roundtable with executives of about 40 Turkish companies to explore economic and trade opportunities.

Anwar is accompanied by his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir and Investment, Trade and Industry

Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani.

Bilateral trade between Malaysia and Turkiye reached US\$5 billion in 2024, with a target of US\$10 billion in the future.

Sazali said Anwar was set to be conferred Turkiye's highest award for foreign leaders, the Order of the Republic.

He said the award recognises Anwar's role in strengthening bilateral ties between Malaysia and Turkiye, which have now reached a strategic level.

"President Erdogan will present the Order of the Republic to the prime minister during this official visit.

"This award is a high honour granted to a leader who has

brought the two nations closer together and strengthened the bilateral relationship between Malaysia and Turkiye," he said.

Sazali added that the award reflects Turkiye's recognition of Anwar's leadership and contributions to deepening diplomatic, political and economic ties between the two countries.

The award also symbolises the close nature of the bilateral relationship, which has been reinforced by the leadership of both countries in expanding cooperation at regional and international levels.

Erdogan and his wife, Emine Erdogan, will also host Anwar and Dr Wan Azizah at a state banquet.