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Arm yourself with knowledge to face future challenges, says King

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KUALA LUMPUR: All parties, including the armed forces, must be aware of the conflicts around the world so that they can update and adapt their respective strategies and *modus operandi*, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin said.

The King said failure to do so could affect the country and even expose it to external threats.

Tuanku Mizan said the threats facing the country today were not confined to military invasions but could also take the form of communication, social and even cultural intimidation.

Many countries had fallen and become too dependent on other powers to be able to revive themselves, he said.

"This is unfortunate because the country would have lost its dignity and honour, and be eternally shamed. This can happen to our country too if we

are careless in defending our strength," he said at the passing-out parade and commissioning of 219 graduates of the National Defence University of Malaysia here yesterday.

The parade is the first for the university, formerly called the Armed Forces Academy. Also present was Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Tuanku Mizan urged all armed forces leaders to acquire knowledge in a wide range of fields, and not just confine themselves to military knowledge.

"The role of the Malaysian armed forces is changing day by day, in line with the responsibilities and duties of its commissioned officers," he said.

The King said the country's 50th Merdeka anniversary had shown the world the importance of racial unity, knowledge and political stability in steering Malaysia to continued prosperity and freedom.