

Johor Sultan visits RTS terminus, Sembawang Air Base

Sultan, who is on 3-day visit, also meets Tharman and other ministers

Transport Minister S. Iswaran hosted Johor's ruler, Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, at the Woodlands North terminus site – the Singapore station for the Johor Bahru-Singapore Rapid Transit System (RTS) Link – yesterday morning.

Sultan Ibrahim was then hosted to lunch by Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies Tharman Shanmugaratnam.

In the afternoon, the Sultan visited Sembawang Air Base, where he was hosted by Minister for Defence Ng Eng Hen.

At the Woodlands North site, Sultan Ibrahim witnessed rock removal using a controlled blasting method.

He was also briefed on bore piling marine works which will set

the foundation for the ongoing construction of the RTS Link viaduct.

During the visit, Mr Iswaran presented the Sultan with a memento depicting the architectural features of the viaduct.

"(It) symbolises the friendship between both sides, and which His Majesty had a hand in designing," said Mr Iswaran.

"When opened for service in end-2026, the RTS Link will improve connectivity between Singapore and Johor, and further strengthen our ties."

Sultan Ibrahim, who is on a three-day official visit to Singapore, was accompanied by the Menteri Besar of Johor, Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi, and other state officials.

The RTS Link is a 4km rail shuttle service between the Singapore terminus at Woodlands North station and the Malaysia terminus at Bukit Chagar station in Johor Bahru.

The Land Transport Authority said previously that construction on the Singapore side would involve high-capacity drilling machines, extended piling works and rock demolition during excavation works, given the site's granite condition.

When the link is up and running, up to 10,000 passengers an hour will be able to travel in each direction, with a journey time of about five minutes.

The link is expected to ease congestion on the Causeway. Pre-pandemic, about 300,000 travellers crossed the Causeway every day.

The current KTM train service between JB Sentral and Woodlands stations can carry about 9,900 passengers a day, though average use is 7,000 passengers a day.

With the upcoming link, passengers need to clear immigration only once – at their point of departure.

The two stations will be connected by a viaduct over the Strait of Johor at a height of 25m, and by underground tunnels leading to the Woodlands North station on the Singapore side.

The station is already being built, and will have three storeys above ground and two basement levels, as well as an underground B3 linkway.

This will connect commuters to Woodlands North MRT station on the Thomson-East Coast Line.

At the lunch hosted by Senior Minister Tharman, Sultan Ibrahim was joined by Minister for Sustainability and the Environment Grace Fu and Minister for National Development Desmond Lee.

Mr Lee said he was honoured to be minister-in-attendance during the Sultan's visit.

He added in a Facebook post that he would meet Mr Onn Hafiz yesterday evening to discuss Johor-Singapore collaboration.

At his visit to Sembawang Air Base, Sultan Ibrahim was briefed about the workings of the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF).

He also viewed a static display of the CH-47F Heavy Lift Helicopter, and took a familiarisation ride on board the helicopter.

Sultan Ibrahim was joined at the air base by Johor Crown Prince Tunku Ismail Sultan Ibrahim, Mr Onn Hafiz, Johor state secretary Azmi Rohani and other senior Johor officials.

They were accompanied by Mr Lee and the RSAF's Chief of Staff (Air Staff), Brigadier-General Lau Boon Ping.

The Ministry of Defence said: "His Majesty's visit to the Singapore Armed Forces underscores the warm and longstanding bilateral relations between Singapore and Malaysia."

On Wednesday, Sultan Ibrahim was conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws by the National University of Singapore at the Istana in recognition of his contributions to strengthen ties between Singapore and Malaysia.

The special ceremony was presided over by President Halimah Yacob, who also met and hosted tea for Sultan Ibrahim and his wife Raja Zarith Sofiah.

The Sultan's visit ends today.



Johor's Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar (at left) and Johor Crown Prince Tunku Ismail Sultan Ibrahim getting a tour of the Republic of Singapore Air Force's CH-47F Heavy Lift Helicopter at Sembawang Air Base yesterday. They also took a familiarisation ride on board the helicopter. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



Transport Minister S. Iswaran presenting Sultan Ibrahim yesterday with a memento depicting the architectural features of the Johor Bahru-Singapore Rapid Transit System Link viaduct, which will connect both cities over the Strait of Johor when completed. PHOTO: S. ISWARAN/FACEBOOK



Sultan Ibrahim being conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws on Wednesday by the National University of Singapore at the Istana. The special ceremony was presided over by President Halimah Yacob. PHOTO: NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE