

03/06/2001

Thousands watch trooping of colours

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - More than 3,000 people gathered at Dataran Merdeka to witness the trooping of the royal colours today.

The colourful event was held to mark the 75th birthday of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah.

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

Steeped in military tradition, the ceremony commenced with a gun salute and a flypast by five helicopters carrying the Jalur Gemilang and the Army, Navy and Air Force flags over the spectators.

The King, who is the military supreme commander, then took the salute and inspected the birthday parade by 19 officers and 412 men of the combined armed forces.

He was accompanied by Armed Forces Chief Jen Tan Sri Mohd Zahidi Zainuddin.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and wife Datin Seri Endon Mahmood, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Mohd Zahidi's wife Puan Seri Rasiah Mohd Noor, Chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force and heads of diplomatic missions.

The event also attracted foreign tourists and the locals.

(END)