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Agong-UAE

AGONG RECEIVES UAE FOREIGN MINISTER

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar granted an audience to United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamdan Zayed Al Nehayan at the Istana Negara here today.

Present was the Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Najihah.

Sheikh Hamdan, who is the son of UAE president and ruler of Abu Dhabi, was accompanied by his wife Sheikh Shamsa Hamdan Mohamed Al Nehayan.

Sheikh Hamdan and members of his family had spent a week in Pulau Pinang.

The UAE is Malaysia's biggest trading partner in West Asia with total trade amounting to about US\$800 million (US\$1=RM2.89) which is in Malaysia's favour.

Malaysia exports mainly television sets, sound recorders, electrical and electronic items, textile and garments, gold and jewellery, palm oil and sawn timber to UAE.

The UAE's exports to Malaysia are aluminium, liquefied propane and butane, glass and polymers of ethylene.

UAE has a population of 2.4 million of which about a quarter are citizens. The country produces gas and oil with an output capacity of 2.16 barrels per day.

A spokesman of the UAE embassy, here, said Tuanku Ja'afar and Tuanku Najihah were expected to make a state visit to the federation on Nov 19-22.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was expected to make an official visit next March 17-19 and make a keynote address at the 1998 Emirates International Forum.

During his visit, several agreements are expected to be signed and Malaysia may also raise the issue of abolition of visa to the UAE to facilitate greater trade and investment flow and people-to-people contacts.

-- BERNAMA

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