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30 SEN FOR DELIVERY TO YOUR DOORSTEP -
ASK YOUR NEWSVENDOR

ISSUE **137**



Taman Kaya Syndrome **Page 3**



Be Street-Smart to Stay Safe **Page 4**



Sport **Page 10**

Report Card for MBI Councillors



Page 11

The Orang Asli Christian Community of Gopeng

By James Gough



Ulu Groh Christmas day service



'Santa's little helper'



They wore crown headdresses ('pelilit kepala') and costumes made of palm fronds. Mellifluous melodies of Christmas Carols were coming from their mouths and yet, "is that Bahasa Malaysia I am hearing?" Such was my initial confusion when I first saw the Orang Asli christian community from Gopeng perform during the state government's annual Christmas celebration a few years ago. And thus began my fascination with this indigenous group.

Continued on page 2

“Developing Leaders for local Ministries is the challenge for the Future” – Rev. Eduan

Christmas 2010 saw me at a Christmas service at Gopeng’s Shalom Church. It was a Sunday Service on December 26 and the afternoon service was a lively affair with the congregation of Orang Asli singing carols and reciting testimonies.

For Christmas 2011, determined to meet the Orang Asli parishioners from Gopeng, I contacted the Pastor of Shalom Church, Rev. Jack Mongudai, a Sabahan, and had the pleasure of caroling with Shalom Church parishioners over two nights at Kg Pos Raya, Gopeng and Kg Ulu Jelintoh.

Ethereal Scene for Christmas Carols

The Orang Asli community at Gopeng live at 4 main villages of Kg Ulu Groh, Kg Ulu Kampar, Kg Ulu Geruntum and Kg Ulu Jelintuh. The total population at these 4 villages is over 5,000 of which 1,000 are Christians.

An evocative scene of flickering candles at Kg Pos Raya, where a parishioner had recently shifted into a low-cost house, was ethereal as the carollers sang and read by candlelight since electricity had yet to be connected. Kg Ulu Jelintoh was a kampong setting and the magic of Christmas was emanating from the Christmas carols at their homes, culminating with the entire group of carollers congregating at the Ulu Jelintoh Chapel with the rest of its Christian community for prayer followed by a fellowship pot luck meal prepared by the families there.



Christmas Service at Kg Ulu Groh

I had felt that my assignment would not be complete if I didn’t witness a Christmas service right in the heart of Gopeng’s Christian Orang Asli territory, Kg Ulu Groh where 95% of its community is Christian.

Hence, on Christmas morning I drove up to the chapel at Ulu Groh a good 15km from Gopeng town. There were over 120 parishioners in the congregation that morning, all smartly dressed, children included.



Caroling at Kg Ulu Jelintoh



This morning was also the first time I met Reverend Eduan, a born and raised member of the Ulu Groh community, who led the chapel service that morning.

The praise and worship service as always was lively and inspiring but this time I witnessed dancing girls with tambourines in hand dancing to Christmas carols which added another dimension to the meaning of joy associated with Christmas.

Missionary District

The Gopeng Shalom Church is an Anglican denomination church which was part of St Peter’s parish, Fair Park, Ipoh. The Shalom Church was opened in 1999. Fifteen years later in 2011, it was classified as a Missionary District Church and has over 2,000 parishioners. Its ministry services 17 locations bordering from Gopeng to Kg Air Denak; Tronoh to Kg Choh; Tg Rambutan, Ulu Kinta and Gua Musang (Kelantan), and its services are conducted in Bahasa Malaysia.

According to Dr Teoh Soong Kee, St Peter’s Church advisor in charge of the Bahasa Malaysia Ministry, the villages of Kg Ulu Groh, Kg Ulu Geruntum and Kg Ulu Kampar in Gopeng are the main locations where their congregation is located, and the Orang Asli Christians have been in the area for over 50 years.

Teoh could not indicate when the Orang Asli were converted but it is documented in the book Kinta Valley by Khoo Salma Nasution and Abdur-Razzaq Lubis that the “Anglo Chinese Boys School on Lahat Road was the first English school as well as the first Christian Mission School in Kinta.”

The school was founded by Reverend W.E. Horley who also opened other Christian Mission Schools in Kampar, Telok Anson, Taiping and Sitiawan and also took charge of the schools in Tronoh, Tapah and Gopeng.

Home Grown Leaders

Over the last 50 years, explained Teoh, the Missionary District has produced two Orang Asli pastors, Lizune Bah Chong who was born in Kg Air Denak, Tronoh and Reverend Eduan Bah Chimpok, 42, a third generation Christian born in Kg Ulu Groh, Gopeng.

According to Eduan, his grandfather Bah Nuyop was the first Semai resident from Ulu Groh to be converted to Christianity in 1962. “At that time the missionaries were Methodist. When I was 7 years old I was sent to board at Anglo Chinese School, Kampar where I lived till I returned after Form three”.

Eduan recalls that there “were around 50 Orang Asli youths at the school then from throughout the state, Teluk Anson (Teluk Intan), Sungai Siput, Tapah and Sitiawan. Besides Sunday service we participated in other activities in the youth ministry.” At age eleven Eduan recalls being asked to become a pastor but he never gave it a second thought then.

Eduan only considered becoming a pastor in the late nineties after a serious illness. When he recovered he decided to become a pastor and enrolled at the Malaysian Baptist Seminary, Penang where he received a Bachelor in Theology. During his nine years with the seminary he continued to serve his parishioners around Gopeng.

Eduan is now based at St Peter’s Church, Ipoh and takes care of the Bahasa Malaysia speaking parishioners. “These parishioners are mostly from East Malaysia, are educated and comprised of army and police personnel and students. Our service is in Bahasa Malaysia, so we also attract Indonesians.”

Eduan describes his mission work with the urban and rural community as challenging because their needs are totally different.

The rural community is generally uneducated and the service is to teach and build a foundation while the urban community is educated and requires more than the “Sunday service which was all that was available when I started in 2009. Now we provide classes for children, discipleship and theology, all in Bahasa Malaysia and I am currently training leaders to help in these Ministries.”

With all these activities Eduan still has time for mission services which is currently at Sungai Siput and Chenderiang.

So my last Christmas was time well spent getting to meet another community living around the fringes of Ipoh, the smiling and friendly Orang Asli Christians of Gopeng. Gathering from the way Reverend Jack and Eduan are going about their mission services I dare say we can anticipate an increase in their community.



IPOH **echo**

From the Editor's Desk

by Fathol Zaman Bukhari

Taman Kaya Syndrome

I would not call it as an act of desperation, but more appropriately, an inspiration. So what drives the residents of Taman Kaya to literally fence themselves in and turn their once idyllic "taman" into a garrison? Could safety be the consideration or is it the fear of the unknown? Both factors, coupled with a growing sense of despondency, compounded by the fact that the Police are too overstretched and undermanned, prompted the 65 households of Taman Kaya to do the unthinkable – keep strangers out and residents in.

Led by their Residents' Association President, Augustine Anthony, they pooled their resources and engaged a contractor to build a guardhouse on the main arterial road leading into the housing estate and sealed off all the side roads, including its southern flank, marked by a bushy no-man's land separating residents' homes from the adjacent army ammunition dump. The 65 households, plus an additional three from neighbouring Taman Perak, have now assumed an envious station in life – members of a guarded neighbourhood right smack in Ipoh Garden East.

Taman Kaya, incidentally, is not in the best of locations, tactically speaking. It is hemmed in on all sides by houses, an ill-placed ammunition dump and the lumbering North-South Expressway. Its vulnerability is being amplified by the escalating number of break-ins, robberies, snatch thefts and extortions, occurring almost on a daily basis.

"One of the residents was threatened at gun-point recently," said Augustine. "The audacity of the intruder is simply mind-blowing," he added. That was the breaking point. "We've to do something before someone gets hurt. The authorities seem powerless to act."

Augustine had led the residents through a number of face-offs with the authorities, especially Ipoh City Council and the Police. When the columbarium issue threatened to escalate into a full-blown battle between City Council and the developer, on one side and the residents, on the other, Augustine garnered enough support to force the council to reconsider its stance. Today what is left of the columbarium is an empty land overgrown with lalang, a stark reminder of an unpopular decision made in haste and in poor taste.

Ipoh Echo highlighted the plight of Taman Kaya residents who demonstrated their displeasure with the Police for their inaction in combating crimes recently. They picketed in the open and carried banners clamouring for police action. "Lawlessness is becoming a way of life for Ipohites and unless we send a clear message to those in authority, we'll be in for a tough time," said a forlorn Augustine. He seems determined to do whatever possible to correct the impropriety. "Two wrongs do not make a right," he exclaimed, alluding to the famous English proverb.

The guard house, boom gate, chain-link fences and collapsible gates cost almost RM6,000. Four men are employed to keep the taman under surveillance 24 hours a day. The guards work in pair on a 12-hour shift. Motorists are provided car stickers to indicate

The authorities should realise that Ipohites have a genuine fear for their personal safety. If and unless this problem is addressed, the Taman Kaya syndrome looks set to spread to other parts of the city...



their affiliation with Taman Kaya. On a lighter vein, could the name "Taman Kaya" be the reason why it is so attractive to burglars and the many unsavoury characters on the prowl? But the residents are ordinary folks with simple needs and tastes!

The 68 households pay RM60 each a month to keep their taman protected. "There was the initial resistance. But over time most began to appreciate the long-term benefits, so they acceded," said Augustine.

The basis of consideration, according to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's guidelines, is that 51 per cent of households must agree to be guarded. "We've a situation where almost 97 per cent of the households consented," said the Ipoh-based lawyer. The overwhelming response is indicative of the residents' desire for a crime-free environment. This is the growing trend in Kuala Lumpur where guarded communities are becoming the in-thing today. Kota Damansara is a fine example. Security companies are cashing-in on the development much to the chagrin of residents. But do people have a choice?

However, a check with Ipoh City Council says otherwise. The mayor insists that Taman Kaya residents have contravened council's by-laws. "Roads and lanes in housing estates should be accessible to people and vehicles," said Mayor Dato' Roshidi Hashim. "Rubbish needs to be collected. In the event of a fire, how are firemen going to douse the flames?" Building a guard house requires a permit, he said. "The residents' association has 15 days to respond to the council's letter." Another face-off is in the offing. It is a ticking time bomb.

In The Name of My Father's Estate

by Peter Lee

Episode 2

After one week of contacting all his family members, John Lee managed to arrange for a meeting between his family members and his lawyer, Dave, on Thursday morning in John's office. As Dave walked into the office conference room, John and his family members were already there waiting. Dave apologised to all as he was ten minutes late. John then continued by introducing his family members starting with his mother, Mrs Patricia Lee who is seventy five years old, his second and third brother named Nick Lee and Steven Lee aged 48 and 45 respectively, sisters Michele Lee, Nancy Lee and Sandy Lee who are aged 40, 39 and 37 respectively.



After the introduction, John asked Dave to explain. "Thanks John" said Dave. Then Dave told the family members that since Mr Lee senior died without a will, an application for the Letter of Administration (LA) is essential for the family to unlock his estate which is now frozen. Dave further explained that "to apply for this document, all the beneficiaries would first have to appoint an administrator or administrators." "Who is the administrator and what does he or she do?" asked Nick Lee. Dave replied, "Anyone of you present can be the administrator if you get the consent from all the beneficiaries of the estate and the court approves it. So in your father's case, the beneficiaries would be his wife, Mrs Patricia Lee and all his children which means all of you who are present in this room." For a few seconds, everyone was looking at each other wondering who it shall be.

Then Dave said, "the responsibility of an administrator is to make a list of all of the assets of the estate and attach it to the rest of the legal documents for submission to the High Court and once the LA has been issued by the High Court, the Administrator can then collect all the assets in the estate. Thereafter, he or she has to ensure that all the liabilities in the estate must be settled before distribution to the beneficiaries. Now, according to the Malaysian Distribution Act, 1959, Mrs Patricia Lee will be entitled to one third of the estate while six of you will share equally the remaining two thirds of the estate."

Dave also highlighted to all that after appointing the administrators they would also have to appoint two guarantors (who are sureties to provide an administration bond) for the estate so that if the administrators abscond with the estate money, the two guarantors will have to pay the beneficiaries. So, the guarantors must provide a guarantee of the gross estate value of the deceased's estate. "What if we can't find the guarantors because we ourselves may not qualify to that value" asked Sandy Lee. "I have to check on whether there is any exemption on this," replied Dave.

He continued by asking the family members to choose an administrator first. Nick Lee volunteered to be the administrator while John said it's better for him to take up this role because he is the eldest and has been helping his father manage his property company during his lifetime. Then, Sandy Lee said, "that is a separate matter. Why not we take a vote on this and decide on the appointment by a vote of majority." Michele and Nancy proposed John to be the administrator while Sandy preferred Nick. Steven was undecided and looking for his mother's decision. At this point Dave interrupted and said, "the decision must be unanimous before it goes to the courts." Then Mrs Patricia Lee said, "for heaven's sake can you all stop arguing." She then turned to Dave and said, "I think I have to speak to them privately. Can we come back to you later?" "Sure" replied Dave and then left the room accompanied by John.

To be continued...

Peter Lee is an Associate Estate Planning Practitioner (Wills & Trust) with Rockwills International Group. He is also an Islamic Estate Planner providing Wills & Trust services for Muslims. He is based in Ipoh and can be reached at: 012-5078825/05-2554853 or excels@streamyx.com. Website: <http://www.wills-trust.com.my>.

(Peter Lee's column will appear monthly)

Wellness

Eye Health


World Glaucoma Week
 March 11 - 17, 2012

In conjunction with **World Glaucoma Week 2012**, Ipoh Echo talks to Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr S.S. Gill about this "silent thief of sight".

What is glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that result in progressive damage of the **optic nerve** (the "main cable" that carries visual information from the eye to the brain). If glaucoma is not treated, it **permanently damages vision** in the affected eye(s) and results in **blindness**. It is often, but not always, associated with increased pressure of the fluid in the eye (aqueous humour).

Glaucoma has been nicknamed the "**silent thief of sight**" because the vision loss normally occurs gradually over a long period of time **without significant symptoms** until you eventually lose significant vision. In other words, it means that one **will only notice poor vision when the disease is serious** and the **damage to the optic nerve** is advanced.

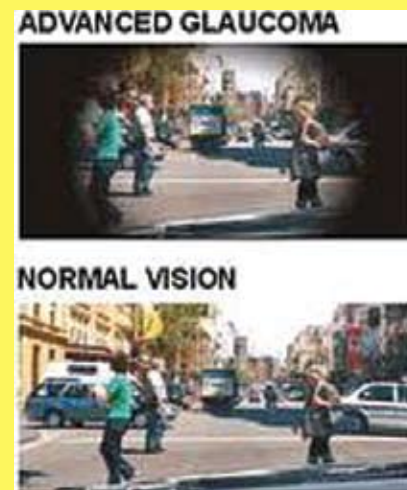
Worldwide, glaucoma is the **second leading cause of blindness** after cataracts. Glaucoma affects **one in 200 people aged fifty and younger**, and one in 10 over the age of eighty. As many as **6 million people are blind** in both eyes from glaucoma today. Most of these people were once **unaware** they had this disease until they lost **significant vision** in one or both eyes.

One reason why a person **may not realise** that he or she is losing vision

is because the vision loss involves the **peripheral part** of a person's vision. This peripheral vision loss is the reason why it **goes unnoticed by the patient until the very late stage** when the **central vision starts being affected**. Rarely, in some patients there may be symptoms of slight eye discomfort, mild headache and haloes around lights.

Any person who is 40 years and above should go for **glaucoma screening**. More so, if you have a **family history of glaucoma** and have never been screened for glaucoma yourself, you should go for an **eye check** as soon as you can.

More on Glaucoma in the next issue.



For more information, contact Gill Eye Specialist Centre at 05-5455582, email: gilleyecentre@dr.com or visit www.fatimah.com.my.

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05 2451 072 (CCC)
05 2451 222 (Operator)
999 (emergency)

Ipoh General Hospital

05-208 5000

Ipoh Ambulance

05-522 2506
993 (emergency)

Ipoh Fire Brigade

05-547 4444/994
(emergency)

Perak Immigration Dept

05-5017100

Perak Water Board

05-254 6161

Ipoh City Council

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General: 05-2083333

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State Secretariat

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Registration Department

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Tenaga Nasional Berhad

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1800-88-7788

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103

Perak Women for Women Society

05-5469715 (office)

AA Ipoh

019-574 3572
017-350 8361

Thinking **ALLOWED** • by Mariam Mokhtar

Be Street-Smart To Stay Safe

We have all done it at some point or other in our lives: We leave home to go to work or to the shops, but before driving onto the road, leave our car unattended for a few seconds, with the engine running, to lock or close the gate.

Not all of us can afford to have electrically operated gates or are privileged enough to afford a maid who comes running to the gate to close and lock it, when alerted by the sound of the horn.

Recently, a woman who left her car for a few seconds with the engine running, turned around only to find that as she was fumbling with the lock, a man had seized the opportunity to drive off in her car.

There was little she could do except watch, stupefied. After seconds of stunned disbelief, her cries for help alerted her neighbours but by the time they came to her assistance, the opportunist carjacker was miles away.

She had not only lost her car, but her mobile phone, her handbag and her laptop which was on the front seat. A police report followed but the policeman said that her misfortune was a common occurrence. People are unaware they are being watched and unaware suspicious characters are lurking about.

Some people consider her lucky. Usually her five year-old daughter would have been strapped in the child seat, in the rear of the car, to be driven to nursery school. That day, her little girl was unwell. The simple carjacking could easily have ended up with her child being abducted.

Do we know who is watching?

We may think we know our neighbourhood well, but do we really know who is watching the inhabitants of the area? Are we fully aware only when we visit an unfamiliar and rough looking neighbourhood? We should also be vigilant in areas which we consider safe and familiar territory. Most of us know of at least one person, who has had a gold chain, handbag or purse, snatched, in supposedly smart areas of town.

One close colleague, a business man, had his workers' monthly wages, secreted in his briefcase. On the way to the office, he decided to go on a site visit and left the briefcase in the boot of his car. He thought this would be safe. It was something he had done several times in the past.

When he returned, the boot had been forced open, the briefcase was open and the money was missing. He was unaware that he had been trailed from the time he left the bank to collect his workers' wages. To this day, he does not know if it was an inside job or not. Sometimes, we let ourselves down with our routine.

Beware of tell-tale signs

How many times have we parked our car in a car park or by the roadside and omitted to remove items from the seat or the dashboard? Leaving the satellite navigation system in the car is stupid. Even an innocuous looking packet or plastic bag, is tempting enough for an opportunistic thief. A map would indicate that the car owner is not familiar with the area. Even a circular mark on the windscreen will tell a would-be thief that there is a SatNav in the car.

We've heard of drug addicts who remove taps to sell them for scrap. Some people have reported that shoes are removed from the front porches of their homes. Why invite trouble by leaving items in our car, in full view of others?

Simple Measures

Despite previous warnings by the police and the media, many women are



still careless about how they hold their handbags or display their jewellery. Just a few simple precautions may mean all the difference between being safe or being a victim.

Women can prevent having their handbags being snatched or their gold chains being ripped off if they adopt a few simple measures.

A handbag kept close to the body may deter the would-be bag snatcher. But some women fail to secure the catch or zipper and in a melee, it would be so simple for someone to quietly slide a purse, from the open handbag. Necklaces should be hidden from view.

It is best to keep money and valuables in an inside pocket of your clothing and use your handbag for other things.

Most of all, prevention is better than cure, and being street-smart is just the application of common-sense. It is something which everyone can do.

News Roundup
Greentown Rotarians
Fellowship Dinner

Guests attending the *Rotary Club of Green Town* (RC Greentown) 18th Annual dinner were treated to a rich evening of culture and an overflowing of fellowship.

For a start the dress code of the diners was traditional costume. As the club had guests from the Rotary Club of Makati Edsa, Philippines, the fusion of traditional costumes, was a rich mass of colours and lovely design.

During the dinner the Presidents of RC Greentown, Ipoh, Dato' Dr Sushil Kumar Ratti and RC of Makati Edsa, Philippines, Victoria Singson signed a Sister Club Agreement to signify agreement to work together on common projects and also have great fellowship together.

Other fellowship gestures that night included RC Greentown presenting a cheque of USD360 for victims of Philippine calamities over the last year. Singson, touched by the gesture responded "it was not the amount but the thought that counted".

Singson who was given a tour of Ipoh, committed to return to Ipoh again but with a group of friends "to visit the awesome Banjaran Spa, try Ipoh white coffee and shop at Little India" to which organising chairman M. Odzman Kadir extended an offer to host the Philippine Rotarians. Odzman wears another hat, that of Perak Tourism Association Chairman.

Undoubtedly the fellowship that night fit the Rotary motto "Service Above Self".

JAG





Musings on Food

seefoon@ipohecho.com.my

By See Foon Chan-Koppen

Photos by Ian Anderson

SeeFoon checks out street corners in Ipoh Garden East

Ipoh is often touted to have more good eating places per square kilometre than most other cities in Malaysia. It is almost impossible to have a disastrous meal in Ipoh – (I know I can hear some of you protesting) – if one goes by certain rules of thumb when being adventurous and walking in to unknown restaurants to try their fare.

Without patronising the gourmands out there who read this column and who know all this, I am offering here a few tips to keep in mind for the food novices amongst you, when going to a new place. Firstly, do not walk in if the place is empty. If it is packed to capacity, it's a good sign. Secondly, as you're walking to an empty table, glance around at all the other tables and notice what others are eating and what looks appealing. Thirdly, ask for the head person/boss/chef/whatever and ask for his recommendations, his signature dishes and lastly what do most of his customers order. With these tips in mind, it really is impossible to have a bad meal anywhere in Ipoh.

This is certainly the technique applied by my foodie friend Ginla Foo who brought us recently to Restoran Splendid in Ipoh Garden East. A corner restaurant on the slip road of Hala Bandar Baru Tambun, just after Citrus Restaurant, Splendid is only open at night and is packed especially on weekends when all the families are on their weekly outing.

Daily Soup and Weekend Specials

Proprietor and chef, Soo Kok Yew, and his friendly staff will happily recommend his specialties particularly the ones on weekends which will vary from week to week.

We were there on a weekday and Ginla had ordered the menu which began with **braised tofu** topped with diced pork and black mushrooms. What was unusual about this particular offering was the base on which the tofu sat, which was a thin egg custard, which when scooped up with the sauce made for a creamy addition to the tofu. RM7/12



for S/M.

The soup of the day was the '**Fan Got**', a type of taro-like thick root vegetable boiled with pork spare ribs and chicken feet. While most of the westerners at our table shunned the chicken feet, the rest of us Orientals tucked in with gusto, leaving only the root vegetable which is usually not eaten, being terribly fibrous and used primarily to impart its special sweetness to soups. RM15 for a portion for 8 people.

The **Ham Dan chicken** was next, chunks of chicken fried crisp with the addition of salted egg yoke which was delectably palpable on the surface. The addition of curry leaves added a further piquancy – RM8/12 for S/L.

Another meat dish followed, the soya sauce/black vinegar **fried spare ribs**, tangy, not too cloyingly sweet and with just the right touch of vinegar. RM8/12 for S/L

Signature Prawn Curry

The next dish to arrive was one of their signature dishes, a **prawn curry** fragrant with turmeric in a thick coconut/milk based curry sauce that was very mild yet redolent with Indian flavours. Prawns at RM8 per 100g. Our dish that evening for eight people had 500g of prawns RM40.

Hard on its heels were the **Assam Fish Head**, pungent, sweet chunks of fish head cooked with okra and long beans. RM6 per 100g; the **Ham Yu Fah Lam Po**, thin slices of pork belly sautéed with onions, dried red chilli and that overriding aroma of salted fish, RM8/12 and the **Eggplant fried with belacan** RM7/10, all of which were scrumptious.

As we sat there in semi stupor after all the dishes had been wolfed down with alacrity, the aroma of **Wat Dan Hor** (smooth egg rice noodles) wafted by and we watched with longing as plates of noodles and different types of rice dishes were served to the late 'supper' crowd.

We asked for the list of noodle and rice dishes and was handed a very extensive menu with tempting items like *Fried venison with dried chilli*; *bitter gourd chicken rice*; *dried chilli sour Mantis prawn rice*, *salted fish rice*; *special venison rice* and *sambal petai rice*. We all then made a vow to return another evening to sample some of these which ranged in price from a reasonable RM3.50 for the simple noodle and rice dishes to RM8.00 for the fancier venison versions.

HAWKER FOOD

Laksa Lemak



Laksa Lemak is not as ubiquitous as its cousin, the *laksa asam*. One would be hard pressed to find a stall around the corner. It is more popular down south in Johor, or even further down south, in Singapore. In Ipoh, it is also known as Siamese Laksa. Although varying in preparation, the soup or gravy is always made with coconut milk (*santan*), hence the 'lemak' connotation. All ingredients for the fish-based soup are ground and this makes a rich and thick gravy with flavours which may include lemongrass and galangal. Bean curd puffs, fish sticks, shrimp or cockles may be added with garnishes of mint or Vietnamese mint (*daun kesum*), cucumber, beansprouts, or even pineapple. The Laksa is sometimes served with a spoonful of sambal chilli paste or a calamansi lime (*limau kasturi*).

Try:

Restoran Ko Pi Tim

2 Jalan Medan Ipoh 1D, Medan Ipoh

Gravy is lemak and very tasty with bits of fish.

RM3.30; opens from 6.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Closes 2 days a month.

Turf Club Laksa @ Pusat Makanan Ye Sing (Denny 012-5184223)

25 Jalan Dato Megat Khas, Taman Bandaraya

Gravy is thick and flavourful with the right amount of spiciness.

RM4; add-ons are 60 sen each. Open 12.00-4.30 p.m. Thursdays closed.

Beacon Point (05-5469916)

41 Lintasan Perajurit 6, Taman Perak

RM9.30; Teatime set: with coffee/tea – RM11.30 or with fresh juice – RM12.90

Opening hours: Monday-Saturday 9.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m. and 6.30-9.30 p.m.

Weekend places:

Family Cafe (Christine 016-5241848)

19, Laluan Ipoh Permai Satu, Taman Ipoh Permai

RM8.80 – only available on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Open: 7.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 6.00-10.30 p.m. Tuesdays closed.

Yum Yum (05-2537686)

5 Persiaran Greenhill – New Town

RM6 per bowl. Friday lunch only.



RECIPE

By Shanthi Ganeshan



Egg Boats Appetizer

Ingredients A:

- 6 eggs – hard boiled
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 sandwich cheese slices grated.
- Salt & pepper to taste

Ingredients B for decoration:

- Small piece of carrot cut into thin triangles about ½ inch in length – 24 pcs
- 1 teaspoon vinegar
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- ¼ cup water
- Salt to taste
- Small bunch of fresh parsley

Method:

1. Bring to boil the vinegar, water, salt and sugar in a small saucepan. Add the cut carrot & cook for 3 minutes (don't let it discolour). Remove from fire, cool and drain. Discard water.
2. Use a sharp knife and cut each egg length wise into 6 equal wedges. You should get 24 pcs. Scoop out the yolks. The whites should resemble boats.
3. Use 4 yolks and add in all the ingredients A and mash to a soft creamy paste.
4. Scoop teaspoons of the cream and fill the egg whites or use a piping cone and pipe in the cream.
5. Decorate with carrot sails and a pinch of parsley leaves. Place in the refrigerator to chill before serving.



Community

Baby Hatch Receives Fifth Baby

KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital's baby hatch received its fifth baby on February 8 at 9.45 p.m. The baby weighing 3.37kg is a healthy 2-day old baby boy. He is currently being looked after by the hospital's paediatrician in the paediatric ward.

About KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital's 'Baby Hatch'

A baby hatch is a place where mothers who are unable, or unwilling, to take care of their babies, can leave them in a safe environment where they can be cared for in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department of Perak (SWD). Many of these babies die in places such as toilets and dustbins. They are innocent and they have the right to live. The Baby Hatch is equipped with various facilities and supported by the management of KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital with the support of its medical consultants. KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital is the first hospital within the KPJ Healthcare group to set up a baby hatch.



Hainan Community's CNY Celebration



Over 800 members from the four Hainan Associations in Ipoh jointly held their Chinese New Year celebration dinner on the fifth day of the Lunar New Year.

This year's celebration, organised by the Perak Hainan Association (PHA) was an easy-going evening with lots of fun and gaiety during which the members tossed 'yee sang' for prosperity, distributed ang pow to children, did the line dance and karaoke-d together. Even the chairman of the PHA, Mr Goh Seng Ho (pic 2nd left), participated in a magic show for the members.

The Hainanese are well known for their distinctive cuisine hence their lucky draw prizes included Old Town white coffee and Yim Kok Kai (salted baked chicken).

During the celebration, the Perak Hainan Association announced the countdown for their 100th year anniversary which falls on July 3.

JAG

Taman Kaya Street Party

Residents of Taman Kaya, Ipoh Garden East, who recently converted their housing estate into a guarded neighbourhood held a street party literally on the street where they lived.

The party was a pot-luck party held on the 13th day of Chinese New Year and the party started with the tossing of yee sang by the women and children of the neighbourhood. Before the start of dinner residents were seen gaily walking round the neighbourhood in a manner reminiscent of a street scene at new villages in years gone by.

Taman Kaya was turned into a guarded neighbourhood on January 15 this year (see page 3 editorial). It is located at a corner of Ipoh Garden East and is bordered by the north-south highway, Taman Perak and Taman Ipoh Timur. The area is secured with four main gates and three back-lane gates. The entrance in and out is via Hala Perajurit 1 where the guardhouse is located.

Taman Kaya, like most housing estates, has been experiencing bouts of crime with house break-ins, snatch theft and car windscreens being broken indiscriminately. With the introduction of the guarded neighbourhood, "since 15 January there has not been a single incident of crime in the neighbourhood. Furthermore, this is the first time in 16 years where not a single crime was committed one week before Chinese New Year," trumpeted Augustine Anthony, Chairman of Taman Kaya Residents Committee.

Meanwhile, a check with Ipoh Mayor Dato' Roshidi Hashim revealed that action

Houses For Destitute



Yong Kam Sang, 56, of Buntong was so elated when told that a brand new house would be built on the site of his present abode. The person who delivered the good news was none other than Chief Minister, Dato' Seri DiRaja Zambry Abd Kadir who dropped by Yong's shack at Jalan Kuang, Buntong on Chinese New Year night. Zambry was so moved by what he saw that he immediately got Yayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan (YBU) to build Yong a new house to accommodate his family of five, which includes his aging mother, Kam Long Yong, 76.

The 3-bedroom house will come with a kitchen, toilet and a living room. "It will definitely be more presentable than what I have now," he told Ipoh Echo when met. Yong's run-down wooden house belongs to his grandmother and was passed on to him upon her demise many years ago. "I can't afford to repair the house, as whatever I earn goes to feeding my family," he said with tears welling in his eyes. Yong makes about RM700 a month doing odd jobs in the city. "The Year of the Dragon has brought me luck," he said. "I am truly indebted to the state government for coming to my aid in my hour of need."

The Chief Minister made another stop on the same night. He visited Chai Wah Leong, 55, a bachelor who lives alone in a dilapidated hut in Ampang Baru, Ipoh. Chai is another pitiful case. He was abandoned by his family and left to fend for himself over a decade ago. "I've resigned myself to my fate," he told Ipoh Echo. Plucky Chai is determined to face adversity the best he can and considers his hardships a challenge.

Zambry ordered that a similar house be built for Chai by YBU. The one-bedroom house will be spacious enough to accommodate him and his friends should they drop by. It will have running water and electricity, amenities which are absent in Chai's wooden hut.

The houses, according to Hairul Anwar, YBU's Director of Corporate Services, will cost between RM30,000 to RM35,000, depending on specifications. They will be completed in March. Construction works are underway.

RM



would be taken against the committee on two issues. One issue involved the guardhouse as there was no application to build a guardhouse. The other issue is related to complaints from other residents about "no traffic thoroughfare due to the erection of barriers."

Roshidi acknowledged that "notice has been sent to the Residents Committee. We will give the committee 15 days to make submissions before we take action". Roshidi added that the 'residents' initiative is good due to safety concerns but no matter what, the residents must follow the law.

Hopefully all issues can be resolved amicably for a win-win solution by all parties.

JAG

News Roundup

Orientation Programme

The Diploma of Finance and Islamic Banking Club of Politeknik Ungku Omar, Ipoh, organised an orientation programme recently to welcome “freshies” to the faculty. The day-long event was aptly named “*Program Tautan Kasih Persaudaraan*” to denote its objective of establishing cordial relationships among students of the faculty. In essence, it was to orientate new students to the college environment and to instil in them a sense of camaraderie. Some have never left home and have never been exposed to living in dorms and among strangers. Over 180 Semester 1 to Semester 6 students registered for the programme. The first activity on the card was aerobics. Lecturer Ramu led the students through some light exercises aimed at loosening up joints and limbs. This was followed by a series of group-orientated activities such as ice-breaking (getting to know the seniors) and treasure hunt. The activities, though a little strenuous, were enjoyable as the students got to interact with their peers. The programme ended with the mass signing on a stretched banner led by Mohd Syazwan, the club’s advisor, as a form of endorsement by the college and the student body.

RN



Chinese Muslims’ CNY Open House

The Majlis Agama Islam Adat Melayu Perak held an open house at Dataran MBI on February 12 for the Chinese-Muslim community in conjunction with Chinese New Year. The event was organised by *Persatuan Cina Muslim Malaysia* (MACM) with the objective of showing the public that although the members are Muslims, they still follow and embrace the Chinese culture.

Dato’ Dr Fazli Cheah, MACMA Chairman thanked Ipoh City Council (MBI) for its support. The change of venue was to accommodate a larger crowd. Normally, it was held at the polo ground.

An update on the progress of Masjid Muhammadiyah in Taman Tasek Jaya, was announced. Phase 1 is now completed with the RM2 million given by Majlis Agama Islam Adat Melayu. Phase 2, the building of the activity centre, is in progress.

Dato’ Dr Syed Omar Sharifuddin, CEO of Majlis Agama Islam dan Adat Melayu Perak, in his opening remarks, urged all Muslims, regardless of racial and cultural backgrounds, to work together for the benefit of the religion. Last year, RM7 million was raised to build houses for poor Muslims in the state.

The crowd was later entertained to a dragon dance performed by the troupe from SMJK Sam Tet. Ray of Hope, home for children with learning disabilities, put up a splendid dance routine which was well received by those present.

Tiffiny



Arts & Culture

KVWO Looking For Musicians




The Kinta Valley Wind Orchestra (KVWO), Ipoh’s very own home-grown orchestra, is looking for musicians.

This was announced by Eugene Pook (pic, black shirt), the Music Director of Kinta Valley Symphonic Society (KVSS), during its open day celebration to create awareness of its activities.

KVSS manages the two orchestras of KVWO and PPO, the Perak Philharmonic Orchestra which will be launched in the middle of this year. Both KVWO and PPO shared the stage on the day to showcase their talents to students, parents and guests.

According to Pook, 15 of its musicians will be leaving this year to pursue their

JAG




Persatuan Seni Halus, Ipoh
Ipoh Fine Arts Society
(சுப்போ நுண்கலை மன்றம்)

Reg. No. 3061/89(PK)


Presents

Surtal

Hindustani Instrumental music concert by internationally renowned maestros
In aid of The Perak Society for the Promotion of Mental Health



Samuel J Dass (Sitar)
(Samuel Dass School of Hindustani Music, Kuala Lumpur)



Prakash Kandasamy (Tabla)
(Temple Of Fine Arts, Kuala Lumpur)

Guest of Honour

Y.Bhg.Dato’ S. Veerasingam, DPMP, PMP, AMN, AMP
(Special Advisor for Indian Affairs to the Hon’ble Perak Menteri Besar, Perak, Malaysia)

DATE: SUNDAY 26-2- 2012, VENUE: DEWAN SERBAGUNA, BANGUNAN PERAK DARUL RIDZUAN (SUK), JALAN PANGLIMA BUKIT GANTANG WAHAB, 30000, IPOH

Contact: Mdm. Shanti Lingam (0165321087),
Mr.Thaneermalai (0125555503),
Mdm. Vijaya (012 571 2671)

News Roundup

News Vendors Feted



About a hundred members of the *Perak Indian Newspaper Distributors Association* (PINDA) and their families were feted to a sumptuous dinner by Perak Menteri Besar Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir at his residence recently. He was accompanied by special adviser Dato' S. Veerasingam and Speaker Dato' R. Ganesan.

Secretary of PINDA, P. Karthi, voiced the challenges faced by the 400-odd members of the association, half of whom are already above 60 years of age. PINDA, into its 46th year now, has set up a centre, Pusat Khidmat Masyarakat Amanjaya, located at its headquarters at Jalan Chua Cheng Bok, Ipoh. It will be opened by the MB at a later date.

Zambry, in his speech, promised to look into the problems faced by members of the association. At this stage, members will be automatically subscribed to the tabbaru' insurance scheme, whereby upon the death of the policy holder, his family will receive RM2,000. Zambry pledged an allocation of RM50,000 for the

EL

Sharing CNY Joys



As part of its CSR (corporate social responsibility) initiative, Perak Community Specialist Hospital celebrated Chinese New Year with inmates of Rumah Seri Bahagia, a senior citizens' home, and kids from Salvation Army Children's Home. The occasion had the tacit support of BAIDURI, the Perak Association of State Assemblymen's Wives.

The guests of honour were Datin Seri DiRaja Saripah Zulkifli, wife of Perak Menteri Besar, Datin Lim Soo Lee, wife of Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon, and Datin Hew Chew Yoon, wife of Perak Gerakan chief, Dato' Chang Ko Youn.

After an energetic lion dance, the 55 inmates of Rumah Seri Bahagia in Jalan Gopeng were handed goodie bags courtesy of BAIDURI, in addition to the Chinese New Year goodies and ang pow from the hospital. They were then treated to tea.

Later, at the Salvation Army Children's Home in Jalan Kampar, 34 children were similarly entertained. Representatives from the hospital distributed gifts together with ang pow from BAIDURI.

It was a delightful afternoon that will remain in the memory of all who were present.

EL

Knowledge Sharing Session



At the invitation of Spacetoon Media Hub Sdn Bhd and K-Perak, Klang-born, Kian Chai Ng was the guest speaker at the knowledge-cum-experience sharing session held at Perak Techno Trade Centre, Ipoh recently. Kian is currently the lead concept artist with Las Vegas-based Petroglyph Games. He has more than three years' experience in graphic design and has been in the computer-games industry for over nine years.

Kian talked about his experiences in the game development processes in the US, including ups and downs working on his current project, "End of Nations", a massive multiplayer online real time strategy (MMO-RTS) game. It is a free-to-play game that will be released sometime this year.

The objective of Spacetoon Media Hub in organising such a session was to upgrade the knowledge and skills of local animators, particularly animation students. The company plans to hold a huge carnival in Perak at the end of the year, bringing in well-known animators from around the world. This will create an opportunity for students to enhance their skills, and at the same time further develop the infantile animation market in the country. Demand for local animators will invariably increase.

EL

MBI Launches Its VPY 2012 Programmes

Ipoh City Council has announced that it has 12 programmes for Visit Perak Year 2012.

The programme which was launched by the State Exco for Tourism and Industry Dato' Hamidah Osman, includes: a photography competition, currently on going till March 18, an exhibition and futsal and football competitions.

The annual Ipoh Star Walk and Ipoh International Run are part of the scheduled programmes. There will be two international programmes, the International Eco-Tourism Familiarization Tour (September) involving foreign media to promote the state's attractions, and the International Youth Rainforest Exploration (November).

Dato' Hamidah in her address praised Ipoh City Council for ridding Ipoh town of its 'Ghost Town image' with more lively centres spread out around town where residents can lepak (to hang out) at the end of the day.

Other issues highlighted by Hamidah included: The 360 traders at Memory Lane/Horley Street will be provided a standard umbrella canopy to improve the image of the Sunday flea market. Currently the image



is haphazard due to traders using a variety of umbrellas or no umbrellas at all.

Certificates of Appreciation will be handed to shop-house owners who have upgraded their premises whether by renovation or touch ups with a new coat of paint and still maintaining their identity. According to Hamidah, "although Ipoh has beautiful caves and hills the buildings in town are 'assets' that reflect the image of Ipoh of a time gone by."

More billboards are needed to bring about the 'Wow factor' for VPY 2012. "Although promotions have been done, that 'welcoming' feeling is still missing."

On the subject of homestay programmes in Ipoh which is currently non-existent, Hamidah has proposed to set up a programme for Ipoh. A homestay programme must consist of a choice of 10 participating homes to be recognised as such.

KTMB has approved a location at Ipoh Railway Station to be a Tourist Information Centre (TIC). The TIC is anticipated to be operational by the end of March.

JAG

Changing Ipoh's Skyline

Ipoh Mayor Dato' Roshidi Hashim has predicted that in another two years the "skyline surrounding Ipoh town will be different". He made the prediction after the monthly City Council full board meeting at the end of January.

High rise buildings in Ipoh have been restricted because the close proximity of Sultan Azlan Shah Airport to Ipoh town could affect the safety level of flight operations during take-off and landing. These restrictions are stipulated in the International Civil Aviation Act guidelines which are applied to all airports in Malaysia.

Nevertheless the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) has provided Ipoh City Council with a map

indicating the flight path to the airport and a guideline for the maximum height of buildings.

Roshidi announced that the fringe locations of Meru Raya, Pulai, Jelapang, Chepor and Tanjung Rambutan could allow high rise building up to 30 storeys.

DCA's guidelines state that the height of a building



A Day with Village Heads in Perak



The Centre for Rural Transformation (RTC), Gopeng, organised a programme A Day with the Village Heads in Perak at TEMAN (Terminal Makanan Negara) in Simpang Pulai. In his short opening address, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry bin Abdul Kadir said that RTC provides a network for marketing products made in the village.

Minister of Rural and Regional Development Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie, said that RTC was specifically created for the convenience of all residents, where it will consolidate the economic activity that can generate income for rural communities. It acts as an important platform for enhancing the income, employment opportunities, as well as increase knowledge of entrepreneurship among young people.

RTC's programme is the first pilot project implemented as an integrated service covering the collection, processing and distribution of agricultural products, banking and insurance, business advisory, training and skills, health care and retailing.

AJ

was dependent upon the location and its sea level. At sea level 85.3 metres the building height is limited to 15-17 storeys while at sea level 106.7 the height is between 27-30 storeys.

According to Roshidi the construction of high-rise buildings is an important element for the development of Ipoh. Currently the highest buildings in Ipoh are the Tower Regency Hotel, 17 stories, and Kinta Heights, 20 stories.

Developers wishing to construct high-rise buildings are advised to contact the council's Town Planning Department to verify the type of building allowed.

JAG

News Roundup

Alumni Launched



The first batch of UniKL RCMP's (Royal College of Medicine, Perak) medical students are about to graduate. To commemorate this auspicious occasion, the undergraduates pooled their resources and, with the help of the college authorities, launched the MBBS 2012 Alumni. The function, held at Heritage Hotel, Ipoh, recently, was dubbed "*Malam Himpunan Permata*". The objective of the alumni is to assist past and future students in establishing a base for their activities, in and outside the campus.

The event, wholly organised by the students, was focused on appreciating the efforts of the student council and the educating force of the institution. UniKL RCMP took pride in awarding their students for various achievements. Overall outstanding student award went to Mohd Shafiq Wahab. Community-based programme in support of the Dayak Bidayuh National Association/UNESCO Multilingual Pilot Project in Kuching was honoured with the best programme award.

In conjunction with the event, the medical institution launched a fund-raising project for the destitute in Perak. Three wheelchairs were given to the representative of Rumah Seri Kenangan, Tanjung Rambutan, as part of the institution's corporate responsibility towards the community. The evening ended on a high note with music and songs performed

Ann

A RM5.1-Million Boost



The New Year holds a special meaning for Yayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan (YBU). The foundation, tasked to cater to the needs of the poor and the marginalised in the state, is into its second year of operation. The progress of time does not diminish its desire to be in the forefront of the state government's welfare-driven programme aimed at eradicating poverty among Perakeans.

To mark the momentous occasion a dinner was held at the Royal Perak Golf Club. Aptly dubbed as "*Malam Jutaan Harapan*" (Night of a Million Hopes) the event was to honour donors, recipients and staff for their contributions and dedication. Four corporate donors, one of which was Kinta Properties, were on hand to do their part for the foundation. The Ipoh-based property developer donated RM100,000 towards YBU's kitty. A mock cheque for the said amount was handed over by Dato' Lim Si Boon's representative to Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir who received

Y's Men's Yee Sang



Y's Men's Club of Ipoh celebrated Chinese New Year with a sumptuous dinner at a leading Chinese restaurant in Ipoh Garden East recently. The mandatory "yee sang" toss was done with the eager participation of all members present. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of cash awards to two members' children who scored 6As in their 2011 UPSR examination. The following day members, led by their president, visited the three surviving cerebral palsy afflicted Francis brothers in Lim Gardens, Ipoh. The club has been donating in kind to the Francis siblings since their plight was made known to the public several years ago. A fund-raising programme, an initiative by senior members of the club, is in the pipeline to help the poor and the destitute in the state. It will begin with a jumble sale to be held in conjunction with the Sultan's birthday in April. Details on the club's year-round programme and activities can be obtained from K. Letchimanan at **012-530 1939**.

Ed

Fulfilling a Pledge



It was a moment of realisation for the Perak Malayalee Association when Datuk Aminuddin Hanafiah, Political Secretary to Dato' Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah, Minister of Finance II, came by their association headquarters at Medan Istana, Ipoh, to hand over a cheque for RM150,000. The money was pledged by Husni at the PMA-organised *Onam* celebration (harvest festival) held at Ipoh City Hall last year.

Association President, R. Narayanan said the contribution will go towards the purchase of an adjacent double-storey shop house as the present premise is too small to accommodate all members and the association's numerous indoor activities. Membership currently stands at 800 and growing.

A hi-tea, where 15 super-senior members of the association were feted, was held in conjunction with the momentous occasion.

EL

the money on behalf of the foundation. A total sum of RM5.1 million was collected from well-wishers, big and small. The sum will help fund the foundation's on-going aid programmes.

The evening also witnessed the handing over of mock keys to five lucky house owners under YBU's Infra Housing Aid Scheme. Three received micro credits to facilitate their business ventures while four were awarded certificates of appreciation for the prompt repayment of their micro credits. Zambry formally launched the foundation's bulletin and its work squad.

Among the dignitaries present to grace the occasion were Dato' Saarani Mohamad, Chairman of YBU and the foundation's CEO, Dato' Hj Zainal Abidin Omar.

RM

Orang Asli Congress



Party Pakatan Rakyat organised an Orang Asli Congress at Tapah in late January which was attended by over 500 Orang Asli who came from as far as Pahang and Grik.

According to Bah Tony, a member of the organising committee, the purpose of the gathering was to share information on Orang Asli issues around the country.

Selangor State Exco for Tourism, Consumer Affairs and Environment, Elizabeth Wong, who is also the State's Taskforce Chairperson on Orang Asli affairs, said that Selangor's main focus was to gazette all Orang Asli ancestral land for future generations. However, this was a tedious task as the maps available were very inadequate and the task force has to undertake community mapping which was taking a great deal of time.

Other distinguished speakers who graced the event included Opposition Leader Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim and former Perak MB Dato' Seri Nizar Jamaluddin amongst others.

JAG

Ipoh Echo's Own Wedding Celebration



Ipoh Echo had its own Wedding celebration when its Reporter and Graphic Designer Rosli Mansor married Nurul Sarah recently. The *Bersanding* ceremony, held at Rosli's home in Malim Nawar was well attended by relatives and guests. On hand to entertain guests and enhance the festivities were a group of graceful dancers from Jabatan Kebudayaan Perak while members of Rosli's family crooned to the appreciative well-wishers.

Sport

Seladangs Top Table

The Perak team's winning ways is helping to consolidate its position at the top of the Super League table. The Seladangs secured two hard-fought victories over Felda United and Sarawak FA within the last two weeks. And with 15 points from a possible 18, the odds are on for Perak to shine impeccably this season.

After overcoming a tricky start to the season, Norizan Bakar's men took on Felda United last week. The Settlers are a team known to prefer an attacking approach; something which the Seladangs were prepared for.

Goals from Michal Kubala and Lazar Popovic were enough to secure a 2-1 victory over Felda United. It was yet another typical Kubala performance, as the Slovakian absolutely bossed the midfield at the Hang Jebat Stadium.

A week after that crucial victory, a tricky match against Sarawak beckoned. Robert Albert's men had the potential to set the league ablaze but luck was not on their side. Perak performed brilliantly that night. Michal Kubala opened the scoring before Fahrul Razi extended the lead. Sarawak managed to pull one back



through Vedran Muratovich's penalty. But that was not enough to nullify an on-song Perak side.

Norizan Bakar's men are guilty of missing many chances this season. Their domination in midfield has been paying dividends thus far but their inability to convert clear-cut chances may impact the team's standing in the near future.

Akhmal Rizal Rakhli has been showing great enthusiasm on the offensive but the same cannot be said of Serbian forward, Lazar Popovic. While country man, Kubala is already a hero among Perak fans, Popovic has yet to make an impression. Why is he holding up is anyone's guess. There is definitely

more to him than what meets the eye.

Tough clashes against T-Team and Lions XII are on the cards for the Seladangs. Maintaining their solidity in midfield is essential. The onus, however, is on the forwards. They have to be more clinical during forays into the opposite sides.

Whether or not the Seladangs are able to maintain their placing at the top of the table is yet to be seen. Speculations aside, the team will continue to impress fans

Keesh



Perak Muaythai Challenge

The first Perak Muaythai Challenge held at Jalan Watson, Ipoh recently and organised by *Perak Muaythai Amateur Association* (PMAP) saw a total of ten fighters in the ring. There were a total of five bouts; each bout consisting of five 3-minute rounds. The first three fights involved amateurs while the final two were pro-fights.

The first bout was between Mohd Radzi from Semut Merah Muaythai Sri Iskandar and Jamil Mat Desa from Kelab Tomoi Mahawangsa Bukit Gantang. It lasted two rounds as Mohd Solleh could not continue due to injury. Jamil was declared winner.

The crowd began to heat up in the second bout as Ezra Azerin from Muaythai Academy Ipoh, the venue sponsor, fought Mohd Farid from Kelab Tomoi Mahawangsa Bukit Gantang. Farid's superior skills and stamina won him the bout.

The third bout, which lasted five rounds, was a thriller. Hard-punching pocket dynamite, Syed Mohd



Idris from Kelab Tomoi Rockstone Batu Gajah sent his opponent out of the ring onto the cement floor below. Suffering no major injuries, Mohammad Azan Atan from Kelab Silat Seni Tomoi Petani Ijok, Selama, came from behind to win the bout on technicalities.

The first of the two pro-fights saw Mohammad Sayuti from Muaythai Academy, Ipoh defeating Mohamad Basir from Kelab Muaythai Langkasuka, Kedah with a technical knockout. The crowd was on their feet cheering on the winner.

The much-anticipated final bout was what the spectators were waiting for. It was between Azman (Man Burung) Rezali from Muaythai Academy Ipoh and Kelantanese Mohamad Faizol.

Man Burung, one of the winners of the World Muaythai Council Tournament 2010, who is attached to the 2nd Royal Ranger Regiment, Ipoh, lived up to his top billing when he was declared winner on points at the end of the final round. It was a proud moment for his Commanding Officer, Lt-Col Abu Hassan, who is an avid Muaythai fan.

Medals and certificates of participation were awarded to all fighters. Winners took home cash prizes. Azhari Mohammad, Director of Youth and Sports Department, Perak gave away the prizes.

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Football Seven-A-Side MB's Cup



The *Seven-A-Side MB's Cup Football Tournament*, organised for the first time by Perak MIC Youth and Perak BN Youth with the co-operation of Perak Football Association (PAFA) and Ipoh City Council (MBI), saw the participation of 32 teams from all over Malaysia. The one-day tournament was held at the Ipoh Padang recently.

Perak Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, accompanied by adviser on Indian affairs Dato' S. Veerasingam, was on hand to present medals and cash prizes to the winning teams.

Pemuda UMNO Baling from Kedah clinched fourth placing while the third spot was won by MRP Ipoh. The championship title went to Team Cha Cha from Ipoh who defeated Mesra FC 1-0 to take home the RM3,000 cash prize.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements must be sent by fax: **05-2552181**; or email: announcements@ipohecho.com.my, by the 9th or 23rd of every month in order to meet deadlines. Announcements by phone will not be entertained. Ipoh Echo reserves the right to verify any announcement before it is published.

Free Consultation For Colorectal & Ano-Rectal Problems by Pantai Hospital Ipoh (General Surgery & Colorectal Surgery Clinic) on **February 18 and March 24**, at 8.30 a.m.-1.00 p.m. For information, call **05-5405668**.

Zistya Dance Performance by Greentown Indian Cultural Society Ipoh, Saturday **February 18**, 7.30 p.m. at Auditorium Kebudayaan & Keseniaan Negeri Perak. Free entrance. Contact: Subain Singam – **012-5056049** or Kavitha – **012-5400415**.

Public Forums: 1. 'Understanding Cancer', Saturday February 18; and 2. 'Breast Cancer', Saturday March 24, 2.00-3.00 p.m. at Conference Room, 4th Floor Hospital Fatimah. For more information, call: **05-5455777** ext. **276**.

'My Vision of Malaysia' by Kassim Ahmad, Perak Lectures series by Perak Academy, Saturday, **February 25**, commencing 2.30 p.m. at Neptune Room, Ipoh Swimming Club, Ipoh. For details and reservations call: Wai Kheng at **05-5478949** or **016-5518172**. Email: contact@perakacademy.com.

Ipoh Fine Arts Society presents Surtaal, Sunday **February 26**, 7.00 p.m. at the Dewan Serbaguna, Bangunan Perak Darul Ridzuan, Jalan Panglima Bukit Gantang Wahab, Ipoh. In aid of the Perak Society for the Promotion of Mental Health. With Samuel J. Dass on the Sitar and Prakash Kandasamy on the Tabla. Admission by invitation. Contact: Mdm. Shanthi **016-5321087**, Mr. Thaneermalai **012-5555503** or Mdm. Vijaya **012-5712671**.

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iSpeak

A. Jeyaraj

Report Card for MBI Councillors



The swearing-in ceremony of the Ipoh City Council councillors was reported in the New Straits Times as “ENCORE: State councillors re-appointed in the hope that they would again deliver excellent results”.

Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon, state local government committee chairman, said that the state was satisfied with their work and so they were re-appointed. No survey was carried out among the residents on the performance of the councillors. What criteria did Dr Mah use to claim that all the councillors have done well?

I receive many calls from residents complaining about their problems mainly with clogged and broken drains, grass cutting and garbage. I always tell them to contact their councillor first. Many residents do not know who their councillor is. Those who know inform that it is difficult to contact the councillor and even if they do make contact, the person is too busy to attend to their problems. That is the reason they call me.

I live in Zone 8 which comprises Lim Garden, Merdeka Garden, Cherry Park and Tembok and am lucky to have Dato' Daniel Tay Kwan Hui as my councillor. He is a role model for councillors and others should emulate him. Upon being appointed as a councillor in 2009, he arranged for a meeting with the representatives of the residents at MBI during which staff of MBI were present. Daniel Tay introduced MBI staff and

told the representatives to contact them if they have any problems. He divided the zone into four sub-zones and visited residents of each zone. He and MBI staff personally saw the problem areas and corrective actions were taken. Daniel Tay can be easily contacted and is willing to help.

K. Nathan, a businessman who lives in First Garden said that the residents are disappointed with the services provided by their councillor. Nathan said that in mid September last year, major drainage work was carried out at Lebuhr Taman Pertama. The job was abandoned after two weeks due to technical problems. The roads were dug up and the contractor did not close the trenches he had dug. No work was done for two months and the place was flooded during rain. It was not safe to use the roads. The residents were frustrated and as a last resort Nathan contacted the Menteri Besar and requested him to help out. Finally the job was completed in about a week at the end of December. The residents feel that the councillor had failed in his duties for not taking action.

When contacted, Liew See Fan, councillor for First Garden said that he is familiar with the project which was to upgrade the drains to prevent flooding. He knew that the work was stopped due to technical problems faced with underground water pipes and electrical cables. However, he was not aware that the contractor did not cover up the trenches and fill up the pot holes which were his responsibility. He was in fact discussing with the engineering department at MBI about how to solve the problem as quickly as possible. He regrets that the residents were not informed of the problem. He added that residents can always contact him for assistance.

In Penang several civil societies organised a *Know Your Councillor* campaign, whose purpose was to enable Penangites to judge for themselves whether their councillors were up to the mark. The councillors were given a questionnaire which required them to list three of their major achievements for last year and to give three of their main goals for this year if they were re-appointed and reason for re-appointment.

When I googled “report card for local councillors”, I found that many local councils in other countries assess the performance of their councillors annually. Their grades are available online with their achievements and failures.

Councillors are seen by rate-payers as the first line of access to the local government. They are expected to serve the interests of the ratepayers. As such, there should be more checks and balances and they must decide without fear or favour in the decisions of the committees they sit on. They have to decide what is in the public interest amidst a range of conflicting issues and views. They must work to improve the quality of life for the people and meet regularly with residents' committee members.

It is time for NGOs in Ipoh to come together and carry out a similar survey. Let the residents judge the performance of the councillors.

Property

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While the first phase sported facades with warmer earth tones, the 17 units in the second phase leans more towards the modern look with classic greys and whites dominating the exterior.

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For details you can head down to the sales gallery at No. 61 Jalan Tun Dr Ismail, Ipoh. Tel: **05-545 2888**.



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Total units : 32 units

Exp. Completion Date : Dec 2013
Land Tenure : Freehold
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Price : Min RM 594,510
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Approving authority : Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh

BOOK REVIEW

Selvamany

More than a Teacher

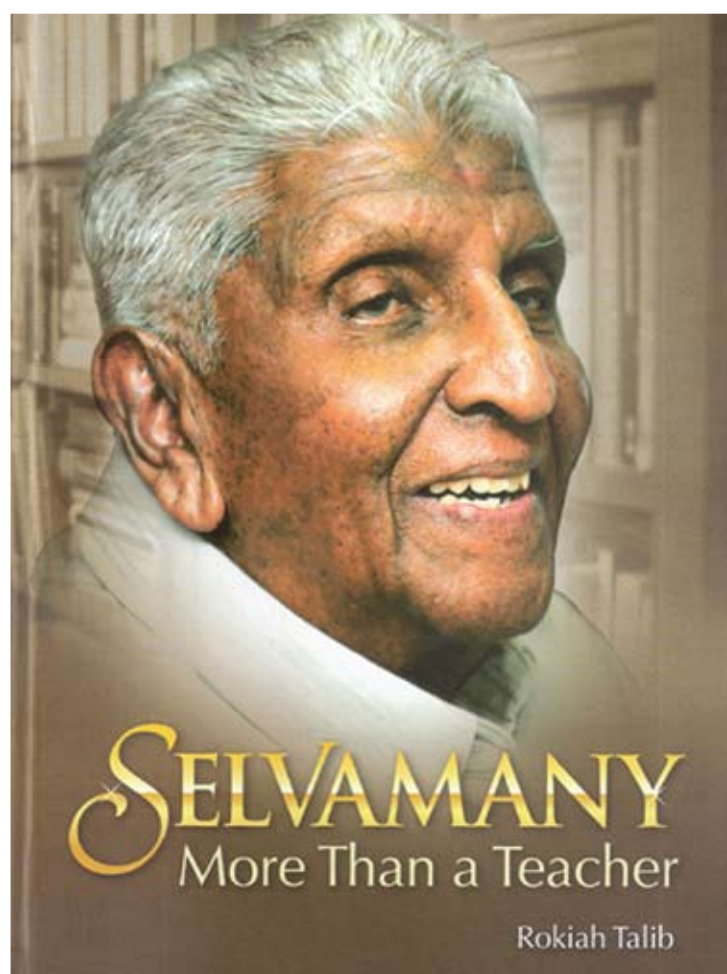
This is a biography of a teacher with a great heart. His mission in life was to teach as best as he could and to be always there for his students. As a teacher, he was able to inspire, discipline and motivate his students towards success. He cared for his students, their studies, their welfare, their health and their families. He also fortified them with universal good values.

Many students whom he taught in Anderson School Ipoh, as well as Sekolah Menengah Idris Shah and Sekolah Menengah Seri Teja, Gopeng, and others who had the chance of being associated with him, feel so grateful for having been given the opportunity of knowing him and learning from him.

This biography was produced with the intention of recording for posterity and sharing with others the goodness of humanity in Dato' Seri N.S. Selvamany.

The biography starts by tracing his "roots and routes" and describing how Selvamany's great grandparents left Pondicherry, India, to seek their fortune in Malaya in the late 19th Century. It then relates how and why Selvamany became a teacher after his tertiary education at Raffles College, Singapore. His teaching career started in Anderson School Ipoh from 1952 to 1972 and then on to Sekolah Menengah Idris Shah, as its Principal from 1972 to 1979 and as Principal of Sekolah Menengah Seri Teja, from January 1980 to January 1981 when he retired. The book documented how Selvamany was being bestowed with honorific awards such as the Tokoh Guru Negeri and Kebangsaan in 1996 and 1997 respectively and several state awards in 1995, 1997, 2008 and 2009. However, his "most treasured asset" and reward has always been his family, extended family, former students and friends whom he considers as his "sons and daughters".

Although Selvamany has long retired from active service, he continues helping the underprivileged, especially children; living up to his motto "Serve man, serve God". He keeps in touch with his former students, occupants at the various charitable societies



and homes as well as friends and acquaintances at all levels of society. His reminder would be, "This is my life" and that is the way he likes to live it.

The lead writer, Dr Rokiah Talib, was from the Form 6 class of 1962/63, ASI and a former Professor of Anthropology and Sociology, University of Malaya. The biography project was undertaken by an Organising Committee under the chairmanship of Tan Sri Nuraizah Hamid. The biography was launched by DYMM Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah on January 15, 2012 at the Royal Chulan Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

Almost every feature of the launch programme was provided by former students of Selvamany – the funds needed, the reception and editorial team, the "Andersonians Forever" choir and the accompanying music, the emcee and even the Ustad who recited the *doa selamat*. It was the former students' way of saying "To Sir, with Love".

The biography is not for sale. However, it is available privately at a nominal donation of RM50 per copy. This donation will help to defray printing costs and postage. The Organising Committee certainly appreciates

any extra contributions that readers wish to make. When all copies of the biography are finally distributed, any surplus funds will be channelled to charitable organisations dear to Selvamany's heart. Those interested in securing a copy, please contact Yeong Sek Yee at **012-2019739** or email him at ysyoricom@yahoo.com.

Ed

For more information on the biography launch, visit www.andersonians-arts.blogspot.com.