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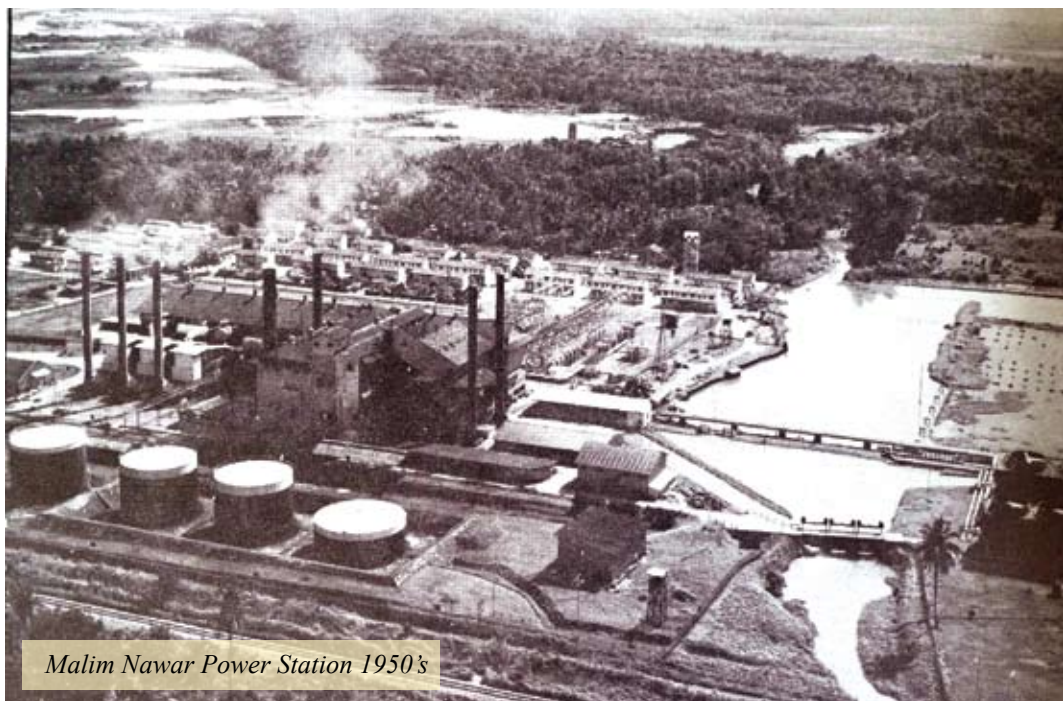
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## Recognising Perak Hydro's Contribution to Perak

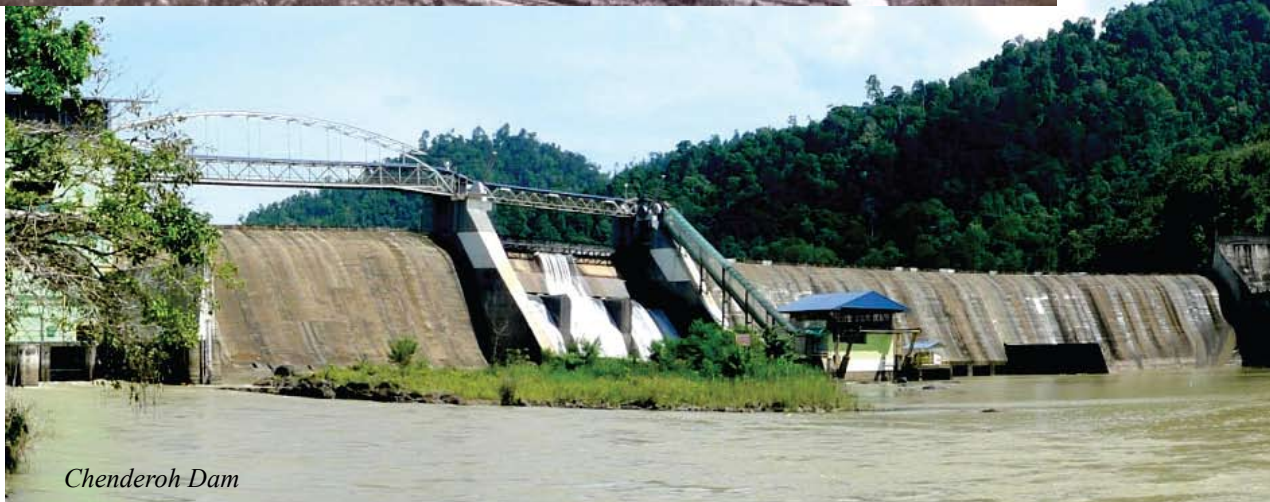
By James Gough



Malim Nawar Power Station 1950's



Malim Nawar Power Staion 2013 – adaptive reuse as a training  
and maintenance facility



Chenderoh Dam

*Badan Warisan Malaysia or the Malaysian Heritage Body, an NGO that promotes the preservation and conservation of Malaysia's built heritage, paid a visit recently to the former Malim Nawar Power Station (MNPS). According to Puan Sri Datin Elizabeth Moggie, Council Member of Badan Warisan Malaysia, the NGO had forwarded their interest to TNB to visit MNPS to view TNB's effort to conserve their older but significant stations for its heritage value.*

*Continued on page 2*



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**“Any building or facility that had made a significant contribution to the development of the country should be preserved.”**  
**– Badan Warisan Malaysia**

Moggie added that *Badan Warisan* was impressed that TNB had kept the buildings as is and practised adaptive reuse of the facility with the locating of ILSAS and REMACO, their training and maintenance facilities, at the former power station.

Moggie added that any building or facility that had made a significant contribution to the development of the country should be preserved for future generations to appreciate and that power generation did play a significant part in making the country what it is today.

The *Malim Nawar Power Station* began operations in 1928. It was owned and built by the *Perak River and Hydro-electric Power Company* and had an initial generating capacity of 18,000kW and supplied power to the surrounding tin mines, industry and people living within its concession area.

The facility at MNPS consisted of the Power Station and supporting workshops. It also had living quarters for all levels of its workers complete with a football field and convenience store. It is what we would now refer to as a gated community.

The station was the premium thermal power station till the 1960s when its supply was connected to the National Electricity Board's (NEB, now called *Tenaga Nasional Berhad* or TNB) power grid after which it was gradually phased out and MNPS was closed in 1986.

#### Power for the People

The first location in the *Federated Malay States* (FMS) to receive electric supply was Kuala Lumpur. The next location was Ipoh because of its rich tin industry. While not even half the size of Kuala Lumpur, it nevertheless received large allocations of funds to improve its power supply. Although the demand for electric power was initially required for domestic lighting, it was the tin mines with its voracious appetite for power that spearheaded the push to set up a stable supply of power for its mining activities.

The initial power supply in Ipoh was supplied by *Pengkalan Mines Ltd*, a company operated by mining company *Osborne and Chapel*, which was generating power for its bucket dredges out of Lahat. Its excess supply was channeled to Ipoh by line, on dark *chengal* poles to Lahat Lane with sub stations at Hugh Low Street (Jalan Sultan Iskandar) and Cowan Street (Jalan Raja Ekram).

However, the goal of the then Government of the FMS was a long-term solution. Funding was an issue but the firm of *Messrs Armstrong, Whitworth and Co* had managed to arrange for that.

A preliminary agreement between *Armstrong, Whitworth and Co* and the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Iskandar Shah, on December 12, 1925 subsequently saw the setting up of *Perak River Hydro-Electric Power Company* (PRHEP), which was floated on the London market in July 1926. PRHEP was leased for 80 years whereby the FMS government would not have the option to take it over until the first fifty years had expired, that is, after 1975.



Haji Tahir Don 77 with his notebook

Chenderoh Dam hydro power station had a 27,000kW hydro generating capacity and was linked to a steam-powered plant at Malim Nawar, 40km south, by a 66kVa transmission line. The purpose for Malim Nawar was three fold. Initially it would serve the consumers in Kinta while Chenderoh was being constructed. Subsequently it would act as a standby in case of breakdowns along the transmission lines and used as an auxiliary in times of drought at Chenderoh.

Work on *Malim Nawar Steam Power Station* (MNPS) began in 1927 and was commissioned a year later. MNPS carried power supply to 12 transformer sub-stations located throughout the Kinta Valley and provided mining consumers an uninterrupted power supply of variable capacities based on individual requirements throughout the year. Besides being a power station, Malim Nawar Station also had the capacity and capability to take on major repair jobs of the company's electrical equipments.

In order to manage the distribution of power to domestic consumers and villages in the concession area, PRHEP created a subsidiary, *Kinta Electric Distribution* chaired by Colonel Cecil Rae and included a board consisting of Raja Chulan and Leong Sin Nam.

The office of PRHEP Company was located at Station Road, (Jalan Dato Maharajalela) currently a TNB branch office. In 1932, PRHEP purchased the *Batu Gajah Power Station* (BGPS) which was started earlier by the *Malayan Tin Dredge Company* for its own dredging operations. By 1935 after a financial restructuring, the company was free from debt and despite a downturn in the tin industry in 1937/38, paid out a healthy dividend of 7 cents in 1939. Indeed before WW2, PRHEP Company had the reputation of being “the largest hydro-electric project undertaken in the British Empire as well as being the single largest power producer in Southeast Asia”.

On a national level it contributed 55% of the total power produced in the Federation of Malaya. At state level its power supply grew from an initial coverage of 35 towns to over 60 towns and villages by the mid '50s.

#### PRHEP Powered the Tin Mines

The main methods of mining for tin in the Kinta Valley was open-cast mining and dredging, both of which used electricity for their operations. It was noted that in 1952 there were 39 dredges in operation in the Valley mainly in the Kampar to Tanjung Tualang areas with hundreds more Chinese operated mines dotted throughout the Valley. The role of Perak Hydro was to provide uninterrupted and economical power supply

to the mining companies. Its standard guideline was that a breakdown should not take longer than two hours to resume operations otherwise flooding would occur at the mine.

To ensure prompt service, Perak Hydro provided living quarters for its workers with ranks from engineer to technician. Their locations were at the power stations at Chenderoh, Malim Nawar and Batu Gajah and two district stations at Silibin, Ipoh and Kampar.

A visit to the stations at Chenderoh, Malim Nawar and Kampar revealed a pleasant gated community of houses clustered around a playing field. Retired employee S. Murugiah, who was a General Manager at Chenderoh Dam, said he grew up at the Batu Gajah Power Station as his father worked there. “Life there was very nice. I used to take food to my father at meal times. It was like one big family,” he said.

Former PRHEP employee, a District Inspector based at Kampar, Lee Yit Meng, 81, said that “besides selling power to the miners, PRHEP also rented them the motors for their operations”.

Another former employee, engineer Adrian Boudville, 75, had earlier taken me on a tour of the *Malim Nawar Power Station* where he was based in the '50s. “MNPS” he explained, “was a steam-powered station which used fuel oil delivered by train from Teluk Intan every morning to generate the steam. Water was derived from a huge adjacent lake supplied with water from Sungai Dipang. The plant also had introduced draft induced

cooling towers for cooling water from 100 degrees Fahrenheit.” “All in all the living and working environment at MNPS was similar to that of a self-contained township,” said Boudville.

A subsequent trip with Boudville to visit Chenderoh Dam revealed a similar living and working environment. Chenderoh Dam is still functioning. It has been upgraded and continues to supply power to the national power grid.

PRHEP was taken over by the National

Electricity Board in 1982 per the lease agreement. The Batu Gajah station was closed earlier in 1976. MNPS was officially retired in January 1986. The huge lake was covered and the cooling towers and generators removed and the facility adapted and reused to become TNB's training and maintenance facility, ILSAS, Logistics and REMACO.

During the visit by *Badan Warisan*, TNB had also invited former PRHEP employees such as Lee and Boudville. Another employee En Haji Tahir Don, 77, (control room-in-charge) had brought along his work notebook from his time with notes and diagrams hand drawn by himself and with pages all intact.

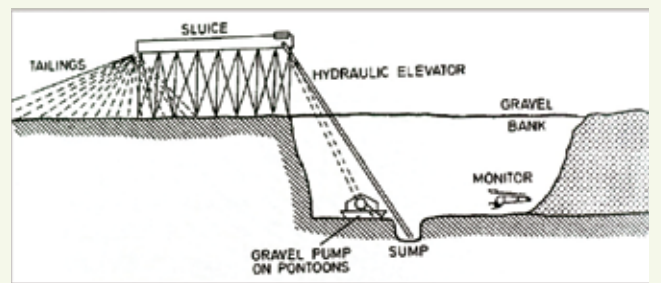
For Tahir, as with Lee and Boudville and several others interviewed, working in PRHEP was enjoyable and they took pride in their work there.

Considering the enormous contribution that power generation played in developing the tin industry and its contribution to the GDP of the country, *Malim Nawar Power Station* should be preserved and packaged as a Tin Heritage tourism product together with Chenderoh Dam and the last dredge TT5 at Tanjung Tualang.

After all, these few icons are all that is left to show the future generations that Ipoh and the Kinta Valley were once the *The Richest Tin Mine in The World*.



Dredges and open-cast mines used electricity for their operations



District inspector Lee with technician Board Singh



Moggie with engineer Boudville



IPOH **echo**

From the Editor's Desk

• by Fathol Zaman Bukhari

# Listen, Listen and Listen

*The conundrum will only be answered if they listen, and listen attentively to the wishes of the rakyat. Doing a 'Zohra Jabeen' is definitely not the way forward.*

I have never expected that the beginning of the New Year would be so tumultuous. Topping the list is of course the incident involving one overbearing lady berating a female undergrad at a university forum. The footage of the video, recorded on December 8, 2012, went viral and scored several thousands hits on YouTube and on online news portals. It embarrassed the Establishment so much that it prompted a deputy minister and the UMNO Youth chief to engage in damage control to prevent it from affecting the ruling coalition's chances in the coming 13th General Election.

What is most infuriating, however, is the audacity of Sharifah Zohra Jabeen, the speaker at the Universiti Utara Malaysia forum, in chiding the poor student for speaking her mind. Zohra's now famous mono syllable, "listen" which she repeated 11 times when confronting Bawani, the student on the lecture hall floor, has gained such notoriety that it has become the opening remarks of many speeches made in reference to the ruling coalition.

Zohra's mannerism typifies the top-down mentality associated with those in the corridors of power. The contemptuous "you-listen-when-I-talk" attitude does not go down well with the *rakyat* today. The days of "the government knows better" paradigm are long gone. Perhaps, a more realistic and holistic approach in engaging the *rakyat* needs to be adopted. But this is easier said than done.

What is most disgusting about the whole episode is how unfazed this cocky little lady has been. After coming out of hiding, she issued a statement forgiving Bawani for her outburst and not one of remorse for her own actions. The extent of Zohra's cockiness is simply mind-boggling. This could be the result of indoctrination conducted on a grand scale to re-orientate the minds of the youths, especially the Malays. One gets such subtle messages from the mainstream media, both the print and electronic forms.

The antics of *Biro Tata Negara* (National Civics Bureau or BTN) are well known. Established in 1974 as the Youth Research Unit (*Unit Penyelidikan Belia*) under the Youth and Culture Ministry, it was renamed and transferred to the Prime Minister's Department in 1981. The bureau's stated objective then was "to nurture the spirit of patriotism and commitment to excellence among Malaysians and to train leaders and future leaders to support the nation's development efforts".

However, no sooner had it been transferred to the PM's Department, the programmes were revamped and syllabus revised. They became controversial and were deemed to explicitly promote *Ketuanan Melayu* (Malay Supremacy) and the legitimacy of the ruling coalition. In late 2009, opposition-held Selangor and Penang state governments issued a ban prohibiting state civil servants, employees of state subsidiaries and students at state-owned institutions from attending BTN courses.

That put paid to some of the lofty aims of the agency long regarded an appendage of the Establishment and often referred to as a propaganda machine akin to Joseph Goebbels's infamous *Reichskammer* (Reich Chamber). Nazi Germany's Propaganda Minister, Dr Joseph Goebbels had successfully divided the press, radio, film, music and literature into divisions or chambers with influential figures heading them. The objective of these

chambers was the purge of Jews, socialists and liberals, as well as practitioners of "degenerate" art forms such as abstract art and atonal music.

One other disturbing development, which is, irrefutably, the work of a cunning mind, is the on-going Royal Commission of Inquiry on the granting of citizenship to illegal immigrants in Sabah. Former Prime Minister Tun Mahathir's reasons for his "wisdom" seem so flimsy and devoid of substance. His allusion to first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman's granting of citizenship to over a million Chinese, Indians and others prior to Independence Day on August 31, 1957 is in poor taste. This is definitely a cheap way to deflect criticisms directed at him.

On the subject of immigrants, both legal and illegal, one should take a ride into downtown Ipoh on weekends or on public holidays. You will be overwhelmed by their number. The city's main thoroughfare, Jalan Sultan Idris, is literally swarmed by them. If the National Registration Department's P6 programme to legalise these foreigners, conducted nationwide in 2011, is to be taken seriously, I am worried for the future of our children, and their children after them.

The result of the January 26 by-election in Singapore is a good indicator of what awaits those who have a stranglehold on power. Workers' Party candidate Lee Li Lian, 34, a middle-class corporate trainer, beat People's Action Party candidate Koh Poh Koon, 40, a prominent surgeon who was backed by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, in the ruling party's stronghold of Punggol East. High on the voters' list of discontent is the influx of immigrants which has resulted in job losses, rise in housing prices, social problems and straining public services. The scenario is no different here.

In view of the foregoing, I feel it is only appropriate that those in positions of power take heed of developments around them. The conundrum will only be answered if they listen, and listen attentively to the wishes of the *rakyat*. Doing a 'Zohra Jabeen' is definitely not the way forward.



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## EYE HEALTH— MEDICATION AFFECTING THE EYES

***Ipoh Echo's EYE HEALTH series continues with Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr S.S. GILL talking to us about MEDICATION THAT CAN AFFECT THE EYES.***



Dr. S.S. Gill  
Resident Consultant  
Ophthalmologist,  
Hospital Fatimah

Our eyes are sensitive to things around us including the foods and medication we are taking. Not all blurring vision is caused by an illness or disease. It can also be caused by certain medication that you may be taking.

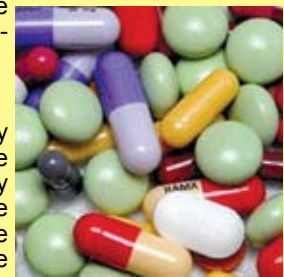
Taking medication for a particular illness or ailment may be a must at some point of our lives. The organs and systems in our bodies are closely linked-up in an extensive network and so it is common that some medication may affect our eyes. Different medication can result in different side effects including visual side effects, some more serious than others. It all depends on the **type of medication** and the **duration of use**.

The list of medication that may cause blurring vision and eye side effects are many. Your physician will be in the best position to know whether you need to take the medication or not. He will be able to put you on alternative medication should you suffer a side effect. Most medications cause only temporary visual disturbances and usually disappear over time once the medication is stopped. Always discuss your medication with your physician and inform him if you have any unusual eye symptoms.

Should your physician need to prescribe a medication associated with potentially serious eye effects, you will often be referred to the eye doctor for your eyes to be closely monitored. This is because some long-term medication may result in serious vision disorders. The range of medication that may cause side effects may be anything from simple OTC (over-the-counter) medication to prescription drugs.

### Over-the-Counter Medication

Medication commonly obtained from the local pharmacy like antihistamines, which are used to treat a runny nose (rhinorrhea) and allergies may cause light sensitivity and dry eyes. If you are on antihistamines, keep these side effects in mind. In most cases, the side effects are temporary and can be resolved by reducing the dosage amount or discontinuing use of the medication altogether.



### Prescription Medication

There is a fairly long list of medications that may cause side effects. Some of the most common drugs associated with vision problems include medication like anti arrhythmia heart medication such as amiodarone (Cordarone) and digoxin (Lanoxin); antimalarial drugs such as chloroquine (Aralen) and hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil); corticosteroid medication, erectile dysfunction drugs like sildenafil (Viagra), tadalafil (Cialis), vardenafil (Levitra), phenothiazines like chlorpromazine and thioridazine, breast cancer medication like tamoxifen, prostate medication tamsulosin (Flomax). Every medication may have side effects but the decision on whether you need it is **BEST DECIDED** by your physician after weighing the benefits against the side effects. Also, **NOT** every person will develop side-effects!

It is very important to keep your doctor informed about any OTC medication that you may be taking including any vitamins and herbal products. If your regular physician has put you on a prescription drug, always take note of the medication on paper. Should you need to see another doctor for another ailment, you must inform him too of these regular medications you are on. This will avoid unnecessary avoidable problems from drug interactions.

Dr Gill will speak more on this in the next issue of Ipoh Echo.

For more information, call Gill Eye Specialist Centre at Hospital Fatimah (05-545 5582) or email: [gilleyecentre@dr.com](mailto:gilleyecentre@dr.com).



## PUBLISHER

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A-G-1, No. 1 Persiaran  
Greentown 2, Greentown  
Business Centre, 30450  
Ipoh Perak Darul Ridzuan.  
Tel: (605) 249 5936  
Fax: (605) 255 2181  
Email: [editorial@ipohecho.com.my](mailto:editorial@ipohecho.com.my)

## EDITORIAL

Fathol Zaman Bukhari  
G. Sivapragasam

## REPORTER

James Gough

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

Rosli Mansor Ahd Razali

## MARKETING &amp; DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Ramesh Kumar

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# Believe in Yourself

The altercation between self-styled motivational expert Sharifah Zohra Jabeen Syed Shah Miskin and law student Ms K.S. Bawani in a local university, the University Utara Malaysia (UUM) has provided an interesting glimpse into Malaysian student life.

This was supposed to be a discourse between the panel of five experts and some 2300 students, but nothing constructive was gained when the moderator, Sharifah Zohra acted in a confrontational and aggressive manner simply because she felt offended by Bawani's remarks.

The students listened to the panel from mid-morning until 2pm, then just two questions were asked. Two questions from a gathering of over two thousand students does not represent a high level of participation or interest. Perhaps, the topics were boring and failed to inspire questions. Perhaps, students had lost concentration and switched off.

If the tirade which Bawani was subjected to is normal practice for motivational speakers or lecturers, perhaps the parents of the students at the university should question this hostile approach.

We could learn from this talk and rebrand it as "How to de-motivate students and destroy their confidence." Is it right for a moderator of a forum to grab the microphone from a student posing a question and tell her to "Shut-up!"? Is respect and common decency not to be accorded to students?

According to a relative studying at UUM, students who disagree with the manner in which Bawani was treated are afraid of speaking-out, lest they get into trouble with the authorities. Is our youth conditioned by a culture of fear? Are they prevented from exploring their minds? Are our students denied the opportunity to respond to challenging situations? Our youth should be allowed to ask searching and probing questions and find answers and explanations which are sound.

In a video of the episode, which has been released on the internet, Zohra was seen grabbing the microphone from Bawani before silencing her with a string of invective which lasted several minutes. The tirade was personal, insulting and off-topic.

Students may have felt intimidated by the personal nature of the abuse. Perhaps the other panelists were shocked into silence, because



they did nothing to save Zohra from making a fool of herself.

They may have wanted others to see this nasty side of Zohra's character. The final result was that it was Bawani who can hold her head up high with her dignity intact, whilst Zohra's reputation has been torn to shreds. Zohra's latest video-log shows that she is not contrite but despite her coquettish smile, seems to be secretly rather pleased that she is now "a celebrity".

Bawani has beseeched the public to refrain from turning the incident into a racial issue. Several days later, Zohra released a statement and video alleging that the video of her berating Bawani had been spun to benefit members of the Opposition.

With such an accusation, is it any wonder that Zohra has incurred the wrath of the public? She displayed no remorse nor was she prepared to accept that she had acted with impropriety, and crossed the normal bounds of decency.

Different people are motivated in different ways, but comparing their needs to those of animals, or by ridiculing them in public, is demotivating. A manager, teacher or parent who employs such tactics will fail to inspire his charges, who will end up with low self-esteem.

The failure of Zohra to engage positively with the students in the hall, shows her incompetence and lack of training. She should have taken a back seat and encouraged others to take the lead. Her failure to consider other people's opinions is a sign of her selfishness.

The question Bawani posed was about the provision of free education to Malaysian students. She was not after free education for herself but wanted it for all Malaysian students. She knew that nations which are less well developed than Malaysia, were able to provide free education for their youth.

If Zohra was unable to answer this question, she should have said so and invited views from the floor, or the panel. If Zohra was not committed to giving fair treatment and understanding to students, how did she expect to gain the students' trust? The command-and-control style she exhibited is highly damaging and does not inspire participation.

Cultural differences are important in most types of engagement but Zohra's failure to show respect to students by belittling their beliefs, their opinions, their education and background means that her dictatorial style is demotivating and damaging to morale.

Her behaviour discouraged bonding and increased resentment among the students. This cannot be good for the future leaders of the country, some of whom could have been amongst the audience.



## THINKING ALLOWED

• by Mariam Mokhtar

## News Roundup

# Opportunities in the Automotive Industry

Yayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan (YBU) plans on optimising opportunities in the automotive industry for the benefit of youths in Perak. In realising this noble aim, the foundation, along with Barisan Nasional Youth (Perak), has engaged the services of DRB-HICOM (Diversified Resources Berhad-Heavy Industries Corporation of Malaysia Berhad), the nation's largest automotive conglomerate, to initiate a viable training scheme.

The programme named, Skim Latihan Automatif Amanjaya, is a bold attempt at churning out trained personnel for the automotive industry. "It's in line with the state government's aspiration to make Perak an automotive hub with the establishment of Proton City in Behrang," said Dato' Ahmad Shaffie, the Menteri Besar's political secretary. He told this to the media after presenting certificates to 11 workshop operators and 30 students who had successfully completed a training course under the scheme at the foundation's hall recently.

Perak BN Youth Chief and Deputy Chairman of YBU, Khairul Azwan Harun, in echoing Dato' Ahmad's sentiments, reaffirmed the movement's commitment in making the scheme a success. "We'll get at least 40 youths to attend each training session. It's not something impossible considering our networking and influence," said Khairul to Ipoh Echo.

The 6-month course is fully sponsored by workshops under the ambit of YBU. The training syllabus covers an extensive array of motoring subjects and upon completion, the students will be equipped with enough knowledge to start his own business or to improve his skills in motor repairs. "It's geared to make him a complete mechanic and an entrepreneur," remarked Khairul.

Amirul Azmil Yaacop, 22, from Griik was grateful for the opportunity given to him by YBU. "I've gained considerably from the course. It'll come in handy when I start my own workshop in a while," he enthused.

Isma Aliff Ismail, 26, owner of Aliff Auto in Tasek, shared similar sentiments. "It's a noble way to alleviate the problem of unemployment among youths in Perak. I am most fortunate to be a party to the scheme."





## MUSINGS ON FOOD



By See Foon Chan-Koppen

Photos by Ginla Foo

[seefoon@ipohecho.com.my](mailto:seefoon@ipohecho.com.my)

It's that time of the year again as the Lunar New Year approaches, when friends and family gather for year-end dinners, whether to say thank you to one another or just for the camaraderie. And what better way to do that than to share a heaping bowl of 'Poon Choy'; as we delve deeper into the tureen in our hunt for culinary treasures, moving from layer to layer, exclaiming with delight when we hit on a particularly delectable morsel, the chatter is lively and the ambiance, convivial and warm.

We did this recently at **Kok Thai**, the one at Medan Tasek Perdana, not to be confused with the one behind Kinta City. 'Poon Choy' is often translated as "Big Bowl Feast," but the actual translation of the term is "vegetable basin," with "choi" referring to vegetables (IE 134).

Usually comprised of 18 ingredients (the number 18 being an auspicious one), this **Poon Choy** was chock full of goodies like duck's webs, fresh and dry scallops, *Fa Gao* or fish bladder, deer tendon, abalone, roasted duck, chicken, pork belly, prawns and host of other ingredients, delivered simmering hot at the table and kept warm on a portable stove. In fact, a meal in itself.

Host for the evening, the ever generous and affable Edward Foo, had ordered eight portions at RM45 per portion and for our table of 12, was more than ample. (Minimum order for five persons: RM225) Thinking that dessert was next, we sat back for a break when to our surprise, more dishes were to come.

Earlier, we had each a small tureen of their **double boiled soup** with chicken, fish maw and mushrooms, clear, fragrant and 'umami' at RM25 each. When the **Poon Choy** was followed by the fish, we were all in a state of surfeit and really didn't do much justice to this particular delicacy, a **Sultan fish** or 'Jelawat' cooked 'Yau Tsum' style which is deep fried and topped with light soya sauce. What lent a piquant note to the serving of the dish was the bowl of **Limau Kasturi juice** which when added to the fish gave it a freshness and lift to the mouthfeel – RM80 per kilo.

**Tsing Loong Choi** added the 'green' touch to the meal which ended with a mango and pomelo dessert, light, refreshing and a fitting finale to a 'grand dinner'.

Not content to settle for what I had tasted, I subsequently arranged for another dinner with the same group of friends in order to sample more of Kok Thai's signature dishes. Again I was not disappointed.

I had asked for some of their more 'ordinary' dishes. The first to arrive was the **Cucumber Rolls**, paper thin cucumber stuffed with chicken and fresh mango with mayonnaise, crunchy and refreshing – RM2.50 each piece. Next were the **Peony Prawns**, medium-sized prawns wrapped in a noodle cocoon and deep fried to a crunchy texture – RM3.50 each.

The special for the evening then arrived, an impressive almost foot-long **sea cucumber** stuffed with dried and fresh scallop, Gingko nuts, meatballs, mushroom, water chestnuts and bamboo shoots, braised to perfection; the sea cucumber, thick, yielding but still resistant to the bite, and the blend of stuffing ingredients melding together for taste and texture nuances – RM300, enough for 10-12 people.

One delight for me this second evening was the **Hau So Fong** served in the style of what I call the deluxe Chinese burger. Beginning with a crispy pancake stuffed with dried prawns and minced pork, cut into squares (which you can eat on its own) dipped into a thick sweet sauce equivalent if not the same as that served with either suckling pig or Peking Duck, and together with slices of smoked duck breast, finely slivered scallions and cucumber, and stuffed into a large **Man Tou** or steamed bun, the resultant 'burger' is simply irresistible. Here is the perfect example

# SeeFoon goes 'treasure hunting' in Tasek



of Chinese culinary wizardry – a skillful combination of textures running the gamut from crisp (the pancake, the dried prawns) and crunchy (scallions, cucumber) to melt-in-mouth softness of the bun, and nuances of the smokiness of the duck, the saltiness of the pancake and the freshness of the garnishes, all serve to make it the 'best Chinese burger' in my taste book. RM40 for an order of 10.

To top this off, we finished the meal with a **fried rice vermicelli** dish,



fried crispy and topped with a black sauce with the usual garnishes – RM12-S/18-M/24-L.



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## RECIPE



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### FRIED SHARKSFINS WITH CRABMEAT

by Pauline Chang

#### Ingredients:

- Angel Light Soy Sauce 2 tablespoons
- Wet Prepared Sharkfins 150g (from Supermarket)
- Frozen Crabmeat 150g
- Eggs (Large) 5 pcs (beaten)
- Garlic 4 pips, minced
- Shallots 5, sliced
- Cooking Oil for frying 3 tablespoons

Ingredients stated below to cut into 2 inch lengths, sliced thinly into strips.

- Carrot 1 pc
- Tinned Bamboo Shoots 5 pcs
- Spring Onions 2 stalks
- Chinese Celery some

#### Method:

1. Heat 3 tablespoons cooking oil in a wok to fry minced garlic and sliced onions till fragrant.
2. Add in sliced ingredients into beaten eggs. Add in some salt and pepper.
3. Pour eggs into hot oil to fry eggs till cooked and fluffy.
4. Serve with iceberg lettuce and Angel Garlic Chili Sauce.



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## News Roundup

### Ipohites' Ray of Hope



The YMCA Ipoh held a fundraising dinner for *Ray of Hope* at the New She Lai Ton Restaurant recently. The turn-up was good as all 80 tables were taken. In attendance were Rt. Rev. Datuk Ng Moon Hing, the Bishop of the Diocese of West Malaysia, Dato' Daniel Tay, President of YMCA and other dignitaries with Dato' Ngeh Koo Han as the Guest of Honour. After the usual speeches, diners were entertained by the Evergreen Band and students of Ray of Hope with music and songs from the '60s.

Fund raising, as always, is about ringgit and sens and this event was no different. A total of over RM8000 was collected on the spot through table collections. On top of that, a sum of over RM153,000 from donations had been received surpassing the RM134,770 presented to the Chairman of Ray of Hope, in the form of a mock cheque, earlier in the night. This shows that Ipoh, well known for its rich towkays in its heyday, has not lost its lustre completely.

Ipohites, in general, may not have pockets full of tin but they sure do possess hearts full of gold. A ray of hope is finally shining down on this organisation as its Chairman, Datin Mary Yeoh, had hinted that their coffers are depleting due to dwindling public donations. The function is indeed a timely and God-sent blessing to them for their tireless efforts in caring for people with learning disabilities.

SH Ong

### Malaysian Book of Records broken at Sunway's Lost World of Tambun

Malaysia's Largest Gangnam Flash Mob took place at the Lost World of Tambun recently and broke the Malaysian Book of records, with an attendance of 2303 participants. This was more than double the previous record set at 1100.

On January 26, Lost World of Tambun was swarming with people. Astro, Hitz FM, My FM and ERA Cruisers were seen at the entrance. People from all ages lined up at booths to register for the Flash Mob as early as 8am, attempting to make it to the Malaysian Book of Records as the largest flash mob in our nation's history.

This flash mob was organised by Astro's customer loyalty programme, Astro Circle and Sunway's Lost World of Tambun. Also present were radio cruisers Hitz FM, My FM and ERA FM along with Astro radio announcers, Suresh from Raaga FM and Aryton from Mix FM. Astro artistes included Gheeta, Shiva, Dharshaini, Shantesh, Ratna Gowri, Iris and two of the top three finalists of 2012 Battleground (School Brotherz and Sweatz) also joined to show their support to their fans who were taking part in the flash mob dance.

Social media was abuzz with the planned event and tutorials of the mob dance were loaded in advance onto YouTube for everyone to practise for about a month. Attendees were required to pay a standard entrance fee for access into Lost World of Tambun while Astro Circle members were given a 30% discount. Everyone got to enjoy the seven attractions at Lost World of Tambun after the event.

At about 9.30am, dancers were seen entering the park. Since attendees did not get a chance to practise and rehearse together beforehand, professional dancers went on stage and rehearsed with everyone before the real flash mob began.

As I walked around the area, there were a few groups of people who were wearing the same attire. As I approached them and interviewed them, I found out that they were from Penang and were asked to join this event.

Parazee, the group from Georgetown, and was a YouTube hit for the parody of Gangnam Style, had some short performances before the flash mob. There was also a group of Jazz Aerobics and Line Dancers from CBE and JNS Penang, who had taken

a bus down all the way to Ipoh at 5am in the morning just to be part of it. Being more mature than the rest of the mob, they were nevertheless very sporting, had young spirits and were all dressed in Superman T-shirts. There was also a group that had a mixture of both kids and adults. The youngest girl was 5 years old together with her mother who was the leader of the dance group, 2 Five Step Dance Academy, Bukit Mertajam. They too also came early by bus just to be part of this.

The flash mob started at about 12.30pm after some game quizzes and performances. Astro Battleground finalists led the crowd by taking over the stage. They started with "Chicken Dance", followed by "Party Rock Anthem" and lastly, the famous "Gangnam Style". Everyone joined in and had a lot of fun.

CBE and JNS Penang said that although it was a very hot day dancing right under the afternoon sun, they had fun and it was a good experience. Astro Battleground finalists Ronald and Dylan from School Brotherz, not being informed about the flash mob in advance, commented that it was very cool and glad they had the chance to be a part of the event that would be included into the Malaysian Book of Records. They were only expecting a normal performance for the public. Finalists Vivien, Angel and Wendy from Sweatz added that they were happy to see such a big crowd dancing together with total strangers, young and old spontaneously. They were happy to see the commitment of the attendees and it was a very big eye opener for them. The sight of parents dancing with their children is not something one would see every day. Although the dance steps were very simple, everyone blended in well and most importantly, they looked happy.

The event went successfully and ended at about 1pm. As the flash mob ended, some stayed back to enjoy the park while others headed home. Many interviewed, expressed the hope to see more of these events coming up in Ipoh in the future.

Susan Ho



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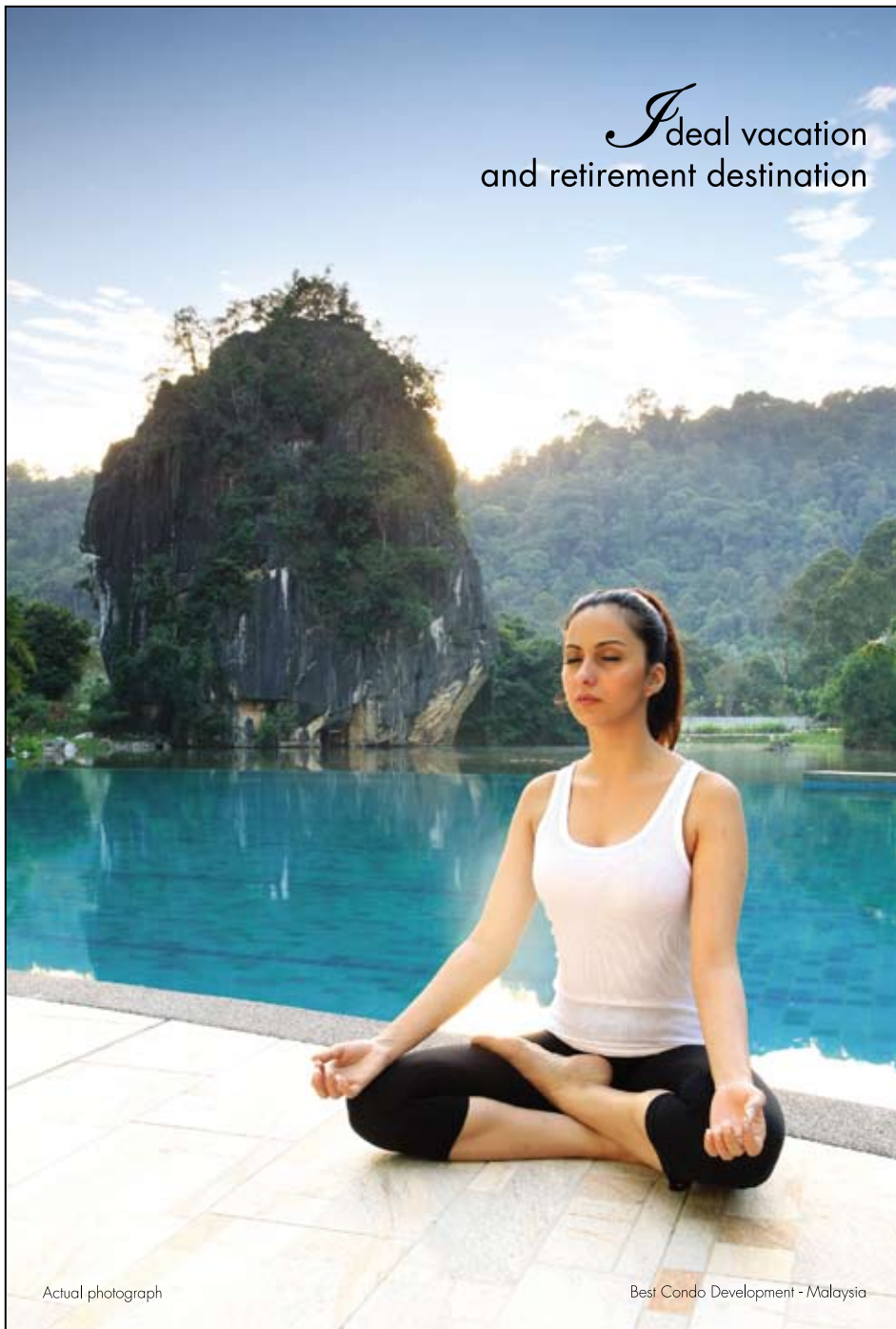
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## News Roundup

# Branch Drawing In The Crowd

**Y**ayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan's (YBU) newly-opened branch at the Ipoh Urban Transformation Centre is a big hit with clients. Hardly a month after it's opening, over a hundred Perakeans, of varying social backgrounds, have patronised the centre. And the number is growing by the day.

"Visitors have expressed satisfaction with the services available at the centre. They're pleased with the reception and treatment by the foundation staff manning the centre," said Assistant Manager, Mohd Jeffery Amin Hamid to Ipoh Echo.

The branch is open seven days a week (except public holidays) between 8am to 10pm. "The discretion to keep operating hours well after the designated times and days, however, rest with the management," added Mohd Jeffery. The reason is obviously to be of service to the poor and the marginalised. The foundation's altruism is, therefore, not lost in transition.

To publicise the branch's services, flyers and notices are distributed to all agencies operating within the centre. "It's aimed at promoting ourselves to the general public and that of the foundation," said Mohd Jeffery.

The nation's leaders will be visiting the centre soon. Among them is the Minister of Finance 2, Dato' Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah and the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who has planned his visit on Friday, February 15.

S. Poomasury, 52, who came to submit her application for a micro credit, was elated by the reception she received. "I am truly amazed by the efforts put in by the staff. They have gone beyond the norms to be of service to the public," she posited.

R. Balakrishnan, 62, was another satisfied customer. "The availability of the foundation's office at the centre is most appropriate considering its accessibility and disposition."

RM



S. Poomasury



R. Balakrishnan





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## Property

# The “Nostalgic” Majestic

**D**emand for business suites in Ipoh is on the rise. Since the launch of *Majestic Tower* in November 2012 almost 80 per cent of such units have been booked. Buoyed by this development, Majestic Ipoh Sdn Bhd launched its second block, Imperial Tower, on Sunday, January 13.

The project, known as “The Majestic”, consists of two 21-storey towers, with a total of 333 units of business suites and 703 parking bays over six levels. There will also be 12 commercial lots on the ground floor reserved for food and beverage businesses. Located along Jalan Dato’ Tahwil Azar, The Majestic is now the focal point of Ipoh city.

The objective is to provide modern-concept living to Ipohites with a wide range of amenities, facilities and services

such as Jacuzzi, infinity pool and gymnasium for the convenience of residents. Closed-circuit TV monitoring is provided as an added security measure. The management of the buildings will be handed over to a professional firm, to be appointed in due time.

Mindful of sentiments attached to the Majestic Theatre, the site where this project partially sits, the name “Majestic” is retained. The developer had commissioned Atelier Alan Teh Architect from Penang to incorporate the art déco of the theatre in *The Majestic*.

Dato’ Poo Tak Kiau, Managing Director of Majestic Ipoh Sdn Bhd, feels that Ipohites have to accept the fact that development brings changes. “We’ve to move with time,” he remarked.

*The Majestic* will bring life to the heart of Ipoh, a reality many are waiting for. For more information on *The Majestic*, log on to [www.majesticipoh.com](http://www.majesticipoh.com).

Emily



## Community

# Kaying Cuisine

**T**he Ladies Section of the *Kaying Association* cooked up a storm two weeks before the arrival of the Snake Year of the upcoming Chinese New Year on February 10.

The association ladies had prepared eight auspicious and typically traditional Hakka dishes and brought it to the association as part of their activities before the New Year.

The Chairwoman of the section, Madame Yip Chai Foong said that another reason for preparing these dishes was to remind the next generation that these dishes are “very traditional and specific to the Hakka community with the hope that they will never become extinct”.

Each of the dishes came attached with the recipe. After all explanations were exchanged it was time for lunch. My pick was number 3 – pig trotters with loh bak in rice wine.

JAG

To preserve these traditional Hakka dishes, it is hoped that Ipoh Echo will be allowed to reprint some of the recipes.



# Gifts For Poor Students

**O**ne hundred and thirteen poor students of all races received gifts in the form of shoes and school uniforms from the wife of the Menteri Besar, Datin Seri DiRaja Saripah Zulkifli recently. The simple presentation ceremony was held at the *Aeon Shopping Complex* (formerly Jusco) in Kinta City.

The gift package, worth RM150 each, is part of Yayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan’s (YBU) programme for the poor and the marginalised in Perak. The students, picked on the basis of their academic achievements, have been “adopted” by the Menteri Besar. They stand to benefit from the programme by way of financial support from the state government.

Besides shoes and uniforms they are also provided financial assistance amounting to RM50 a month. “An accumulated sum of RM150 is credited into their bank account every three months,” said Hairul Anwar Mohamad Noor, YBU’s chief financial officer to Ipoh Echo.

Norikramuddin Mohd Najib, 14, a Form Two student was beaming with joy when met. “It’s a good start for my school year. The new uniforms and shoes are a motivating factor for me to do well in my studies,” she said. Nori aspires to be a teacher and promises not to let her “adopted” parents down.

RM





## Tourism

# Royal Belum World Drums Festival 2013



The much anticipated Royal Belum World Drums Festival 2013 will be contested with a twist this year. A national-level competition will be held prior to the big day. This came on the heels of the successful festival in 2012 where participation was keen among the invited musicians worldwide.

The national level competition, dubbed the *Royal Belum Malaysia World Drums and Percussion Challenge 2013*, will be held at the *Regional Transformation Centre* in Gopeng on February 16 and 17. Prize money worth over RM36,000 awaits the winners. The winning team will represent Malaysia and compete alongside 12 foreign teams at the eventual festival on February 24.

"Before the main event a number of mini concerts will be held in various parts of the state as curtain raisers for the finale," said Dato' Hamidah Osman during a media conference recently. She implored on Perakans to make use of the opportunity to witness some top-notch bands in action.

On the subject of tourism, Hamidah insisted that promotion is ongoing despite the end of Visit Perak Year 2012. The introduction of the 3-year "Discovery Perak Programme" (2013 to 2015) is geared towards maintaining a steady build up in promotional activities. Such activities are also being vigorously pursued in the ASEAN region. The tourism forum in Laos at the end of January is a case in point.

"Tourist arrivals from Singapore have increased seven-fold since VPY 2012," said Hamidah. This came about by working closely with her tourism counterparts down south. Efforts to draw more visitors from the island republic will be doubled in the months ahead. "We'll complement Visit Malaysia Year 2014," Hamidah remarked.

RM

## Entertainment

# Taiping Scorpions Concert Rescheduled to April

*Yayasan Artis Malaysia* is the presenter of the concert to pay tribute to renowned rock legend, Scorpions planned for this year.

The famous rock band from Germany has been on a farewell tour, prior to retirement but mostly in America and Europe. Although the Scorpions will not be performing, their brand of music with hits like "Winds of Change" and "Rock You Like A Hurricane" will continue to inspire us.

Don Patrick is the Project Promoter and Event Manager while Zalman will manage the band challenge for participating bands in his home-state, Perak. A number of local groups have indicated their desire to participate. So far ten bands have registered to participate in the "Sound-A-Like Scorpions Band Challenge".

Perak will still have the honour of being the first state in Malaysia, and probably the world, to host this unique event. However, the first such concert planned for Taiping on Saturday, February 9 has now been rescheduled to Saturday, April 6.

The show in Taiping will be far better than anticipated, as artistes from *Yayasan Artis Malaysia* will grace the occasion. Apart from its President, Dato' Irwan Shah (DJ Dave, pic), Nash, the lead vocalist of legendary rock group, Lefthanded, will also be present.

Participating bands will compete in the first round of the Challenge in Taiping. Each band is required to play two Scorpions' songs (a rock number and a ballad) and one Malay song of their choice (preferably their own composition). Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three bands.

The winner in the first and subsequent rounds (in other towns in Perak) will qualify for the semi-final round in Ipoh. The Perak semi-finalists will qualify for the National Final which is expected to be held in the Klang Valley towards the end of the year.

Apart from the above "Sound-A-Like Scorpions Challenge", bands will also have a chance to win the "Look-A-Like Scorpions Band Challenge". The winners will have the opportunity of appearing in a planned movie documentary. Fans may have the chance to audition for the "Rock Idol Singer Challenge".

VIBRA, a well-known recording band from Perak will be the opening act for the series of concerts in Perak. There is no entry fee for bands wishing to participate in the Challenge.

Those interested can contact Encik Zalman (VIBRA's lead vocalist) at 016-531 9055, before Sunday, March 10 for details and registration.

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## Property

### MH Unilodge Kampar – A Worthy Investment

Realising the needs of students in Kampar, Kinta Saujana Properties Sdn Bhd recently embarked on a project to build a custom-made hostel for their use. The hostel, aptly named *MH Unilodge* to denote its affinity with students, is modeled after a university hostel in Australia. It comes complete with individual parking bays for the benefit of those with cars. The plus point is that the units are free-hold entities thus owning one has its merits. One other major consideration is the 3-year guaranteed return on offer by Kinta Saujana Properties Sdn Bhd plus a tempting 2-year maintenance fee exemption.

Built on a 5-acre site and located slightly over a kilometre from Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), *MH Unilodge* has public facilities such as a hypermarket, a hospital and related government departments within reach, thus enhancing its marketability.

*MH Unilodge* comprises three blocks with five design choices covering a floor space measuring between 568.7 sq ft to 855.4 sq ft. The 22 shop lots and 198 fully furnished apartments come with a gym, infinity pool, library, laundry, indoor and outdoor cafes, discussion room and a BBQ area built with the convenience of students in mind.

The area is under constant surveillance provided by CCTV, security guards and a functional electronic locking system.

Kampar has caught the attention of investors with the establishment of additional institutes of higher learning besides the TAR campus. Westlake International School and Tunku Abdul Rahman College are the latest to join a long list of institutions making a beeline to Kampar. Thus investing in properties in this former tin-mining town is well worth the effort.

For details on MH Unilodge Kampar, call **05-254 3482** or **012-538 1055**.



## Young Perak

### Hip Hop Festival

*D Artiz Dance Studio* organised the first Hip Hop Festival in Ipoh recently at De Garden. There were four main elements at the Festival which was dance, emcee, Dee Jay and graffiti. In this event,



*D Artiz Studio* showed Ipoh the full culture of Hip Hop by having workshops and performances as Malaysians are usually only familiar to one element, which is "dance".

The event started with a concert, showcasing a variety

of singing and dancing (in Hip-Hop Style), presented by Mr Mystery from Sydney, Urban Groove from KL, Silvya Lo from Indonesia, DJ Ice & Pitt Den from Penang and D'Vol dance theater from Bukit Mertajam. Dance workshops (Hip Hop, Waacking, Popping), graffiti art workshops and demos were held from 2-5pm.

The founder of *D Artiz Studio*, Claudia Loh, pointed out that the establishment of *D Artiz Studio* was to give opportunities to young people to know more about the hip-hop culture, engage youth through art and for youths to express themselves through dance.

Claudia further expressed that by giving graffiti art a proper platform, graffiti will no longer be a disruptive behaviour, but an art form. She hopes that through the Hip Hop Festival, parents and the community can be educated in order for youth to discover their new talent, new interests and a new platform to express themselves.

For enquiries, please contact the director of *D Artiz Dance Studio*, Mervin Yong at **017-461 8549**.

## Sport

### A Decent Start

Perak FA kicked off their Malaysian Super League campaign on a rather decent note, gaining two wins, a draw and two losses from their first five outings.

The Seladangs got off to a morale-boosting start, as they completed a late 1-0 victory over Peter Butler's T-Team FC in Lumut. After that, Azraai Khor brought his troops to face moneybags Johor Darul Takzim in Larkin.

The game was dominated by the home side and the Seladangs got two men sent off just before half time for bad tackles. However, Perak fought hard to stay in the game, and while they did ultimately lose 0-1 to Johor, the grit and determination shown were inspiring enough for the fans.

Next, they faced Felda United at home. Although the Seladangs were solid in defense their attacking department was a big let-down. The absence of key players like S. Chanturu and Karim Rouani was affecting them as they struggled to finish off key chances in the final third of the field.

Similarly, the game against Felda was pretty even but the Settlers were much more clinical upfront and they ended up snatching a 1-0 victory against the Seladangs.

Notwithstanding that Azraai Khor still has faith in his side's capabilities, as he took them to Seremban to take on Negeri Sembilan at the Tunku Abdul Rahman Stadium on Saturday, January 19. This was a special occasion for Azraai as he had coached Negeri for two years and only parted company with them last year. However, it was business as usual and the boys delivered.

Failee Ghazali struck in the 94th minute to give Perak a dramatic last-gasp win over the Deers, taking them to six points from their first four games. On the back of that morale-boosting win, Perak returned home to face traditional rivals Selangor FA just three days later.

The Red Giants were brimming with confidence after beating league leaders Pahang just days before and were looking to take down the Seladangs as well. But

contrary to expectation, it was Perak who dominated proceedings early on, as they constantly pressured Selangor with a wide array of passing arsenal.

Selangor did take the lead through Francis Forkey Doe in the second half though, but Perak rallied back to restore parity through Abdul Hadi Yahya's penalty. The game finished 1-1. Had it not been for several refereeing mishaps, the result could have been different.

So after five pulsating matches in the Malaysian Super League, the Seladangs have collected seven points and are currently 6th in the league table. Not a bad start to the season, but there were several weaknesses that need to be rectified.

Defensively, the Seladangs seem to be rock solid, especially with Brazilian defender Rafael Novais marshalling it. He has, arguably, been our best player thus far and deserves all the plaudits coming his way. However, we have been shambolic offensively. Karim Rouani is still nursing an injury while Abdul Hadi Yahya struggled to regain his scoring touch. Failee seems to be inconsistent as well.

The Super League will now go on a three-week break, to give space for the national team matches to take place. Azraai Khor needs to use this break wisely, allowing his players to rest and recuperate and to be prepared for tougher matches ahead when the league resumes next month.

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## Community

# Walking for a Good Cause



The number of children diagnosed with autism, a complex neuro-developmental disorder, in the country is on the rise. While there is no known cure, it is proven that early intervention, from as young as one and a half years old, is extremely important in helping these children to be functionally independent.

As such, Ipoh-based *Autism Asperger's Help Association* (A.A.H.A.) has once again taken the step in

creating public awareness on autism, and at the same time, tried to reduce the stigma and prejudice associated with the disorder.

In conjunction with World Autism Awareness Month in April, A.A.H.A. is organising the second *Walk Now For Autism* on Sunday, April 14. The 5-km route starts from Ipoh's Red Crescent Hall.

This charity event is not only aimed at creating awareness but also to raise funds to upkeep the association's *Early Intervention Programme* (EIP) centre in Ipoh Garden East and to start the much-needed Pre-Academic Class for autistic children in Ipoh.

These classes are somewhat like kindergarten except that they do not follow the kindergarten syllabus. The classes are targeted at the weaknesses of each child, with the hope that they could then be integrated into mainstream schools.

Training for teachers and those interested to work with special needs children are also in the pipeline. Future plans of the association are to set up a proper support group for parents of autistic children, and the establishment of relief care services, that would enable families affected by autism to have a more balanced family life.

Besides the walk, there will be a “Little Giant Fair” where companies that deal in products like books and toys for special needs children are invited to participate for the convenience of parents who may find difficulty in procuring these products in Ipoh. An exhibition area will be available where posters regarding autism will be put up. Related NGOs and associations will provide information on resources available in the city. Other programmes lined up for that day will include short talks and networking opportunities offering counselling and support to families.

The association hopes to raise RM100,000 from this charity walk and exhibition. Funds raised during the first walk in 2011, totalling approximately RM25,000, went towards the setting up of the EIP centre. The centre now has 17 children under the care of four experienced teachers.

To participate in *Walk Now For Autism 2013* call A.A.H.A. at **012-592 6800** (Mrs Cherlyn Foo) or **019-558 2633** (Mrs Emily Gik). Registration fee is RM20 for adults, RM15 for college students and RM10 for school children and special needs children. Participants will receive a free T-shirt.

**Emily**

## Taiping's Sri Lankans

A historic community event took place in Taiping on Sunday, January 13. An exhibition entitled, “The Roles of Sri Lankans in Taiping 1883-1963” was held at the iconic The First Galleria, Jalan Stesen. On display were old black-and-white photographs, records of bygone era personalities, old books, archaic printed matters, paraphernalia, sports equipment and antiques from personal and private collections.

The exhibition was arranged chronologically beginning with the early era of the railways, ports, wharves and Perak civil establishments with contemporary portraits featuring Sri Lankan men and women who had shaped Taiping's history from as early as 1873 to the present.

More than 100 guests comprising Sinhalese,

Ceylonese and Taiping's heritage enthusiasts gathered for a first-time experience promoting the history and lineage of two prominent immigrant communities who first came to settle in Taiping over a century ago. Some came from Kuala Lumpur and Penang, to commemorate a unique get-together and the sharing of stories.

Guest of honour, Major-General S.W. Lalith Daulaga, Acting High Commissioner of the Sri Lankan High Commission in Malaysia, said the event was a landmark occasion, as it impressed upon the communities' younger generation to be mindful of their colourful heritage and the part their forefathers had played in the country's development.

Guests were treated to an array of sumptuous Sinhalese and Ceylonese delicacies such as *pittu* (grated coconut and rice dumplings), vendium *colubu* (soft-cooked brinjals), *iddiappam* (string hoppers), *sodhi* (coconut milk soup), *pythaurudai* (green gram), *masi* (spicy tuna sambal), *kiri bath* (milk rice), *pol sambal* (spicy coconut sambal) and *umblakadda* sambal



(Maldivian tuna sambal).

Among the dignitaries were Dato' S. Veerasingam, president of the Perak Malaysian Indian Association, Dato' S. Kulasegaran, president of the Federation of Malaysian Sri Lankan Organisations, Gordon Peter Piyadasa, president of the Malaysian Sinhalese Association and Rathy Mahendran, president of the Ceylon Association Taiping.

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## LETTERS

We reprint some of our reader's comments from our online paper. Go to <http://www.ipohecho.com.my/> to read more. The views expressed in these letters are not necessarily shared by the Editorial Board. We reserve the right to refuse or modify the letters we publish.

## 85% Clean Ipoh

During the full board meeting in September 2012, Ipoh City Hall set a goal to regain the status as the cleanest city during the 80s by year's end. A promise was made by the Mayor of City Hall to clean up the city by the end of this year.

A few months have passed but there is little evidence City Hall is serious in fulfilling this goal. Every day City Hall receives at least 50 to 60 complaints.

Residents where I live (Regat Kuala Kangsar) have made non-stop complaints since November last year before rubbish collection was made on Saturdays.

In the city centre the streets are swept daily (which is the easiest job) but the open drains are neglected. Most residential areas are in a shocking neglected state. The playgrounds and road shoulders are seldom cut, the roads littered with garden refuse and the drains clogged with several months of old grass and weeds.

## ‘Action Please’

# Orang Asli Preschool Project

Recently, the *Perak Women for Women Society* (PWV) embarked on its *Orang Asli Preschool Project* at the Pos Woh village, Tapah. This preschool project came into fruition to provide these indigenous children who are marginalised and are unable to identify alphabets and numbers, an avenue to cope with formal education. Many of these children miss schooling not because there are no schools in this area but simply due to factors like poverty, transportation woes and the lack of interest in education.

This PWW's preschool project program aims to help children to master six key learning components: language, communication, cognitive development, morale, spirituality, creativity and social-emotional development. Language skills are given particular emphasis, as it enables children to develop their ability to think, understand concepts, imagine and communicate effectively. The classes also involve activities such as, singing, colouring and fun activities.

During registration day, PWW received good response with 53 children from Pos Woh village, and some as young as four years old. PWW intends to run this programme weekly, therefore, for those keen to volunteer or donate in the form of books, stationery, clothing for the indigenous community, please reach PWW at **05-5469715**.

**S. Sundralingam**



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