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Mahathir-fly-in

MAHATHIR OPENS LANGKAWI FLY-IN

LANGKAWI, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today opened the five-day 1997 Langkawi Oshkosh East Fly-In convention and exhibition here.

The event is aimed at cultivating interest among young Malaysians to take up flying and introducing the light and microlight aircraft industry locally.

At the venue, the Mahsuri international exposition centre, a model plane remotely controlled by Muhammad Yusof Hassan, escorted by three other model aircraft, made a fly-past the moment Dr Mahathir finished his opening speech.

Muhammad Yusof set a national record yesterday in flying the model plane non-stop for 37km by remote control from a speed boat from Pulau Pinang to Pulau Bidan off Kedah in one hour and eight minutes.

This was immediately followed by a combined sky-diving display by the military, police and a Kuala Lumpur flying club.

Dr Mahathir then flagged off 30 cadets of the Langkawi aerial recreational club taking part in the "young eagles joy ride" programme organised in conjunction with the event.

Earlier, the prime minister arrived at the venue to the beats of the kompang and fly-pasts by light aircraft taking part in the "Great Malaysian Rally".

Dr Mahathir then boarded a Kedah Flying Club Cessna piloted by Capt Tarmizi Ramli for a aerial view of Padang Mat Sirat.

Later, Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid, Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Le Proton Lima Sdn Bhd executive chairman Datuk Radzi Manan, accompanied the prime minister for a tour of the exhibition.

Le Proton Lima is organiser of the event which features, among other things, a forum on the aviation industry and contest for remote-control aero-modellers.

Aircraft on show include Cessna, Merlin GT, Zodiac, Piper Seneca 1 and the Malaysian-made Eagle X-TS.

About 2,700 students from 100 schools in Kedah would familiarise themselves with the aviation industry during the Fly-In. -- Bernama

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