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Shift to hectic pace at Tanjung Malai

AFTER a rather quiet day on Tuesday at Tanjung Malai, the site for the Maritime Division of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition (Lima '97), activities took on a hectic pace yesterday.

Much of these were in conjunction with the gracing of the maritime exhibition by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Also present were Defence Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and several ministers who attended a weekly Cabinet meeting in Langkawi earlier.

Also present were deputy Royal Malaysian Navy chief Laksamana Muda Datuk Abu Bakar Jamal and Laksamana Madya (Rtd) Tan Sri Wahab Nawawi, chief executive of Huswah Exhibition Sdn Bhd, organiser of the Maritime Division.

At the press of a button by Dr Mahathir, there was thunderous explosion coming from plastic explosives somewhere and shortly after smoke bombs were released.

Then there was a fly-past involving 10 helicopters over Tanjung Malai led by RMN Air Wing's three WASP helicopters, before an appreciative crowd even though the fanfare was nowhere near the opening ceremony of Lima '97 the previous day.

Also taking part in the fly-past were an Alouette of the Pakistani Navy, another of the Indian Coast Guard, three AB-212 helicopters of the Italian Navy, and two Sea Kings belonging to the Indian Navy and Pakistani Navy.

This was followed by a demonstration on the water by the RMN's PV90 vessel.

Later, Dr Mahathir officially opened the Star Cruises' jetty, the company's second in the country after the one in Port Klang.

The Prime Minister later visited exhibitors' booths at the maritime exhibition centre.

After a reception at the Promenade he embarked on the A. Khaliq vessel and proceeded to officiate at the start of the Malaysia Challenge 1997.

Dr Mahathir then went on a fleet review of the various ships at the anchorage.

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