

**Prayers to mark sultan's birthday**  
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**GETTING READY: Water sports, golf tournament, receptions also being organised**

ALOR STAR: A YASIN recitation and a thanksgiving ceremony will kick off Sultan of Kedah Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah's 85th birthday celebrations on Sunday.

The event, to be held at the state mosque, Masjid Zahir, would be held on the eve of the birthday celebrations for Tuanku Abdul Halim, who is also the current Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Some 2,000 people will congregate at the mosque to recite the yasin and attend the thanksgiving ceremony, to be graced by Tunku Bendahara of Kedah Tan Sri Tunku Annuar Sultan Badlishah, who is also chairman of the Kedah Council of Regency.

Also attending the event are the remaining members of the four-member council -- Tunku Temenggong of Kedah Tan Sri Tunku Sallehuddin, Tunku Laksamana of Kedah Datuk Seri Tunku Abdul Hamid Thani and the youngest of Tuanku Abdul Halim's three daughters, Tan Sri Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz.

State dignitaries at the event would be led by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azizan Abdul Razak.

State principal assistant secretary (corporate management) Mohamad Rizal Mohamad Radzi said the two events were among 20 programmes to be held throughout the state over the next three months.

"Tuanku Abdul Halim is well-known among his subjects for his deep concern for the people's welfare and wellbeing."

He said the programmes were to show love and gratitude towards Tuanku Abdul Halim, who was elected king for a second time.

An investiture ceremony would be held at Istana Anak Bukit. It would be preceded by an inspection of the guard-of-honour mounted by 282 members of the army's Sixth Brigade. Both events would be graced by Tunku Annuar.

Other activities include the opening of a new mosque, a visit to Jitra Hospital, receptions and a golf tournament.

A water sport carnival, expected to be attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, would be held at Tanjung Chali on April 6.

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