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ISSUE **221**

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Ipohites in Amber Land – A whirlwind F1 Weekend

■ Tan Mei Kuan & Ili Aqilah

Ipoh Echo sent two of its young reporters to Singapore during its Grand Prix weekend to check out the swanky, star-studded soiree hosted by Amber Lounge. Like the proverbial Alice in Wonderland, it was a whirlwind of many firsts for this wide-eyed duo, one of whom had never stepped out from Malaysian soil before. Here is the personal account of their visit to this adrenaline-fuelled event in the city of Merlion.

Continued on page 2



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Celebrity entertainment and world premieres and enough 'star gazing' to make Galileo jealous.



As we made our way to the purpose-built venue near The Marina Bay Street Circuit on Saturday, September 19 for Singapore's most exclusive Grand Prix™ soiree and original F1 experience, perceiving the audible roar of drifting prowess from the neighbouring floodlit circuit for ourselves was just a prelude of our adrenaline-fuelled journey into the glamour of Formula One.

During the two ultimate nights of celebrity entertainment and world premieres, there was so much 'star gazing' that it would make Galileo jealous. The epic stories of chance sightings of **rap superstar Eve**, **LMFAO's Sky Blu**, **model Jessica Button**, **fashion icon Lisa Crosswhite**, **Apl.de.ap** from the newly reformed **The Black Eyed Peas** and **F1 drivers** coupled with our roller-coaster emotions during the magical moments would stay with us for a long time and provide us with tales to tell our children and grandchildren.

Premiere of Chi Chi von Tang

Now in its eighth year, Amber Lounge Singapore 2015 organised by Amber Lounge kicked off its after-party with the exclusive launch of Singapore's newest contemporary label: Chi Chi von Tang inaugural SS16 collection.

It is designed by local fashion icon, founder and CEO of Gnossem, Lisa Crosswhite who had this to say about her collection: *"Instantly Asian. Sexy, Mysterious, and a woman of the world. Chi Chi is for the exotic warrior princess in you. She succeeds in a man's world, while building her own. She is aware of her ethnic roots. She intrigues."*

Silk and rare fabrics are melded with Chinese traditional design using luxurious workmanship creating a modern sport-inspired style. In front of a star-studded crowd of A-list celebrities, F1 fraternity, Singaporean social elite and international media, international models armed with a forge-ahead demeanour, a fierce strut and an amped-up, ultra slick, sky high ponytails, hit the runway dressed in sharp tailored pieces with striking turquoise and teal accents, mandarin collars and in-season fringe detail creating sophistication plus contemporary slants.

We especially adored the Warrior Bomber jackets with its handwoven oriental style buttons made in 100% silk with sleek structured front and oriental print. These pieces are a total luxury, distilled into a ready-to-throw-on bomber style.

Gnossem is pleased to offer the Warrior Bomber ahead of the market in five styles for pre-order this Fall 2015. With limited pieces, the pre-order comes with a complimentary embroidery of your initials or favourite mantra, how much cooler could it be?

The rest of the SS16 collection will become available for Chinese New Year 2016.

Introduction to the World's Most Expensive Perfume

With a vision to showcase some of the Group's masterpieces during the Formula One period in Singapore, the WORLD OF DIAMONDS, one of the largest privately held diamond mining corporations that has directly catered to billionaires as well as members of royal descent, was the Official Diamond Partner.

Besides adorning the Chi Chi von Tang models in over \$10 Million USD worth of glittering masterpiece diamonds, the second-to-none evening also saw the debut of **The Royalé Dream**, one of the world's most expensive fragrances with a price tag of S\$190,000 that was bought by a VIP Amber Lounge client at the end of night!



The Royalé Dream

The Royalé Dream is comprised of three different scents. "Earth", encased in a bottle covered in 10 colourless diamonds weighing 0.41 carats, was created for men. "Celestial" was created for women in a bottle polished in six vivid purplish pink diamonds. Meanwhile, "Enlightenment" was created for both sexes with a sphere holding 24-karat gold leaves.

A story about artistry, glamour and unattainable luxury at a whole new level, the three gems are stored in a unique palladium-plated, lambskin-lined Fabergé egg. Not only that, these bottles are accompanied by an elegant blue diamond and white gold ring with a stone weighing 0.85 carats!

Karan Tilani, Director of the WORLD OF DIAMONDS Group, stated, "We envisage that having multi-million dollar jewellery pieces, coupled with one of the world's most expensive perfume collection on display, elevates Grand Prix to a whole new level. Being a part of the glamorous parties which Amber Lounge hosts also reinforces our global presence."

Continued on page 6



Jenson Button; Amber Lounge founder, Sonia Irvine & Sebastian Vettel

• From the Editor's Desk
By Fathol Zaman Bukhari

LET'S BE MALAYSIANS

Malaysians can care for themselves without interference from politicians who are bankrupt of ideas as how to manage this bountiful country...

It has not been smooth sailing ever since the 13th General Election in March 2013 when the ruling coalition found, to its utter dismay, that it had lost its two-thirds majority for the second time running. The first time in 2008 had analysts terming it a lucky fluke for the Opposition coalition Pakatan Rakyat. Normalcy would again prevail, they insisted, once newly-minted Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak got his act together.

But what a drubbing it was! Barisan Nasional, dominated by United Malay National Organisation (Umno), which has been in power since Independence Day on August 31, 1957, not only lost its majority in parliament but nearly 51 percent of voters picked the Opposition leaving them with only 47 per cent of the popular vote. The election was Barisan Nasional's worst ever showing, outmatching the 1969 elections, which triggered the May 13 riots.

Despite winning the popular vote and making gains in the number of parliamentary seats, Pakatan Rakyat failed to win a majority to form the government. For state legislative assembly elections, Barisan Nasional won 9 out of 12 states, including Kedah and Perak, which were won by Pakatan Rakyat in the 2008 elections.

Najib blamed the Chinese for the "defeat" although the ruling coalition, based on "first-past-the-post" (winner-takes-all) electoral system, got to form the government. The party who won the most parliamentary seats rules the roost, pure and simple. Had Malaysia adopted the American electoral system, Pakatan Rakyat would have won, hands down.

The uneasy relationship between political parties and the ongoing financial crisis besieging the ruling coalition did little to cool tempers. Malaysians have had enough of the way they have been "hoodwinked" into believing that Prime Minister Najib would institute reforms upon assuming the premiership in 2009. Instead of mending fences and making good his promises, Najib blamed the Chinese for Barisan Nasional's poor showing. He attributed it to the "Chinese tsunami" failing to realise a good number of Malays, especially those in urban areas, were equally responsible.



So the Chinese become a convenient "tool of distraction or destruction" (whichever way you see it fits) to rally the Malays behind Umno. The fear is rather entrenched in the Malay minds and will find traction in the naïve ones who are not into racial interaction like their urban cousins. Remarks such as, "if the Chinese takeover Malays will be sidelined" and "see how the Malays in Singapore are being treated", make the rounds. There is a common understanding among the Malays that the Chinese are the bogeymen, notwithstanding that the word derives from the notorious Bugis pirates who once ruled the Sulu Sea.

To exacerbate the fear, the Bersih rallies (yellow-shirt) have been associated with the Chinese. Thus the red-shirt "Himpunan Maruah Melayu" rally on September 16 was therefore justified.

The dichotomy of two differing cultures, although cemented by years of interaction, will rupture unless cool heads prevail. But the inevitable will happen when harping on communal and religious issues becomes the norm among Umno politicians.

The premier has gone on record proclaiming that Malaysia is a multi-ethnic country that practices religious tolerance and moderation when in actual fact it is the opposite. Perhaps in this fast-changing political landscape survival and relevance have become the *numero uno* mantra. The loss of faith among Malaysians in a leader who is tainted by scandals is the underlining reason for this "perception deficit disorder".

Am I still optimistic of Malaysia's survival on the whole? I have been asked this question several times. My answer has always been positive. Yes, the elusive dream of a great Malaysia is still achievable. A social experiment by three university students recently not only gives me hope but inspiration as well. The moving scene of these three undergrads standing by street corners with a handwritten sign, "Saya Bangsa Malaysia. Malaysian First. Hug or give a high five, if you agree" says it all. Passers-by were amused initially but gave the trio a hug upon realising their noble intention. I am truly touched by their gestures.

Malaysians can care for themselves without interference from politicians who are bankrupt of ideas as how to manage this bountiful country. This is not a lost cause yet.

Education

Mariaville Excursions



Mariaville Good Shepherd Kindergarten held an excursion for the 4 and 6 year olds in August and September.

The 6 year olds had an experience to remember at the Perak Turf Club Equestrian Centre. They were brought on a tour of the Turf Club and were educated on horses. The friendly staff showed the children how a horseshoe was attached to the horse. They were also educated on what gear were needed to ride a horse and the precautions needed. They too had a chance to feed the horses and sit in a carriage just like princes and princesses.

The 4 year olds got an opportunity to meet Cheese man at Pizza Hut, Gunung Rapat, behind closed doors for their safety. They were briefed on how to make a pizza and had hands-on experience to make their own pizza. The staff of Gunung Rapat had a fun time with the children, dancing to the 'Chicken Dance' and singing songs from the movie, Frozen. The children went back with souvenirs and their personalized pizzas.

Susan

EYE HEALTH



In conjunction with **WORLD SIGHT DAY** on October 8, Ipoh Echo talks to Consultant Ophthalmologist **Dr S.S. GILL** on prevention of visual impairment.



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

Visual impairment is any kind of vision loss to the extent that even with conventional forms of correction or treatment, the person's vision remains poor. Being visually impaired can be frightening, especially when it affects those who once had good vision.

World Health Organization facts:

- About 285 million people are visually impaired worldwide:
 - 39 million are blind and
 - 246 million have low vision (severe or moderate visual impairment)
- preventable causes are as high as 80% of the total global visual impairment burden.
- About 90% of the world's visually impaired people live in developing countries.
- An estimated 19 million children are visually impaired worldwide.
- Globally, uncorrected refractive errors are the main cause of visual impairment.
- Cataracts are the leading cause of blindness.
- 65% of visually impaired, and 82% of blind people are over 50 years of age, although this age group comprises only 20% of the world population.

What Causes Visual Impairment?

CATARACT or the clouding of the eye's lens prevents light from passing through to the retina causing cloudy vision. Cataracts may cause gradual vision loss which sometimes may not be noticeable to the patient until they have had an accident of some sort. Cataracts usually affect people in their 50s, 60s and 70s, but may appear earlier too. Many of my patients who present early are golfers and sports people who do not **always wear good sunglasses** when they are out in the sun. Cataract surgery easily restores vision in these cases.

If you have diabetes mellitus, make sure you are screened regularly for **DIABETIC RETINOPATHY** – a condition where the tiny blood vessels in the retina (inside of eye) are damaged due to diabetes. A diabetic having no blurring vision does not mean he or she has no diabetic eye problems. By the time blurring vision occurs, the eye condition is often serious.

GLAUCOMA is another blinding condition where an increase in eye pressure damages the optic nerve. Early detection by screening is crucial or the vision will gradually deteriorate over time to a **small tunnel vision**, and eventually blindness. **INJURY** is another common cause for vision loss. Apart from windscreen injuries, accidents like getting hit with a hockey ball or a shuttlecock, or a child's eye pierced with a **sharp toy** are common. "Avoid buying toys with sharp edges and prevent children from playing with chopsticks or pencils. **Macular degeneration** is another serious eye problem that causes progressive loss of central vision, causing difficulty in reading or watching TV with vision becoming distorted.

Preventing Visual Impairment

Diseases like glaucoma **needs to be detected early** and treated or damage is irreversible. "If you have underlying health problems like diabetes and hypertension, do get your eyes examined regularly and comply with prescription medication to prevent vision loss" says Dr Gill.

For more information, call Gill Eye Specialist Centre at Hospital Fatimah
05 545 5582 or email gillyeyecentre@dr.com.





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Kevin Morais: Why did no-one see anything?

On September 18, family members, former colleagues, schoolmates and friends of the murdered Deputy Public Prosecutor, Kevin Morais, held a two-hour memorial service at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, in Silibin. Around 300 of them, had gathered to pay tribute to the man, whom they once called a friend, an honest, highly intelligent person, a "walking legal-dictionary" and a man of courage.

When his friends heard that Morais was missing, on 4 September, they organised a service to pray for his safe return. Ten days later, news that a body had been found in a concrete filled oil drum began surfacing, but the forensic identification was not complete. Sadly, the prayer session became a memorial service, in which prayers and hymns were offered, candles were lit and wreaths laid, in remembrance of the DPP.

Morais went to the Anderson Boys School and used to live in Taman Eden, near Lim Garden. His mother was the headmistress of The Tarcisian Convent and he was close to her. The family attended Our Lady of Lourdes Church, regularly. The young Morais was described by friends as a bubbly, soft-spoken, polite and friendly boy. His friends described him as a brave, honest and determined man.

At the Silibin Church, former colleagues eulogised him. The Ipoh Sessions Court judge, Tan Hooi Leng said that Morais had served as a deputy registrar, in The Ipoh High Court between 1997 and 2002.

Perak Bar Council representative, Ram Kumar said, "Morais was no pushover. He was a determined man with nerves of steel and every defence counsel's nightmare. You cannot question his honesty. He did everything within the boundaries of the law."

P.S. Gill, a former Federal Court judge who was once Ipoh High Court judge, said: "Kevin paid a heavy price for his integrity... we have lost a valuable soul."

His former classmate, Arbhan said "....It's sad that he was taken so early."

Jessica Sidhu, Morais' former colleague, at the Attorney General's Chambers said, "Kevin was a pure professional, highly ethical, very hardworking and humble. He possessed no ego of any form."

Describing Morais as a very thorough man, who would ask many questions so he could "understand every permutation", Sidhu said that his dedication to work meant that he often missed meals and would sit through the night, reading law.

"Morais was someone who was 'married to his work', and did not have a social life. He was very upset when witnesses turned hostile, or the case did not go as he had anticipated," she added.

Sidhu claimed that Morais took on cases which others "left behind, as they were too complicated". She said that all he wanted to do was to serve justice and also fight for justice.

Describing Morais as a dedicated officer, the AG's Chambers said, "He was an officer who has served the nation proudly, professionally and with complete dedication and commitment at home and abroad."

"Morais truly epitomised the adage 'prosecuting without fear and favour' throughout his long, illustrious career."

Morais' housemate, who shared an apartment with the DPP, at Menara Duta 1 in Dutamas, Segambut claimed that Morais appeared to be under a lot of pressure, as he had to deal with a difficult case on September 7. He left for work, in his government issue grey Proton Perdana, on the morning of September 4. He never arrived at the office, as he was abducted on his way to work.

His burnt out car had been found in an oil palm estate, in Hutan Melintang. The chassis number had been filed away. Estate workers reported unusual activity in the early hours of the morning, when several 4WDs raced along the dirt tracks, before an explosion was heard.

Two weeks after his disappearance, a body believed to have been Morais', was discovered, by police, in an oil drum filled with concrete, in a swamp in USJ1, in Subang Jaya.

Many speculate that Morais' disappearance is connected with a high-profile criminal case.

At this goes to print, eight men, including a military doctor, who is a colonel in his 50s and is attached to the pathology lab at Hospital Angkatan Tentera Tuanku Mizan, has been arrested, in connection with Morais' murder. Morais had been the DPP, in the prosecution of

the doctor, for corruption, in 2013.

The IGP, Khalid Abu Bakar, has tweeted that Morais' brother, Richard, was a witness to the murder of AmBank founder, Hussain Ahmad Najadi.

Najadi's son, Pascal, had claimed a 'verified source' had said that Morais' brother, was one of the last people to see Hussain alive, on July 29, 2013.

Morais would have been the prosecutor, in the criminal breach of trust case against the former Sime Darby Bhd chief executive officer, Ahmad Zubair @ Ahmad Zubir Murshid.

Police are appealing for witnesses to an accident along Jalan Duta Mas, in Kuala Lumpur, at 7.51am on September 4. The suspects deliberately crashed into the back of Morais' car, before abducting him.

Someone must have seen something. The apathy of Malaysians helps the thugs, who wreck our lives with fear.



THINKING
ALLOWED

by Mariam Mokhtar



CHILD HEALTH

Dr Shan Narayanan
Consultant General Paediatrician, Hospital Fatimah

Managing Fever in Children

In my years of paediatric practice, the one thing that terrifies parents is fever. My focus in this month's article is common queries parents have about fever and its management.



What is Normal Body Temperature?

It is generally accepted that normal body temperature ranges between 36.1°C to 37.2°C.

What is Fever?

Fever is when the body temperature is above the normal level. It is a response to variable conditions, the most common of which is infection. Fever occurs as a result of the body's thermostat being reset to a higher level (to a higher than usual temperature).

Temperature that is considered as fever depends on where the temperature is measured. Generally accepted temperature is as follows:

- Oral: above 37.8°C
- Axillary (armpit): above 37.2°C
- Ear (tympanic membrane): above 38°C
- Forehead: above 38°C



What are Non-Medical Ways to Treat the Temperature?

Fever can make the child uncomfortable or dehydrated, thus it is important to lower the temperature. The non-medical ways are as follows:

1. Lukewarm bath or sponge bath
2. Placing a cool damp wash cloth on the forehead when the child is resting
3. Giving plenty of fluids
4. Dress the child in one light layer
5. Using a fan in a low setting and not blowing directly at the child

What is the Medical Way to Treat the Fever?

Fever reducing medication can be used to treat the fever. The two fever reducing medications are: Paracetamol and Ibuprofen.

Paracetamol can be given every four to six hourly as needed. Ibuprofen may be given six to eight hourly. Ibuprofen is not recommended for children less than six months.

The dosage is based on the weight of the child and you can refer to your doctor or the product information sheet for the appropriate dosage.

Giving a combination of paracetamol and ibuprofen may be required in children with high persisting fever. This should be done with medical advice and with caution as the chances of giving a wrong dose is higher. Fever reducing medicine treats the fever only and not the underlying cause of the fever.

When to See the Doctor?

The decision to see the doctor is yours. Here are some guidelines. It is not an exhaustive list.

1. Infants less than six months with an ear or armpit temperature of more than 38°C.
2. Children six months to three years with a temperature more than 38°C for more than two days or who appear ill.
3. Children of any age with an ear or armpit temperature of more than 39°C.
4. Children of any age who have a fit with the fever.
5. Children who have fever and rash.
6. Children who have fever and underlying medical condition such as heart, kidney problems, etc.
7. When your intuition tells you to.

For more information, call Dr Shan's clinic at Hospital Fatimah 05 546 1345 or email shaniea02@gmail.com.

ON IPOH FOOD

By SeeFoon Chan-Koppen
seefoon@ipohecho.com.my



SeeFoon warms to Desa Rishah

I was recently introduced to the Foodie possibilities in Desa Rishah when my friend Datin Phaik Lean gathered a bunch of us together for dinner at Hung Ting.

A relatively new restaurant (open for 6 months) but apparently a *Lo Chiew Pai* as they had relocated here from First Garden, the restaurant was a hive of noise and activity and if Phaik Lean hadn't booked, we would have been left stranded.

As we settled down with our pink bubbly from Dato' John Lim's private cellar while waiting for our food, we had to almost shout at one another to make ourselves heard above the cacophony of voices but that only added to the fun and camaraderie of the evening.

The service was fast and the food came in rapid succession. We ordered small or medium portions so as to taste a large variety of dishes and despite the number of us at the table (12), there was enough to go around as each dish was presented.

We had a total of 13(!) dishes altogether and I will list here the ones which caught my fancy and will go back for more.

I love **soft shell crabs** and the ones here were crispy and perfectly battered if a tad too salty. Do ask them to go easy on the salt when you order your food here as the chef tends to be heavy handed with the salt. This was followed by the **Tofu with pork** and the **'Ham Dan' salted egg sotong (squid)**, deep fried.



Both these were yummy.

The **Pig's Trotter** with white radish was unusual, well braised and the trotter pieces tender, followed by **Har Cheong Gai** pieces of chicken marinated in preserved prawn paste and deep fried.

I found the **three flavour pork ribs** too sweet for my taste and overwhelmed by garlic but I am sure some of my readers out there would enjoy it. **Baby long beans with belacan** was delicious and the **Ka Heong Jai** a vegetarian dish sauteed with preserved red bean paste lacked 'oomph'. It called for more bean paste and umami nuances.

Kow Gay (soft, oval, dark green, slightly bitter leaves of the Chinese boxthorn which is touted to have medicinal properties) soup with seafood was 'ching' a term found only in the Chinese culinary lexicon to describe a taste that is clarified, pure, coming from the meaning of unsullied.

Their **Fish Head Curry** is definitely worth repeat visits. Cut into chunks, the fish head was very fresh, the curry gravy mild, yet tangy enough to be pleasing served with ladies fingers, brinjal and *tao pok* (fried bean curd puffs).

After 12 dishes which were wolfed down with alacrity, Dato' John decided he needed another plate of the soft shell crab to finish off the meal. By this time we were on to the single malts and the suggestion of yet another plate of soft shell crab was warmly welcomed.

The most delightful part of the evening was the bill. For a total of 13 dishes most of which are described above, the total bill came to just over RM260, a sum which Dato' John paid with a smile.

Restoran Hung Ting

121 LGK Desa Rishah 1, Desa Rishah

Business Hours: 11.30am - 3pm; 5.30pm - 9.45pm. Closed sporadically.

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Whirlwind F1 Weekend *Continued from page 2...*

Ted Baker x Formula One Grand Prix Drivers

Soon after the launching of Chi Chi von Tang collection, the handsome Formula One drivers merged on the runway, donning the latest collection of Ted Baker's 2015 Autumn and Winter collection. Known to the world as a stylish yet classic menswear label, Ted Baker has successfully delivered a collection that is guaranteed to grab the attention of those who love to mix the traditional quintessential British 'stiff upper lip' with an irreverent sense of humour.

Among drivers who were on stage were **Esteban Gutierrez for Ferrari, Adrian Sutil from Williams, Red Bull's Pierre Gasly, Raffaele Marciello from Sauber, McLaren's Stoffel Vandoorne, Fabio Leimer from Manor and Lotus' Joylan Palmer and Carmen Jordan**. Carmen, who is currently the development driver for Lotus F1 team, stole the spotlight from her male peers as she gracefully appeared on the stage wearing a beautiful skin coloured dress.

Unveiling of Miss Singapore

Aside from enjoying the fashion show by Chi Chi von Tang and Ted Baker, attendees of Amber Lounge Singapore 2015 were introduced to **Lisa Marie White, the 2015 Miss Universe Singapore** who will represent the Lion City at the upcoming Miss Universe competition. Lisa Marie, 22, who appeared on stage wearing the exclusive designed and crafted crown with a dangling 16 ct fancy yellow Pear Cut stone and 5.4 ct white Pear Cut Stone by **ORRO Private Collection** is an aspiring actress of Malay, Indonesian, French,

Irish and New Zealand ethnicity, and speaks fluent English and Malay.

Former winners of Miss Universe Singapore, **Rathi Menon** (2014), **Lynn Tan** (2010), **Rachel Kum** (2009) and **Nuralisa Osman** (2002) were among the list of celebrities who attended the party alongside **Bodnie Koehler**, former Miss Universe Puerto Rico 2012.

The Perfect Ending

As **Sebastian Vettel** from Ferrari grabbed first place while team mate **Kimi Raikkonen** won second runner up, the celebration

continued at Amber Lounge on its glorious second day.

Apl.de.ap from Grammy-Award winning **Black Eyed Peas** did a great job DJ'ing for both where he sang Black Eyed Peas' 2009 hit, **I Gotta Feeling** during the opening act. Together with Vettel and Raikkonen celebrating were **Fernando Alonso, Pastor Maldonado, Carlos Sainz Jr., Nico Hulkenberh and Will Stevens** to name a few. Aside from international celebrities who attended the party, the power duo from Indonesia and Malaysia, **Bunga Cinta Lestari and husband Ashraf Sinclair** were also seen mingling with VVIP guests and others.

As the crowd continued dancing and enjoying themselves, Amber Lounge has proven once again that its title as the premier party destination for the Formula 1 fraternity is well deserved. The celebration will continue at the Mexico Grand Prix (October 31, November 1 & 2) and to the final race on the F1 calendar, the exotic Abu Dhabi (November 28 & 29).



Bunga & Ashraf Sinclair



Raffaele Marciello



Apl.de.ap

Community

U.S. Embassy and Perak's New Lincoln Corner



On September 9, U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Edgard Kagan and the Chairman of the Perak State Committee on Tourism, Art, Culture, Communication, and Multimedia YB Dato' Nolee Ashilin Mohammed Radzi co-officiated the launch ceremony of the Lincoln Corner Perak at 1Malaysia Community Library, Urban Transformation Centre (UTC) Perak. With this new opening, Perakians can access a wide-range of multimedia information via iPads, enjoy browsing through a collection of high quality American magazines from National Geographic to Oprah, borrow the latest New York Times best sellers, view DVDs, listen to audiobooks, and have fun with the latest Wii video games.

More than seventy people, including school students and teachers, Perak state officials, representatives of the U.S. Embassy, and American Fulbright English Teaching Assistants attended the event. 1Malaysia Community Library is a branch library of the Perak State Public Library Corporation.

The new Lincoln Corner joins a network of nine Lincoln Corners currently operating in eight states; Perak, Penang (Seberang Jaya and Georgetown), Kedah, Kelantan, Kuala Lumpur, Melaka, Johor, and Sarawak. In addition to reading resources, the Lincoln Corners serve as a platform for dialogues and the exchange of ideas on topics of mutual interest, such as environment, science and technology, education, and culture. More information about the Lincoln Corners can be found at the U.S. Embassy's website.

Recycling Project Launch

Ipoh City Watch (ICW) successfully launched the Buntong and Lim Garden Community Recycling Project in collaboration with the Perak Solid Waste Management and Public Cleanliness Corp (SWCorp).

The event was held at the Sri Maha Mariamman Hall, Buntong on Saturday, September 19 and was officiated by Dato' Rosnah Kassim, the Executive Councillor for Women and Family Development, Social Welfare and Housing and Local Government. Present at the ceremony were Hajah Fatimah Ahmad, Perak SWCorp Director, Ipoh City Councillor M. Veeran, who represented the mayor and ICW President, Dr Richard Ng.

The objective of the project was to educate residents of Lim Garden and Buntong on the importance of garbage separation and recycling in order to help keep the environment clean.

Ipoh City Watch's other initiative to reduce solid waste is by composting. A demonstration on composting was shown during the launch. The process is to convert organic wastes such as food to organic fertiliser.

According to Dr Richard Ng, the goal of community recycling is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfills by promoting the culture of recycling in the community.

"Community recycling is the best option for the public. The programme is not difficult to put to practice and is best conducted via active engagement with the end-users," said Rusnah in her opening remarks.

Some 150 residents from both housing estates attended the launching ceremony.

SWCorp has established garbage collection points in Lim Garden and Buntong. It is a good start for residents to do their part in garbage separation which will become mandatory in the country soon.

Nantini



Community

Charity Night – An Evening of Joyful Sharing

A charity night themed 'An Evening of Joyful Sharing', hosted by Tay Ibrahim and Partners, was held at Syeun Hotel, Ipoh recently.

The event was aimed at raising funds for the Rose Virginie Good Shepherd's Centre, Life School Ipoh and Pusat Kebajikan Rumah Harapan. The event included a live auction to help reach that goal.

Generosity was in full swing during the auction as item after item went under the hammer at values way above market prices. The highest bid for an item was RM5000 for a 1968 Royal Cognac Brandy bid by Dato' David Tan, while Raymond Chan bid RM4000 for his own bottle of 21 year Johnnie Walker Scotch which he had donated for the auction. The total amount raised from the auction was RM47,703 and the proceeds will be divided equally among the three organisations.

According to Mrs Shirley Choo, the event Organising Chairperson, all the bid items were donated. Among the donated items were paintings entitled 'London Bridge' and 'Magical Mountains' by Mr and Mrs Tan Teik Chin; other items included 'lady's Trusted Companion', 'Tactician's Toy' by Dato' Nicky Chen; 'Timekeeper's Tool', 'Connoisseur's Choice' by Mr Jim Cheah and 'Brandewijn' donated by Mr Lai Hun Lean.



Nantini

YMCA Centenary Dinner

Young Malaysian Christian Association (YMCA) Ipoh celebrated its 100th anniversary with a thanksgiving dinner on Friday, September 18 at the main hall of the association's building in Ipoh. The event was appropriately used for the launching of the YMCA Ipoh centenary theme and its long-awaited coffee table book.

The book, incidentally, was compiled and written by the association's former Vice-President, Reverend Robin Arumugam. It chronicles the services rendered by YMCA Ipoh to the community it serves. They included sports, bible classes and development programmes for youths.

"I got started when Dato' Daniel Tay hinted about a book detailing the association's activities. I sought the help of my wife. However, I must confess a few things. It's a team effort, pure and simple. I wish to thank Dato' Daniel Tay for his advice and guidance and P. Subramaniam for his time and patience in editing, proof-reading and correcting the many mistakes I made, from the beginning till the end," said Robin to Ipoh Echo.

The book launch was officiated by Dato' Daniel Tay, President of YMCA Ipoh and a member of the National Council of YMCA Malaysia on behalf of Chief Executive Officer of Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad, Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian. The YMCA Ipoh centenary theme, on the other hand, was formalised by Peter Lim on behalf of Dato' Seri Wong Chun Wai, Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Star Media Group Berhad.

Over 300 people consisting of members and invitees were entertained to a sumptuous sit-down dinner. And while they dined, dancers from Ipoh Bug, a local dance troupe, kept them in the right mood to eat and interact.



Nantini

Yang TU Yang NI

Ignore the Redshirts

Benito Mussolini had the Blackshirts, Adolf Hitler the Brownshirts, UMNO-Baru the Redshirts. They are unemployed hooligans paid to do their political masters' dirty work.

This is how desperate politicians work; while they appear reasonable and rational and keep a decent distance from the fray their henchmen have storm troopers to threaten the population. Thus we have Najib saying that it's alright for the Redshirts to march as long as they (the Redshirts) act within the law.

I am not against any group marching peacefully – we can't on the one hand demand the right for Bersih (Yellowshirts) to march and deny the same to the Redshirts. But there is a difference of course. The Yellowshirts represent the entire spectrum of Malaysians while the Redshirts represent the extremist elements among the Malays.

The Yellowshirts demand clean government and transparency. The Redshirts are vowing retribution for the imagined slur on the Malay dignity. The former is non-threatening, the latter threaten with words and deeds (breaking tiles with their heads besides showing the lack of brains, also demonstrate what they can do to us).

Najib knows full well that he cannot guarantee that once a mob is unleashed or collective amok takes hold, no blood will be shed. We all know what the Blackshirts and Brownshirts did; will the Redshirts have the same impact? I don't think so.

Najib is neither Mussolini nor Hitler he is a weak man fighting for his political life and to stay out of jail. His fair-weather followers (only there as long as the money lasts) will ditch him to save themselves when it comes to the crunch.

Personally I don't see another May 13 happening, which is what UMNO Baru extremists want us to think. This is 2015 not 1969. The circumstances are different.



UMNO Baru does not have the monopoly of Malay allegiance. There are other (reasonable) Malay voices that have as much influence. Even the royalty of Johor and Negri Sembilan have come out against racism and other forms of extremism.

It's time we put the ghost of May 13 to rest and not jump every time they threaten us with something similar. That is precisely what they want – to frighten us into submission.

Those who write about the Redshirts are only giving them credence. More than that, these people are fear-mongering. I ask if any of them have been roughed up or, in anyway, threatened while they go about their business. I suppose if you live in a posh area like Meru Heights and never mingle with the masses (especially with the Malays) you never know how ordinary Malays behave and your fear is heightened by these fear-mongers.

Redshirts or not I still visit my Malay friend in the kampong no one has uttered an unwelcome word. Truth is the Malays are like you and I, they are mostly decent chaps.

Tanjung Rambutan has a majority Malay population, the Chinese the least, yet daily they mingle in the marketplace and buy from vendors without racial consideration – only on price, quality and service.

The best way to deal with naughty children is to ignore them.

Yin
(The Man from TR)



Han Chin Pet Soo

Impress your guests with your own private dinner party in a museum setting. Enquiries should be made to the Events Manager at 05 529 3306 or events@ipohworld.org



News

Arowana Industry Development Seminar

In conjunction with the national-level Farmers, Livestock Breeders and Fishermen Day 2015, the Perak Fisheries Department organised a seminar on arowana industry development recently at the Rural Transformation Centre, Gopeng.

The event was officiated by Dato' Dr Zabri Abdul Wahid, the Adun for Trong. A total of 300 participants attended the one-day seminar. Present were the Perak Fisheries Department Director, Dr Bah Piyon Tan and representatives from related public and private agencies.

The objective of the forum was to identify problems impacting the arowana fish industry. The department also wanted to seek ways to promote arowana to foreign tourists.

The seminar, according to Zabri, would provide an opportunity for breeders to discuss alternative methods to improve the production and marketing of the fish to China and other potential countries.

"We'll provide agro-tourism packages and related activities to attract more tourists and investors here," Zabri told reporters after the launch.

Nantini



Human Rights Award



The 2015 SUHAKAM Human Rights Organisation Award, introduced in 2011, to recognise organisations and individuals for upholding and promoting human rights in Malaysia was given to the Perak Society for the Promotion of Mental Health.

The society's vice president, S. Sundralingam, received the award during a brief ceremony held at Institut Integrasi Kuala Lumpur recently. It was in recognition of the society's efforts in defending the rights of the mentally-handicapped.

People with mental illness are the most marginalised in society today. They are among the most stigmatised, discriminated against, disadvantaged and vulnerable members of society. It is a sad reflection of our perception of those with such illness.

The Perak Society for the Promotion of Mental Health, which was pioneered by Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr M. Mahadevan in 1967, has helped many mentally-ill people, especially women, to get back to mainstream society through rehabilitation programmes and therapies.

Sundralingam dedicated the award he received to all the residents of the mental day care centre at Ulu Kinta.

Ed



Family Day Dinner

The Ipoh Down Syndrome Centre held its first Family Day dinner at the Tower Regency Hotel & Apartments recently. The management of the hotel was extremely generous in sponsoring the entire event.

The event kicked off with a welcome speech by the Chairman of the centre, Mr Steven Chong, during which he thanked the hotel for its generosity. This was followed by a speech by the Assistant Sales Manager of the hotel, En Meor. The crowd was then entertained by performances from the students, staff and even the Chairman. Mr Steven Chong did his version of some Michael Jackson moves and his family joined in.

The event was attended by students of the centre and their families, management, staff and their families and some guests. Everyone had a roaring good time. The food, the ambience and the company all made for a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Everyone left with some fun and happy memories to cherish.

The Ipoh Down Syndrome Centre is a strictly non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to the training and teaching of Down syndrome children from ages 2 months to 12 years. Its operations are wholly funded by donations.

Troops Build School Hall

Troops from the Ipoh-based 2nd Malaysian Infantry Brigade and the 25th Infantry Division of the US Army Pacific Command, helped build a multi-purpose building for a kindergarten, the Tadika Kemas Klebang Restu, in Tambun recently. They were participants of the annual bilateral exercise between the two nations known as Exercise Keris Strike, the 19th in the on-going series.

The joint field exercise was held in the general area of Taiping from Wednesday, September 9 to Tuesday, September 22.

It has been the dream of the pre-school's authorities to have the building where a number of activities can be held for the benefit of the children. The project was shelved due to lack of funds until the offer by the brigade.

Construction works were done by army sappers from the Taiping-based 2nd Squadron Royal Malaysian Engineers. The finishing touch, however, was performed by the exercising troops of both nations.

Perak State Community Development (Kemas) Director, Kamal Idris thanked the soldiers for the assistance rendered.

"The building was



completed in just 40 days ala "gotong royong," said Major Faizal Fitri, the squadron commander.

Commander 2nd Infantry Brigade, Brig-Gen Mas'od bin Haji Muhammad and Task Force Bronco Commander, Col Scott W. Kelly handed over a replica of the building's key to Kamal Idris in a ceremony held at the kindergarten's premises on Saturday, September 19.

Present to witness the handing-over were the assemblyman for Manjoi, Haji Mohamad Ziad bin Dato' Hj Mohamed Zainal Abidin and Zone A Klebang's resident association member, Haji Mohd Khair Napiah.

Luqman

News

Malaysians to be Southeast Asia's Stunt Legends Performers

Movie Animation Park Studios (MAPS) has launched the first Stunt Training Academy in Malaysia to groom and fulfil the dreams of local talents keen on developing long-term career opportunities with MAPS.

The Academy provides aspiring individuals a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn the art of becoming a professional stunt performer and to showcase their talents in STUNT LEGENDS - South East Asia's first car & bike 'live' stunt show in MAPS, Ipoh, Perak.

"We are truly honoured to establish the first Stunt Training Academy in Malaysia, providing local talents the perfect opportunity to learn from the best stunt specialists in the industry. Essentially, we hope MAPS will inspire more Malaysians to 'live their dreams' in pursuing full-time career in this exciting industry and making them the pride of the nation in this stunt show!" enthused Darren McLean, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of MAPS.

Stunt Training Academy will offer three key modules, namely Body Control, Precision Driving and Stunt Riding. All three modules are guided by lead trainer Cameron Ambridge, who can be seen in Mad Max: Fury Road and currently working on the next instalment of Pirates of the Caribbean, "Dead Men Tell No Tales".

While safety remains to be the top question in mind, commenting on the issue, Cameron Ambridge, lead trainer of the Academy enthused, "Safety is paramount in this industry. While spectators' hearts skip a beat when a stunt



is performed, it is a controlled performance, carefully thought after at every step of the stunt. In training, the stunt individual will thoroughly mark and test each step and procedure of the stunt, ensuring the safety aspect is not compromised. Stunt individuals are taught to break falls as part of their basic training, hence minimising injuries and untoward accidents during the performance."

Expressing her excitement, Ilia Iryani, a 29-year-old female participant from Seri Kembangan, Selangor said, "It is a dream come true for me to be part of this. Going through the basic training thus far, there is no doubt that there is much more to learn in this predominantly male-driven industry. I look forward to the final outcome of this journey and the opportunity to perform in MAPS' STUNT LEGENDS show. I am grateful to have MAPS providing this platform to realise my career potential. Don't miss the last chance to enrol for this stunt training, check out MAPS website www.mapssperak.com and ride the wind!"

The Stunt Training Academy will be conducted in PROTON Tanjung Malim between October 19 to October 25, targeting a total of 120 participants. An audition will be conducted in November and a total of 50 participants will be shortlisted. At the final stage, their mettle will be put to the test in the selection of the top 25 participants that will be fully employed by MAPS for the STUNT LEGENDS show – a key highlight among the 40 attractions featured in MAPS – Asia's First Animation Theme Park, targeted



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to open in mid-2016.

At the event, Darren McLean has also announced the partnerships between MAPS' Stunt Legends, PROTON Holdings Berhad and KTM Malaysia CKD.

PROTON Holdings Berhad is contributing to the Academy through the use of PROTON Tanjung Malim facilities in Perak and their vehicles. According to Dato' Abdul Harith Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer of PROTON, "PROTON Holdings Berhad is honoured to be a part of this exciting collaboration. We are pleased to be the Official Stunt Training Academy Partner with MAPS. It is a great opportunity to be associated with internationally renowned Stunt Legends who will be training our local talents in Proton cars. With the opening of MAPS in Perak in 2016, I believe it would definitely drive more tourists to the state of Perak and we are happy to contribute to the development in this sector."

KTM Malaysia CKD, a long standing influential player in motorsports and product innovation will be sponsoring bikes for the Stunt Training Academy. Commenting on the partnership, Yeoh Teik Poh, the Financial Controller for KTM Malaysia CKD said, "We look forward to a great partnership with MAPS by combining our strengths and passions in local talent development and hope to elevate the positioning of Malaysia in this exciting industry," Yeoh said.

Vanguard Lady Unveils in Ipoh

Against the backdrop of Ipoh's cityscape, combined with dimmed lighting, The Deck, a rooftop oasis in the Weil Hotel, was transformed into an enchanting venue for approximately 70 hand-picked watch connoisseurs and aficionados to mix and mingle. As champagne flowed continuously, and canapes were nibbled, guests were treated to the unbounded creativity of watch maker par excellence, Franck Muller.

Running on the theme "Facets of Jewelry", the Franck Muller horology showcase was organised by Sincere Fine Watches, Singapore's oldest and most established name in luxury watch retail and hosted by special host, Dato' Foo Mei Yen.

The evening of glamour and glitterati was accompanied with melodically smooth trance sets spinned by Ipoh-born DJ Darling Sabrina, one of the finalists in the Pioneer DJ Battle 2011 and Astro Spin Master 2010.

Explaining the story behind the collection was Gary Chow, the deputy general manager of Sincere, who told Ipoh Echo that the exclusive evening will see a new model, Vanguard Lady, being unveiled for the first time in Malaysia. "The Vanguard for gens was created last year. This year in Geneva, the Vanguard Lady was launched. It arrived in Singapore last month. For Malaysia, the watch arrived two days ago and we brought it to Ipoh to be launched."

While the Vanguard architecture remains true to its original design, the sporty yet glamorous Vanguard Lady is completed by the iconic rubber and leather strap with feminine colour stitches and the winding crown adding the finishing touch.

Ipoh Echo also caught up with Dato' Foo Mei Yen who was radiating opulence and glamour sporting a 7502qz Curvex Relief worth RM112,931. "I think it's very elegant, unlike any other ordinary watch," she disclosed proudly.

Besides the Vanguard Lady, the list of ingenious creations on display included the Crazy Hours, which is the most celebrated invention to-date having an unusual display of numerals in a jumping mechanism, the Vanguard, with futuristic and sporty aesthetics, the Double Mystery, with hands-free hours and minutes and the Sunrise, with the subtle delicacy of the mother-of-pearl dial.

"To construct a mother-of-pearl dial watch is a technical



feat, as it is a brittle substance. Plus, on top of this enchanting material are diamonds," Jimmy Wong, the supervisor of Sincere Pavilion KL, elaborated on the Sunrise series to Ipoh Echo.

And this symbolic timepiece had captured the attention of 57-year-old Jasmine Lee who purchased a Long Island Sunrise and the proud owner had this to say on her first Franck Muller, "It has a very beautiful design, unique shape and it fits my wrists very well."

Guests at the function included Caroline Wong, Dato Wenddi Anne, Lee Nyit Fee, Joanne Liew, Mrs CJ Liu, Mr and Mrs Lim Thou Lai.

The Franck Muller collections are already available in all Sincere branches in Malaysia.

Interested readers could also check out the Franck Muller Application available for iPhone and iPad on the App Store.

Mei Kuan

News

RM100 Million for Zoo Upgrade



RM100 million has been allocated to keep Taiping Zoo and Night Safari on par with international standards. Director Dr Kevin Lazarus said that to date a few projects on developing and upgrading the zoo were ongoing and had entered phase three of completion.

According to him, those projects were fully funded by the Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA).

"The first and second phases involved the upgrading of office buildings, ticketing counter, gallery, shaded pathway, signs, lightings and the enclosure for elephants. Improving the elephant enclosure is very important as we want to showcase its real habitat like at the Perak River," he said.

Kevin added that at the same time, the usage of a train in the zoo was made better too. "The train which ran on diesel previously now operates on battery which is not only economical but environmentally-friendly," he highlighted.

Explaining further on the ongoing projects, he said they will include the construction and upgrading of 12 animal enclosures at a cost of RM3.8 million.

"The upgrade involves the enclosure for panther, gaur, tiger, kangaroo, chimpanzee, wild goat and a few others," he stated. Besides the enclosures, the public toilets especially those within the zoo would be revamped too.

"Upgrading works began ten years ago and the open concept was adopted. We want to provide the real atmosphere and ambience to the animals in the zoo," he exclaimed.

Rosli Mansor



Han Chin Pet Soo

Impress your guests with your own private dinner party in a museum setting. Enquiries should be made to the Events Manager at 05 529 3306 or events@ipohworld.org



HAPPENINGS

Tapestry on Tour in the Living Room Sessions

Tapestry, a home-grown vocal group, recently embarked on its maiden tour from August through to October. Dubbed The Living Room Sessions, the tour series kicked off in the Klang Valley and will be making its way up North to Ipoh and Penang come October.

Tapestry is comprised of Malaysian singers who have been singing together for some time. Sharing a similar passion and guided by the same vision, Tapestry was formed in 2012 in an effort to elevate the standard of excellence in choral and a cappella singing locally. Since its birth, Tapestry has delved into musical genre ranging from spirituals, contemporary pop, jazz, blues, gospel, music theatre to rock in conventional four-part harmony and exciting eight-part harmonies.

The Living Room Sessions has in store an exciting lineup of music performed mainly in a cappella style. The shows will feature new material which Tapestry has been working on as well as a selection of crowd favourites from previous productions, all presented in an intimate and relaxed setting.

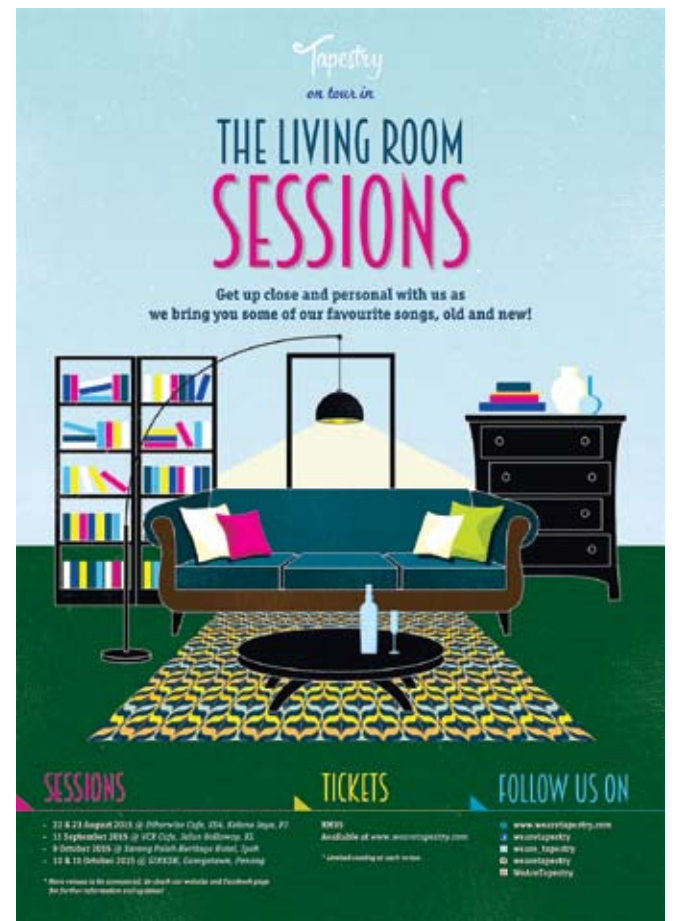
The group has to date produced three shows; Christmas Tapestry in 2012, Stereo & Popcorn in 2013 and Human After All in 2014.

Tapestry's wide repertoire of songs from various musical genres has also seen the group being invited to perform at various functions including opening for Aubrey Suwito's 2014 'Christmas in the Sun' benefit concert and being featured as the main act at the KL International Arbitration Week Gala Dinner in May 2015. Tapestry most recently performed at World Vision's 30-Hour Famine Countdown Event in August 2015.

Sarang Paloh Heritage Hotel, Ipoh | Friday, October 9 @ 8.30pm.

SINKEH, Penang | Saturday, October 10 @ 8:30 p.m. and Sunday, October 11 @ 3pm.

Tickets for The Living Room Sessions are selling at RM35 and can be obtained online at www.wearetapestry.com.



Announcements

Announcements must be sent by fax: **05 255 2181**; 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.

Sunway College Ipoh is proud to organise an AND (Art & Design) Day on October 3 (Saturday) from 10am to 4pm at its campus, in association with the School of Art & Design and its Intergraphic Club. Targeting SPM 2015 Pendiikan Seni Visual/Lukisan/Kejuruteraan subject students, the exclusive event will consists of Talks and Activities on Creative & Visual Arts. Call **05 545 4398** (Information & Communication Dept.) for details and reservation as seats are limited.

Tapestry on Tour in 'The Living Room Sessions', Friday October 9 at Sarang Paloh Heritage Hotel, Ipoh. An exciting lineup of music performed mainly in a cappella style. Get up close and personal with your favourite songs, old and new. Limited seating. Tickets available at www.wearetapestry.com, Facebook: [wearetapestry](https://www.facebook.com/wearetapestry).

Public Forum on Good Mental Health in conjunction of World Mental Health Day 10/10/2015. October 12, 9am-1pm at 4th Floor, Kompleks Aktiviti Harian. Organised by Department of Psychiatry, HRPB and State Health Education Department. Touching on various topics like Overview of Mental Disorders, Self-harm and Suicide, How to say No to negative thoughts and many more! The forum is FREE. For more information, contact **05 208 7436** (Psychiatric Outpatient).

First Sharpened Word Literary Matinee, Saturday October 17, 2pm to 5pm at Sepaloh Art Centre, 16 Jalan Sultan Iskandar (Hugh Low St.), Ipoh. Opening the writer's world to the world at large. New and established Malaysian writers will read from their work and answer questions about their writing process. Sharpened Word meets once a month every 3rd Saturday afternoon. No fee required. For further enquiries, email sharpenedword.kinta@gmail.com, Facebook: [sharpenedword.kinta](https://www.facebook.com/sharpenedword.kinta).

La Salle School Ipoh 50th Anniversary Reunion Dinner, Saturday, October 17. Venue: La Salle School Hall. All ex-students invited. Call Miss Yau **012 512 5693** or Miss Tan **012 576 5898** for details and reservations.

World Animal Day, Sunday October 18, 9am to 2pm at Tenby International School, Meru. Organised by Noah's Ark Ipoh Animal Welfare. Event highlights: pet adoption drive, flea market, food fair, etc. Calling out for flea market vendors, sponsors and volunteers. For booking and enquiries, contact: Peggy (Mandarin/Bahasa) **012 522 0910**, Kathy (English) **017 683 0400** or Malika **017 575 1556**.

The Dementia Day-care Centre is open daily from 9am till 3pm. The centre also holds support group meetings every **2nd Saturday and Monday of each month**. All carers who have loved ones with dementia and others are welcome to attend. These are sharing sessions. For more details kindly call April at **05 241 1691** before 3pm.

Performances of Traditional Songs and Dance every Friday every week from March 25 at 8pm (except fasting month). Held at Kompleks Jabatan Kebudayaan dan Kesenian Negeri Perak, Jalan Caldwell, Off Jalan Raja DiHilir, Ipoh. Come and experience dances like Dikir Fusion, Nego (Kelantan), Joget Kete Lembu, Tangtung, Kollatum, Joget Malaysia and traditional music. Free admission. For enquiries, contact: Puan Nor Fairus Binti Alias **018 958 9049**.

YMCA of Ipoh Toastmasters Club Mission provides a supporting and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth. The group meets every **2nd & 4th Wednesday** at 7.45pm at 211 Jalan Raja Musa Aziz (Anderson Road), 30300 Ipoh. Contacts: Ramesh Victor **016 566 2866**, May Foo **017 466 0943** or Nur Aida **013 346 9490**.

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.

Suggestion to Bring Ipoh City Back To Life Again

Once upon a time Ipoh Town used to be very vibrant and alive in the evenings. There were street hawkers all over New Town and Old Town. People would go around looking for food and many shops would stay open up to 9pm.

Today, apart from Little India, most of Old Town would be very quiet after 6pm. New Town is not much different.

To bring the Ipoh City Centre back to life again, may I suggest that the Kinta River be developed as follows:

The Kinta River from the Indian Temple along Jalan Raja Musa Aziz (Anderson Road) to the Malay Commercial area in Jalan Dato / Jalan Perhentian be dredged (to 4-5 feet deep); both sides of the river bank be developed with proper walkways, bicycle tracks, landscaped with the right trees and shrubs with benches and pergolas and sufficiently lighted. The Police or Rela may be appointed to patrol the area to keep the peace and security.

Starting from the area around the Indian Temple, YMCA and Bandar Istana along Jalan Raja Musa Aziz may be transformed into a themed 'Indian Village'. Everything Indian could be sold and promoted there. Weekly cultural shows showcasing the various Indian communities could be promoted on a stage to be built there. Taman DR and Bandar Istana may even come alive at night as a result.

The area along and in front of the Riverfront Hotel right up to Jalan Sultan Idris Shah (Brewster Road), already partially developed, may be further developed and turned into a 'Global Village'. Everything local and international could be promoted at this location; including the arts, music and songs, food and everything entertaining. Weekly concerts may also be promoted.

Further down the river behind Jalan Laxamana to the Jalan Sultan Iskandar Bridge and People's Park (Hugh Low Street); this area could be developed into a 'Chinese Village'. At this site, everything Chinese could be promoted and sold here, including weekly cultural shows, art, food and concerts.

And finally towards the Jalan Dato end, we could turn this place into a 'Malay Cultural Centre'. Everything Malay could be promoted at this place. Handicraft, food, art, history and weekly dance performances and cultural shows may be made available here.

At every Village, a pier on both sides of the river for people to embark and disembark to be built for visitors to get on and off from 25-foot flat bottom boats which will be sailing from one end to the other ferrying people from one village to another to enjoy the various arts and performances, food and crafts of our diverse cultures.

This project is expected to provide many business and employment opportunities for Ipoh residents. This will also attract tourists to spend more time and money in Ipoh.

The tender for this project could be distributed to the different cultures respectively. They could submit their proposals and costs to be evaluated to find the best value for the developer, operator, tenants and visitors. The river and the banks on both sides to be maintained by the DID and DBI.

I believe this project, if managed and operated properly, will bring Ipoh City back to life again and many Ipohites would gain from its revival. This will also bring the people closer together to understand and enjoy each other's culture and promote muhibbah.

Of course what I have proposed is just an outline, an idea. More brainstorming needs to be carried out to fine tune this project and establish the cost. I shall be most happy to contribute to make Ipoh a better place for all.

People of Ipoh, what do you think?

Cheah Kok Wah

A Lack of Foresight

Before the renovation of KTM Square there were many trees around Ipoh's iconic railway station. Now it is barren. Thus the tagline about Ipoh being green and developing, as touted by Ipoh City Council, is inaccurate.

The only tree left standing within the station grounds is the 30-year-old Ipoh Tree (Antiaris Toxicara). An audit of trees by the National Landscape Department from 2008 to 2010 in 28 local councils nationwide valued the Ipoh Tree at RM123,735.60. The tree stands tall; however the area around the tree is unkempt. The department credits Ipoh City Council for its initiative in providing information on the management of trees in the city.

That is remarkable. But what has come of the 120-year-old raintrees (Albizziasaman) along Jalan Seenivasagam? They are valued at RM1,301,900.98? Incidentally, the raintrees around the Lake Gardens in Taiping, valued at RM1,068,712.84, are still there.

With climatic change and global warming trees are an asset.

On April 13, the Taiping Heritage Trail was launched with much fanfare. We were, however, told that it would only be operational in 2016. The Perak Mosque Trail was launched by the Menteri Besar on August 13. Unfortunately, until today there are no brochures on the trail. It is a good marketing strategy but is off the mark.

An officer from National Heritage Department proudly announced that almost 40 per cent of heritage sites and monuments listed under the National Heritage Act 2005 are in Perak. So what? Does he realise that some of those listed like Kuala Kangsar's Istana Kenangan has been closed for almost 5 years, as the integrity of the building is at stake.

Mesjid Kg Kuala Dal is undergoing a second restoration work. What went wrong with the first work? Rumah Besar Raja Bilah in Papan is in dire need of another repair work due to a leaking roof. What has come of the Old Post Office Building in Ipoh? It has been declared a heritage building years ago but nothing is happening there now.

We still have a long way to go. If and unless concerted efforts are taken to address prevailing problems we will forever be stuck in a time warp. This is the likely scenario I foresee coming our way.

There is definitely a lack of foresight on the part of the authorities. Much money and time have been expended for no apparent reasons.

Nadim

More Questions than Answers

According to a World Health Organisation (WHO) report about half of the world's population lives in areas where rabies is prevalent. Annually, about 50,000 people succumbed to the infection in these countries.

The recent outbreak of rabies virus in dogs in the northern states of Perlis, Kedah and Penang have taken many by surprise. Malaysian veterinary authorities are known for their stringent border surveillance and quarantine procedures.

There have been reports of rabies infection in stray dogs in Perlis and Kedah before but the authorities have managed to stop its spread remarkably well.

There is a buffer between Malaysian and the Thai border to prevent the spread of rabies into the country. If the rabies infection originated from Thailand it should have been detected at the source.

If the infection is from Thailand how come the authorities were unable to detect it? If our borders are that porous, as claimed by the deputy director general of the department of veterinary service, then we should have many outbreaks, not only in Perlis and Kedah, but in Kelantan too. If we can confine the infection to the northern states for over 40 years how come we failed now?

I am disappointed that our much-vaunted border veterinary zoonotic disease surveillance system is not up to scratch. I hope the authorities concerned will take note of this and take remedial actions. They should not take the easy way out by culling strays on account of the outbreak. Rabies is not only spread by dogs. Cats are known to carry a highly infectious and dangerous zoonotic parasite referred to as toxoplasmosis that can cause pregnant mothers to abort. Do we kill stray cats as well?

We are bent on creating unnecessary fear in the public on the sudden rabies outbreak to a point that some pet owners are now beginning to abandon their pets.

World Health Organisation has recommended that the vaccination of pet dogs, including strays, is the best approach in tackling the rabies problem. I appeal to the authorities to work closely with the animal-welfare groups rather than killing the poor creatures.

Been an animal lover it saddens me to see hundreds of stray dogs being killed when there is not one case of human death so far. This warrants a thorough re-examination of the kind rabies diagnosis tests being conducted by our labs.

Have the authorities followed the standard WHO laboratory rabies-testing protocols before confirming it is rabies? Experts are puzzled as to why, despite the fact that more than 30 people who have been bitten by suspected rabies-infected dogs, not one has come down with the disease? It raises doubts as to the validity of the rabies test conducted locally.

During the peak of the Nipah disease outbreak several years ago, blood tests were conducted on several dogs kept in an animal shelter. Some of the dogs were found to be positive for the Nipah virus. A decision was made to cull those with Nipah virus. It was later found that it was not Nipah virus but another harmless virus that shared similar genes to the Nipah virus.

The authorities should consider WHO's recommendation to immunise stray dogs instead of putting them to sleep. They should also review the border rabies surveillance programme, as it is obvious that lapses in the programme are the root cause of the outbreak.

The authorities should investigate how the disease spread to Penang so fast and why preventive actions failed. An investigation on the outbreak should also be conducted to ensure that it does not recur.

S. Param

UniShortList

Greetings to everyone,

We are currently running an education project named UniShortList to provide a one-stop education advisory and consultation service to prospective students who intend to further their studies in Australia.

Upon engagement by prospective students, our team will provide immediate consultation and guide them through the application process based on their academic and financial qualifications, in accordance with the course requirements of the educational institutions.

Programmes covered by our project include: Foundation/Pre-university, Degree, Masters, Language and even vocational education and training (VET) courses.

Tuition fees and fees incidental to the enrolment application will be borne by the prospective students themselves BUT our consultation service is at NO COST. Prospective students need only furnish us with the necessary information (and documents) and we take care of the rest. It's that simple!

In a nutshell, we want to assist prospective students to enrol and settle down in Australia, all these for FREE! Our ultimate objective is to help them make the right choice and to ensure that they are enrolled successfully without going through the hassle of dealing with multiple parties.

For those who are interested or have further queries, kindly drop us a message at our website at www.unishortlist.com and also leave us your name, contact number and email address. We will be in touch within the next 24 hours!

High School graduates, parents and teachers are strongly recommended to contact us.

Lucas Lai
hockeny@gmail.com

History

Historian with a Passion

Did you know that a rubber estate in Sungai Siput was the site that witnessed the beginning of the Malayan Emergency? And sometime in 1936 the first Perak caveman, with its complete set of skeleton, was found in a cave not in Lenggong but at the Phin Soon Estate in Sungai Siput? How many would take the initiative to find this out? Well, not many.

Ipoh-born Harchand Singh Bedi, 45, however, does. His interest in history started during his school days and it has never waned. His tireless efforts at highlighting the heroic deeds of the Sikh community began in 2006 with the launch of his documentary, "Dawn of Destruction" about the Malayan Emergency.

The sacrifices made by Sikhs and other Indian nationals in the two World Wars and the Malayan Emergency were largely unknown. Fortunately, with Harchand's pioneering studies, he has opened a window with a rare glimpse into Sikh militaristic contributions all over the world.

"I've travelled around the world telling people of my kinsmen's exploits. In Australia, I related the Indian involvement at Gallipoli in 1915. My audiences were shocked to find that they were not recorded in the Australian history books," said Harchand to Ipoh Echo.

His knowledge of history and his ability to quote things off-hand, coupled with his approachability, left this scribe speechless. An event manager by profession, Harchand concentrates his free time on his one passion – history.

Much involved with the annual memorial service at God's Little Acre, Batu Gajah, Harchand conducts self-funded researches, produces non-profit exhibitions and collects over 1000 rare historical black-and-white photos and memorabilia. Google his name and you will see the many historical writings attributed to him.

"I am teaching my 8-year-old son to continue with this noble cause. Recently, both of us wrote one article entitled 'True to their Salt' which is available online," exclaimed the proud father of two.

One obstacle he faces is the difficulty in gaining funds for his research works. For instance, the photographs obtained from the archives are not free. Every year he has to pay royalty. On top of that, he has to get permits to exhibit the photographs and pay reproduction costs. It cost him between 70-80 GBP (RM350-RM400) for each photo on display.

"Furthermore, our ringgit is depreciating. It's a time-consuming and tedious process, as a lot of material is not digitised yet," Harchand lamented.

So how can we help him? "People should preserve their family history and share with their younger ones their involvement in historical events to instil pride in their kids."

"A good example is Ian Anderson. He's not a Chinese yet he has restored the Han

Chin Pet Soo to preserve the history of the Hakka community. Hence, everyone has a part to play."

Harchand will not remain idle. "Being a Sikh, I've preserved the history and contributions of the Sikhs in Malaya right from 1860s. How they were recruited as policemen in Perak and so forth. I've collected a lot of photos and will organise an exhibition soon."

He too plans to write his first-ever coffee-table book, a compilation of all his articles by next year. "Youths should know how their forefathers fought for the freedom they enjoy today."

The monument at the Green Ridge in Kampar is one of Harchand's proudest achievements. He is waiting for the state government to gazette it as a historical site, hopefully by the end of this year. "The credit goes to the late Chye Kooi Long, a historian who initiated the project," he said.

And the one principle he holds dear to in life is Appreciation. "Without appreciation, nothing can be achieved. You must appreciate history and the contributions made by the forefathers."

Interested volunteers and donors who wish to provide Harchand a helping hand can contact him at harchandsinghbedi@yahoo.co.uk.

Mei Kuan



Education



Project Cambodia 2015

ASIA Metropolitan International School (AMETIS) places a huge emphasis on charity and outreach programmes. In previous years, the school's programmes were mainly based in Ipoh and within the state of Perak.

This year, they went beyond national boundaries with Project Cambodia 2015. A team consisting of 13 learners and 12 staff members spent two days at schools run by the Volunteer Development for Children's Association (VDCA) in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

The VDCA runs two schools in a rural part of Siem Reap. The VDCA Evening School caters for young people who spend the main part of their day working to supplement their family's income.

These young people attend the evening school where they are taught English, hygiene and are equipped with other skills to improve their standard of living. The Anlung Pi Free School is a regular primary school and nursery for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. This school provides free education and aims to take the children off the streets.

The team conducted activities such as language games, singalong sessions, painting and a hygiene awareness programme.

Thanks to generous donations from parents and friends of AMETIS, the team was able to take along 26 boxes consisting of clothes, medicine, computers, books, stationery, toiletries and foodstuff. It made a cash donation of USD1000 (RM4,300) to the Cambodian association.

KinderJoy Graduation Concert

Over a hundred 6-year-old kids were the stars at KinderJoy Graduation Concert, receiving their graduation certificates on stage held at Dewan Leong Wan Chin, Jalan Kampar on the evening of Saturday, September 19.

Witnessed by families and friends, kids from Chinese and English-medium classes, walked up on stage to receive their certificates from Aznan Haji Alias, the Perak Education Department Head of Special and Private Education Sector.

Themed 'Kids in Motion', the children put up an interesting array of dances to entertain their parents, grandparents, siblings, friends and well-wishers. Dressed in glittering costumes, they danced to rousing applause from the audience.

At this 19th graduation concert, Tadika KinderJoy also presented their former students with the "High Achiever Award" for outstanding achievement in academic and co-curricular activities in primary school. The 16 young recipients are now in Primary One to Three.

"I believe the theme 'Kids in Motion' the kindergarten has chosen, stresses the importance of staying fit bodily and mentally. Schooling does not just mean intellectual pursuits," said Aznan in his speech.

"The children of Tadika KinderJoy have achieved a great deal under the supervision and guidance of the principal and teachers of Tadika KinderJoy. The children are in good hands," he added.

Nantini



Government

Mayor Executive Talk

Ipoh City Council held its monthly Executive Talk assembly at the Ipoh Town Hall on Monday, September 14.

Over 500 Council staff members were present at the gathering. The morning programme began with the singing of the national anthem, Negaraku, followed by the Council's theme song. The event was graced by the mayor and his senior staff who were all seated on the stage.

Mayor Dato' Zamri bin Man delivered his executive speech touching on the Council's responsibilities to Ipohites in general and his vision of Ipoh being the most liveable city in the country.

"I wish to thank the Council Secretary, Mohd Zakuan Zakaria, for organising the event for me to speak directly to the audience," said Zamri.

"I too wish to express my appreciation to all Council workers for your commitment which has contributed to the Council's achievements," he added.

The mayor then presented service awards to deserving staff members and members of the contingent that won honours during the state-level 58th National Day celebration held recently.

Nantini



Entertainment

Tiang Cengal Dinding Sayung

Directed by Ard Omar who is not a stranger in the local theatre scene, *Tiang Cengal Dinding Sayung* was presented at Perak JKKK Auditorium recently. Among guests who attended the heart-warming show were state executive councillor for Tourism, Art, Culture, Communication and Multimedia, Dato' Nolee Ashilin Mohammed Radzi and Perak JKKK Director, Jasmi Bin Rasit.

"The actors have done a tremendous job! I shed tears when the scene where Jimah scolded her children for being insensitive about their missing father. Congratulations to the theatre crews and actors," said Dato' Nolee after the show ended.

The story tells of fisherman Jumaat and his friends who were at sea when the Tsunami hit Kedah in 2004. As the sea calmed, bodies of Jumaat's friends were found by the local authorities far from where they usually fish. Jumaat's fate on the other hand, remained unknown as the police were still looking for him.

Back at the village, Jumaat's wife, Jimah remained silent, believing that her husband was still alive. Their children who worked in the city came back to keep her company but a disagreement ensued at the family gathering.

The theatre was part of the literature component taken by Forms 4 and 5 students across Malaysia written by Suriani Mohd Yusof hence the reason why on the opening day the hall was filled with students from various schools in Perak. Director Yusop Najmi was happy with the number of people who attended the show and hopes that more supporters will emerge in the local theatre scene.

Ili Aqilah



Nosh News



Konda Kondi

Craving for Mexican food? Head to **Konda Kondi**, a *halal* cafe that serves not only Mexican food, but also some local delicacies.

Located in the heart of Ipoh city, **Konda Kondi** offers homemade pastas, tacos, burgers and some light bites that's guaranteed to satisfy.

Nachos El Capitan is a scrumptious appetizer made from stacks of nachos, mashed potatoes, ground beef and their special bolognese sauce, good at RM10. Pasta lovers will be spoilt with a selection of homemade spaghetti such as spicy Aglio Olio (RM11) creamy Carbonara (RM11) and Bolognese (RM13).

One of their signature Mexican dishes is the Beef/Chicken Tacos El Carambad, served with special sauce and french fries, good at RM15. There are also colourful mocktails, such as Apple Peach, Sonic Lagoon, Simpson Granate, Mario Berry, Luigi Mint and Mojito Fizz ranging from RM8 to RM9.

Konda Kondi is located at 83, Jalan Sultan Idris. Open daily except Tuesday from 5pm till 12.30am. For reservations, contact Azril aryandi Zambri at 014 308 2321.

Ili Aqilah



Arts & Culture

Naive Art in Puteri Pakma



Everyone can draw but not everyone can create a continuous plot out of it, especially if you want to convey a meaningful message via art. For Abby Zain, 50, she chose to disseminate the message of caring for Mother Nature through her paintings, as it is easily accepted.

A fan of naive art, she said people might perceive it as easy drawings, but she believes there is a deeper meaning in it, as she finds novelty in her art. She added that it is an honest way of sharing with the readers.

"I've been disseminating messages through my drawings because I want my audience to learn something out of it," said Abby to reporters following the launching of her visual art and book exhibition at PORT (People of Remarkable Talent) Gallery, Ipoh recently.

Her latest visual art, which she named 'Puteri Pakma 2' is a continuation from the book itself, which was first published in 2013. This time, she depicted the message of caring for our rainforest.

"It all started when I dreamt for three successive days and in that dream I was in a forest and the animals were talking to me. I knew it's a sign for me to do something about it," she added. Her drawings will be published as a book in 2016.

Executive Councillor for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Multimedia and Communications, Dato' Nolee Ashilin Mohammed Radzi officiated at the launch.

"Abby's book has the potential to bring more tourists to Perak," said Nolee. "People would be interested to know about Perak because, as mentioned by Abby, this book was based on her visits to the Gopeng jungles," she added.

Rosli Mansor

Conservation

Revisit Ipoh's Past via Gua Tambun Rock Art

Gua Tambun, a rockshelter hidden in the midst of Gunung Panjang limestone massif, is a living "photo-album" which showcases the lifestyles of early hunter-gatherers of Tambun – the meaning of their life, their culture and their world view some 3000 to 4000 years ago. To date, the last inhabitants of Gua Tambun still remain unknown, but the study into their art is a means of reconnecting Ipohites to the early cultural history of Tambun.

What impressed the archaeologists is that the ancient artists of Tambun were observant because some of the depictions are thoroughly illustrated. What the ancient Tambun's men left behind are the stories painted on the wall, hoping that one day, the future Tambun community would interpret them.

As an archaeologist, I tend to give meanings to these depictions based on rock art literature. But Tambun Rock Art is indigenously Tambun's. We should give way to Tambun community to ascribe their meanings to these depictions – to decode their very own cultural past, from the eyes of contemporary Tambun. The question is, **how?**

As such, Gua Tambun Heritage Awareness Project has initiated a programme focusing on collating community interpretations of these paintings as a means to promote local awareness on Tambun Rock Art. On Wednesday, September 16, a group of Ipohites joined us to revisit Ipoh's past through Tambun Rock Art. We shared the beauty of cultural history of Tambun through a small poster exhibition at the foothill and a 2-hour rock art interpretation session at Gua Tambun. Many were amazed by how the ancient people of Gua Tambun produced these aesthetically powerful rock art. We worked together to decipher the old messages preserved on the cave wall.

So fellow Ipohites, why wait? Do join us for our next programme! We are going to run a poster exhibition at the foothill of Gua Tambun on Saturday, **October 3**, from 9.30am to 1pm. Do swing by if you have time. We will visit the cave and let you share with us your Gua Tambun story!

For more information and updates on our project, please follow us on Facebook – **Gua Tambun Heritage Awareness Project**, or drop us an email at tambunrockart@gmail.com.

Hsiao-Mei Goh



Royal Belum Scientific Expedition

The fourth Royal Belum scientific expedition to explore and seek secrets of the 130-million rainforest of Northern Perak was launched on Tuesday, September 8 at Pulau Banding, Gerik.

The largest expedition ever was organised by Pulau Banding Foundation (PBF) and the Perak State Parks Corporation (PTNP). It consisted of 217 participants from 10 local public and private universities, three national research institutions as well as representatives from forestry, wildlife, army, police, health, civil defense and state park rangers.

The emphasis of the research, according to PBF Chairman, Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr Abdul Latif, would be on environment and genetic resources conservation, establishment and maintenance of a database of all flora and fauna found and bio-prospecting for active compounds for use in the pharmaceutical industry.

Pulau Banding, a unique man-made 243-hectare island, is managed by the Belum Foundation and efforts are being made to the Royal Belum State Park to list the rainforest as a UNESCO World Heritage site. This idea was mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak last year largely due to the availability of plants with medicinal properties.

Nantini



My Say

By Jerry Francis



Ipoh Old Town to be Historical and Multi-cultural Enclave

Ipoh's Old Town sector is to become the historical and multi-cultural enclave of the city.

It is to showcase the history and diverse cultures in pioneering the development of a once riverine Malay kampong into a thriving tin mining city – a testimony of success of the Malay settlers, Orang Aslis, migrant Chinese and Indian merchants in working harmoniously to achieve it.

The Ipoh City Council has, jointly with the Town and Rural Planning Department, drawn an elaborate development plan, known as 'Rancangan Kawasan Khas Pekan Ipoh – Bandar Warisan Bijeh Timah, 2020.'

The plan includes various proposals for development. It calls for the city centre to be divided into various zones.

Within the core area, which includes part of the New Town sector, will be the administration, multi-culture and traditional businesses zones.

These zones will include Little India, Jalan Panglima Bukit Gantang, Jalan Maharaja Lela, Jalan Panglima Bukit Gantang, and Jalan Bijeh Timah.

And, outside the core area are the services, mixed business and community zones. They include Kinta Heights and part of the New Town sector.

However, since most of the heritage buildings are in the Old Town sector, the plan for a historical and multi-cultural enclave in the city is therefore centred on this sector.

The city council has identified 14 heritage buildings under category one and 33 heritage buildings under category two within the core area.

Among those under category one are J.W.W. Birch Memorial Clock Tower, Town Hall, Railway Station, High Court, Royal Ipoh Club, and St Michael's Institution.

Estimates for providing facelifts alone to these heritage buildings will cost over



RM70 million.

The plan also proposes the creation of pedestrian and tricycle routes, traffic-free zones and street malls. These will be around Jalan Sultan Yusof, Jalan Bijeh Timah and Jalan Panglima, where a traffic-free zone can be declared on Sundays.

Currently, a 'Heritage Walk' has been established linking Jalan Maharaja Lela, Jalan Panglima, Lorong Panglima and Jalan Bijeh Timah. It will eventually connect to the Kinta riverbank.

The stretch of Kinta River from Jalan Raja Musa Aziz bridge to Kg. Kuchai is to be divided into three sections, namely Kinta Riverfront, Dulang Waterfront and People's Park Riverfront.

Dulang Waterfront, which is being planned between the Jalan Sultan Iskandar Shah bridge and Jalan Sultan Idris Shah bridge, is to be the main attraction. It will be linked to the New Town sector by a pedestrian bridge. Both sides of the embankment will be beautifully landscaped with fountains, children's playgrounds, food outlets, commercial kiosks, footpaths and jetties. Beside the pedestrian bridge, which will connect both sides of the embankments, will be an arcade in the shape of a tin dredge.

Kg. Kuchai, located opposite People's Park Riverfront, is being earmarked for mixed development.

In order to ensure the stretch of the Kinta River is clean and deep enough for water related recreational activities, a floating rubbish boom is proposed near Jalan Raja Musa Aziz bridge and another inflatable rubber dam at the Jalan Datoh bridge. The aim is to keep the river clean and to raise its water level from 0.75m to 2m to allow water-related activities to be organised.

An inflatable rubber dam is currently operating between Jalan Lim Boo Seng bridge and Jalan Sultan Idris Shah bridge.

Only about five years ago, the Old Town sector located on the right bank of the Kinta River that bisects Old Town and New Town, consisted largely of condemned, dilapidated and vacant business premises.

It was the result of Ipoh – "City That Tin Built" being badly affected by the collapse of the tin mining industry in the Kinta Valley in mid 80s. For many years there appeared to be no hope of recovery from the economic setback.

Many property owners discovered it was more lucrative to convert their pre-war buildings into swiftlet hotels – painting a gloomy picture of a city that was once vibrant.

Although some efforts were made by individuals, including professionals, who bought the old buildings cheaply and began to show enthusiasm in restoring them, it was a slow process.

However, it took a near disastrous incident – collapse of two shop lots in the notorious Panglima Lane in 2011, for people to take note and begin to seriously look into what needed to be done to revive the old sector of the city.

Following the incident, the Ipoh City Council also issued a "repair or demolish" ultimatum to the owners of the affected buildings and other condemned and dilapidated buildings that could pose a danger to pedestrians. This ignited an interest to restore

Panglima Lane and the vicinity around as a heritage site.

Since then the restoration effort has been moving at a fast pace and the price of properties within the Old Town sector began to skyrocket – in some cases as much as five times.

During weekends and public holidays, scores of tourists are flocking in to tour and photograph the heritage sites and taste the well-known local cuisine.

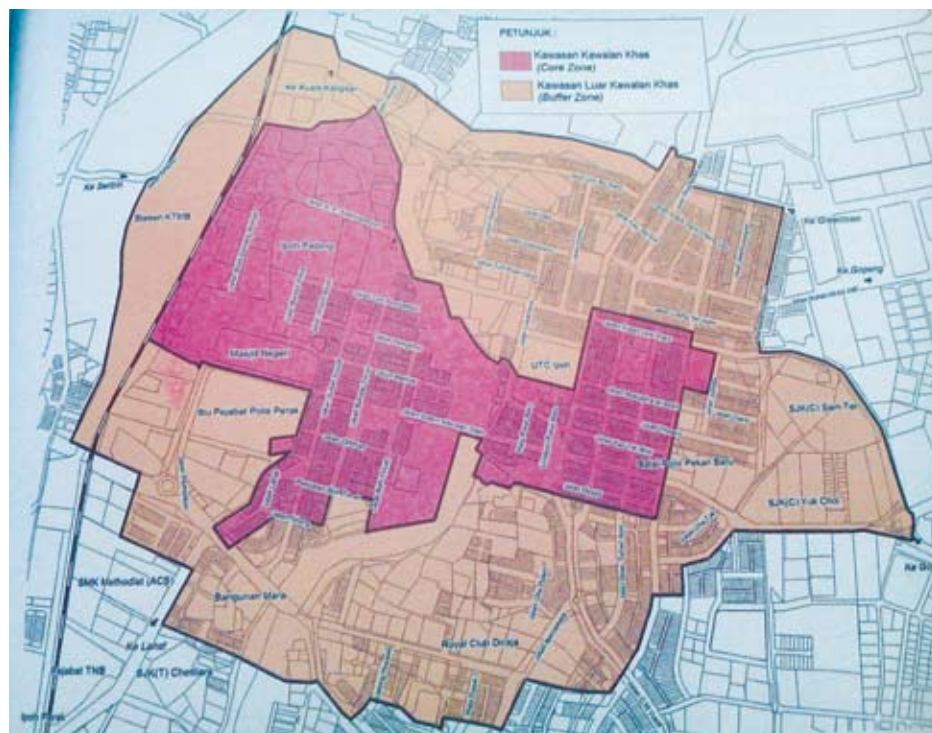
"Panglima Lane is slowly becoming like Jonker Street in Melaka," said Datuk Lee Heng, a local veteran real estate agent.

Lee, who is also a city councillor, had purchased two properties in Panglima Lane and restored the premises for rental.

"Buying the properties at a high price just for investment is not advisable," added Lee, who has been in the real estate business for over 30 years. This is so because you cannot fetch high rental now and at the same time the assessment rate for the

properties in the city is high.

However, he is confident that the Old Town sector will become a major tourist attraction in the city.



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Approved plan no. : OSC(036-A)/LB/19/138/12
Land encumbrances : Charged to Malaysian Banking Berhad
Total units : 96
Land tenure : Freehold
Exp. Completion date : September 2016
Price : Min RM 580,260 Max RM 738,800
Approving Authority : M.B.I.



Sport

RPS Hockey Tournament

The RPS International Hockey Tournament 2015 was held at Stadium Sultan Azlan Shah, Ipoh from Wednesday, September 16 to Friday, September 18. Seventeen teams from 13 schools from all over the country took part in the 9-a-side tournament. The event was organised by Sekolah Raja Perempuan (RPS), Ipoh for the third year running.

Host RPS bagged the championship trophy beating SMK Seksyen Li Shah Alam on a penalty shootout. The score line was 3-0. SMK Gunung Rapat took third spot, defeating SMK Mutiara Impian Penang 2-0.

Perak Hockey Association President, Dato' Hj Abdul Rahim Mat Ariff, gave away the trophies and awards. The Best Player Award was won by Nur Natasha Amira Abu Hashim from RPS. Noortasya Hidayah Mohd Azlan from SSN Selangor B was adjudged the best goalkeeper while Penang Juniors from SMK Mutiara Impian Penang won the Fair Play Award.

Sekolah Raja Perempuan was declared as one of Malaysia's Cluster School of Excellence in 2009. This is one of the projects under the Cluster School Programme. Hockey, apparently, is RPS's forte and the school has produced many national players.

Nantini



Penalty Shootout Decides Winner



Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Perak Football Club (PKNP FC) won the recently-concluded football championship organised by the Ipoh Football Association held at the Perak Stadium on Thursday, September 17. It defeated Ipoh City Council's Football Club (MBI FC) 4-2 in a penalty shootout.

Both sides played hard in front of almost a thousand adoring fans. But when the final whistle blew, after the regulation extra time, the score line was 2-2. The winner was then decided on a penalty shootout.

Besides winning the challenge trophy, PKNP FC won the RM3000 cash prize on offer. Runner-up MBI FC took home RM2000 in cash prize. The Best Player Award went to Mohammad Rosdi Abu Said from PKNP FC.

The objective of the league was to help the Ipoh Football Association source for fresh talents and to prepare itself for the upcoming Super League.

Nantini