

04 MAR 1999

ROYAL BATH SETS OFF SULTAN MIZAN'S INSTALLATION CEREMONY

KUALA TERENGGANU, March 4 (Bernama) -- A royal cleansing ritual requiring Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin and Permaisuri Nur Zahirah to jointly take a bath on a special dais marked the start an elaborate ceremony for his installation of the 16th Sultan of Terengganu today.

The ritual was performed by six female members of royalty on a special dais erected within the Istana Maziah grounds here.

The royal couple mounted the dais at 8 am accompanied by 48 palace staffers bearing lances and other ceremonial regalia to the accompaniment of Nobat music.

The completion of the 20-minute ceremony was marked by 21-gun salute.

Members of royalty, Terengganu Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad and wife Toh Puan Sri Aishahtun Suhaimi, state executive councillors and other dignitaries witnessed the ceremony.

The common people also did not miss the historic occasion which could be viewed from outside the palace perimeter fencing.

The installation proper is fixed for 2 pm today, also at Istana Maziah, and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to represent the Yang di-Pertuan Agong there.

-- BERNAMA

SBS RYN