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Subang airport sends off last international flight

THE Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport at Subang sent off its last international flight at 12.30 this morning, about seven hours before the first commercial flight from the KLIA in Sepang took to the skies.

Malaysia Airlines flight MH20 departed for Paris to mark the end of Subang Airport's 33 years as Malaysia's main airport and a new beginning for KLIA.

At 10.05pm, the last Malaysia Airlines international flight with 300 passengers arrived at Subang.

Captain Norhisham Kassim, who piloted flight MH124 from Perth, said he was proud and honoured to have flown the historic flight.

A passenger, Deborah Francis, 36, said "it's high time Malaysia had an ultra-modern airport to keep up with the rate of development".

The curtain began to come down on Subang at about 11pm when the hallways at the three terminals became deserted.

Most duty-free shops and eateries had shut down for the last time.

After the last flight departed, convoys of lorries began moving heavy equipment to KLIA in time for the first flight departing from there at 7.32am.

Flight MH1432, KLIA's first flight to Langkawi at 7.32am, which was boarded by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, heralded the start of its commercial operations.

KLIA was officially opened in a dazzling ceremony by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar on Saturday night, seven years after the site was first selected by the Government, and four years after construction first began.

The new airport is capable of serving 25 million passengers a year.

* MORE REPORTS ON PAGES 4,5,6, & 7

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