

02 JUN 2001

Agong-Colours

KING ATTENDS TROOPING OF THE COLOURS CEREMONY

KUALA LUMPUR, June 2 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah today attended the trooping of the colours ceremony on the occasion of His Majesty's 75th birthday at the Merdeka Square here.

The Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajjah Siti Aishah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali were also present.

Among the other dignitaries were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob.

His Majesty accompanied by the Chief of Defence Forces Gen Tan Sri Mohd Zahidi Zainuddin took the salute and inspected the birthday parade mounted by 16 officers and 388 men of the army, navy and air force. The Combined Armed Forces Band was in attendance.

The Chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force and heads of diplomatic missions here were also present.

The ceremony began with a march past and a gun salute. Five air force helicopters then took to the skies and flew past the Merdeka Square bearing the Jalur Gemilang.

More than 3,000 people including foreign tourists also witnessed the ceremony.

-- BERNAMA

YBK AZZ AAM