

07 JUN 2003

Agong-Colours

TROOPING OF THE COLOURS KICKS OFF KING'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

KUALA LUMPUR, June 7 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail attended the trooping of the colours in conjunction with his 60th birthday at Merdeka Square here today.

The Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid, was present.

The ceremony started with a rendering of the song, "Hormat Diraja", by the Malaysian Armed Forces band, followed by a 21-gun salute.

A total of 496 men and 22 officers of the army, navy and air force led by Lt Kol Nor Mubarak Mohamed Som took part in the trooping of the colours.

The ceremony ended with a parade and fly-past by two Alouette, two Nuri and one Equirrel helicopter carrying flags of the country, army, navy and armed forces.

Present were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his wife, Datin Sri Endon Mahmood, cabinet ministers and foreign dignitaries.

The ceremony was witnessed by the city folk and foreign tourists who had gathered at the square since early morning.

-- BERNAMA

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