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Busy schedule for Queen E up to moment of departure

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Queen Elizabeth II continued with a tight schedule on her last day here with visits which took her right through to 11.30pm when she departed for London.

Her first stop was the British-Malaysian Institute, a technical training centre established by Mara. Britain provides funding to train the institute's lecturers in Britain.

The Queen was greeted by the rousing beat of the kompang and a silat performance. Girls holding bunga manggar lined the red carpet.

She spent about half an hour viewing the students' projects, meeting the lecturers and touring the facilities. She also unveiled a plaque to commemorate her visit and signed a guest book.

Deputy Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Idris Jusoh, who accompanied the Queen on her visit, said she was impressed with the facilities and the students' ability.

The institute will move to a new campus in Gombak in 2000 which can accommodate 1,000 students.

The Queen also appeared intrigued by the silat exponents, stopping briefly to watch them and to have a word with one of them.

In the afternoon, she visited the National Art Gallery where she attended a reception with Commonwealth High Commissioners to Malaysia.

She then visited the Malaysian Association for the Blind in Brickfields where she was received by MAB executive director Chin Yee Tee. She spent about an hour touring the facilities and witnessed a demonstration football game by the blind.

The Queen, accompanied by her husband Prince Philip, also visited a kindergarten for blind children and a mobile eye clinic run by the Tun Hussein Onn Eye Hospital.

Back at Carcosa Seri Negara where she is staying during her four-day State visit, she had tea with veterans of World War II and the Malayan Emergency.

In the evening, she hosted a return dinner at the British High Commission, attended by the Yang diPertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar, Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

The Queen and Prince Philip departed on a special aircraft for London at 11.30pm, from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

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