

30 JAN 2001

BAHRAIN PRIME MINISTER MADE A TUN

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 30 (Bernama) -- Bahrain Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa was today conferred the honorary award of Seri Maharaja Mangku Negara (Grand Commander of the Order of the Defender of the Realm).

Carrying the title "Tun", it the nation's top award and is normally restricted to 25 people excluding foreign dignitaries who are honorary recipients.

Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah personally presented the award to Shaikh Khalifa when the Bahrain leader called on him at Istana Selangor here.

Also present at the ceremony were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Rural Development Minister Datuk Azmi Khalid and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Dr Mohd Khir Toyo.

Shaikh Khalifa, accompanied by a 55-member delegation, is on a three-day visit to Malaysia at the invitation of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who visited Bahrain in 1997.

--BERNAMA

FSM RV SK