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Honouring our heroes

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Warriors' Day was commemorated throughout the country today on a moderate scale in remembrance of those who have sacrificed their lives for the nation's peace.

In Kuala Lumpur, Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah laid a wreath at the National Monument.

The King, in the uniform of Supreme Commander, was accompanied by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Defence Forces Chief Gen Tan Sri Mohamed Zahidi Zainuddin and Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai.

This was followed by a recital of Maj (R) Mohamed Awang's poem Pahlawan (Warrior) read by Juriah Jusoh to the accompaniment of the patriotic song PahlawanKu.

Chiefs of the tri-services Gen Datuk Seri Md Hashim Hussein (Army), Admiral Datuk Seri Abu Bakar Abdul Jamal (Royal Malaysian Navy) and Gen Datuk Seri Ahmad Saruji Che Rose (Royal Malaysian Air Force) also laid the wreaths.

Malaysian Ex-Servicemen's Association president Datuk Mohamad Abdul Ghani and Ex-Policemen' Association president Mansor Md Jaafar also performed the customary ritual.

In Kota Kinabalu, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Osu Sukam called on the people, especially the younger generations, to remember the contributions and sacrifices of soldiers to the country.

"We must always ensure that our country is free from the infiltration of outsiders or foreign elements," he said after laying a wreath at the War Memorial Monument here to mark Warriors' Day.

Besides Osu, others who laid a wreath at the monument were State police chief Datuk Mamat Talib, Deputy Commander of the Fifth Malaysian Infantry Brigade Kolonel Salleh Ismail, Kota Kinabalu Mayor Datuk Abdul Ghani Rashid and representatives from the Ex-Servicemen's Association and Ex-Policemen's Association.

In Shah Alam, the Regent of Selangor Tengku Idris Shah led a wreath-laying ceremony at the memorial monument.

He was accompanied by Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar, Selangor Chief Police Officer Datuk Nik Ismail Nik Yusof and high ranking officers from the police and armed forces.

Prior to the ceremony at 7.45am, the Regent inspected the guard of honour and the ceremony also saw the sounding of the Last Post and reading of a poem PahlawanKu - dedicated to the sacrifices of the warriors.

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