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ULTIMATE TEST OF COURAGE

BASE jumping daredevils take on KL Tower

Cover story

KL Tower Jump
August 29th, 30th & 31st, 2008



JOURNEY
DATO' AZMI MURAD
Man in the fast lane
4



MALAYSIALIVE
SPAGHETTI GRILL
Take a pick of the spirits or just tantalise your taste buds
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MENARA KUALA LUMPUR
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TOURISM MALAYSIA



Malaysia International Fireworks Competition 2008

Putrajaya

MIFC 2008 Team Competition Schedule (9:30pm)				
Aug 12	Aug 16	Aug 20	Aug 24	Aug 29
Malaysia	China	Canada	Spain	Australia (Grand Finale)

Merdeka Carnival and Exhibition 2008 at PICC in conjunction with MIFC 2008

AUG 12, 16, 18, 20, 24-29, (10:00 am onwards)
Fireworks Food Fiesta, Mini Concerts, Performances, Dinners, Exhibitions, Fashion Shows, Product Launches / Cooking / Food Demos, DJ / Live Bands, Magic Shows with Henzi!

Special Putrajaya Fireworks 2008 Packages

EXCLUSIVE FINE DINE WITH A VIEW
(1st Floor at PICC)
RM250/adult RM200/child (below 12)

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Contact: 03-88885539
www.cruisetasikputrajaya.com

FIREWORKS DINNER CRUISE
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PUTRAJAYA FIREWORKS TOUR
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Come experience the splendour and excitement of one of the world's largest musical fireworks competition at Putrajaya this month! Catch world-renowned competitors battling it out on the horizon of the Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC) on five nights from 9.30pm... all for the glory of the Merdeka Trophy.

For more information and updates, log onto : www.mifc.com.my

www.mifc.com.my

Organiser:

Supported by:



TREAT FOR THE SENSES



THE country's floral heritage will take centre stage once again in this year's Malaysia Flora Fest 2008.

Held from July 18 till August 3, this year's theme, 'Colours of Harmony' will resonate throughout July with events and activities organised all over the country, culminating in Johor Baru.

The programmes guarantee a rich parade of colours that celebrate Malaysia's floral heritage in a fabulous display of vibrant blooms and creativity.

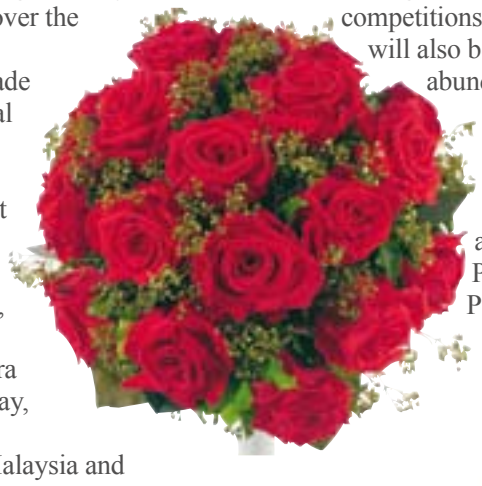
The floral parade is the first such event to be organised in Southeast Asia and is open to everyone, including private and governmental organisations in Malaysia, as well as international participants.

The highlight of the festival is the Flora Fest Parade on July 26, held at Danga Bay, Johor Baru.

Flora-decorated floats from all over Malaysia and neighbouring countries will compete for awards in six categories – Premier Trophy, Theme Trophy, Creative Trophy, Parade Trophy, Jury Award and International Participation Award.

Visitors will then get the chance to scrutinise each float when they are placed on static display for two days in Johor Baru.

Other interesting events such as bazaars, competitions, exhibitions and workshops will also be held to honour Malaysia's abundant floral harvest.



Malaysia's very own Floral Fest came into being after Tourism Malaysia's entries won accolades and collected awards at the world renowned Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade in USA.



OTHER EVENTS

Flora Workshop – July 18-20 at Saloma Bistro & Theatre, Jalan Ampang, Kuala Lumpur

Florathon/Flora Run – July 20, 7.30am at Botanical Gardens, Ayer Keroh, Malacca

Flora Design Arrangement/Decoration Competition – July 21 to August 3 at selected hotel lobbies and shopping centres

Floral Fest Parade – July 26 in Danga Bay, Johor Baru

Static Display of Float – July 26-28 in Danga Bay, Johor Baru

For details, log on to www.tourismjohor.com/event/event_view.cfm

Malaysia Flora Fest 2008
Date: July 18-August 3, 2008
Venue: Danga Bay, Johor Baru, Johor
Organiser: Ministry of Tourism Malaysia
Website: www.motour.gov.my

OTHER MARK-YOUR-CALENDAR EVENTS

Malaysia Mega Sale Carnival
July 5, 2008 until September 1, 2008

KL Samrah Festival 2008
July 18, 2008 until August 9, 2008

KL World Marching Band Competition (KLWMBC) 2008
July, 30 2008 until August 3, 2008

Penang International Dragon Boat Festival
July 31, 2008 until August 3, 2008

Sarawak Regatta
August 1, 2008 until August 3, 2008

Tasik Bera and Tasik Chini Expedition
August 22, 2008 until August 25, 2008



MERDEKA!



AUGUST in Malaysia is a big deal indeed.

While Malaysians ramp up for the big day – the Merdeka or Independence Day celebrations – a number of exciting events are also scheduled to take place in August.

The month-long KL Festival, a celebration of the arts in Kuala Lumpur, comes to an end in August. During its run, the capital city of Kuala Lumpur was transformed into a throbbing and vibrant performing arts and cultural centre with performances that drew audiences from all over the country and the world.

On August 2, Malaysia played host to the MTV Asia Awards 2008.

Held at Genting Highland's Arena of Stars, the event was a showcase of Asian talents and a chance for the region's best performers to shine on the world stage.

The exposure gained from the MTV Asia Awards 2008 is considerable, as the show was beamed to more than 291 million viewers worldwide.

This was the first time the show was held in Malaysia. Local nominees such as Dato' Siti Nurhaliza, Faizal Tahir, Pop Shuvit and Nicholas Teo made us proud to be Malaysians.

The highlight for this month has to be the Merdeka Day celebrations when Malaysia turns 51 on August 31. This means an explosion of colours and a mesh of cultures, sights and sounds as Malaysians from all walks of life, come together to celebrate in a way that is uniquely Malaysian.

A multitude of activities has been lined up, from parades to competitions to cultural performances and the arts. There'll be no shortage of things for you to do.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all Malaysians, specifically, all those with Malaysia Airports, a very happy Merdeka.

It is my fervent wish that we continue striving for the best in everything we do to cement our name on the world map.

Dato' Seri Bashir Ahmad,
Managing Director, Malaysia Airports

KLIA TIMES



MAIN COVER IMAGE: **MENARA KL**

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By Peggy Loh

PRIDE AND PASSION IN AN ENDURING CAREER

From his humble beginnings in Jitra, SIC General Manager Dato' Azmi Murad has come a long way, successfully playing host to international motorsports events like the Formula One, MotoGP, The Millennium Endurance Race and The SuperGT.





WHEN this 18-year old lad from Jitra, Kedah, joined the Department of Civil Aviation as an Air Traffic Controller in 1970, he worked hard to learn about the aviation industry. Fourteen years on his career took flight when he was appointed General Manager of Kota Kinabalu Airport. This was followed by roles as General Manager of Alor Setar and Penang airports. In 1998, just two months before Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) started operations, he was assigned to KLIA.

Today as Senior General Manager Operations of Malaysia Airports, Dato' Azmi Murad still has his feet firmly planted on the ground. Besides KLIA, his scope of work included overseeing 39 airports including Astana International Airport in Kazakhstan. In January 2007, Dato' Azmi had his role expanded to oversee operations of another Malaysia Airports property, the Sepang International Circuit (SIC). The 5.543 km SIC is the most spectacular race circuit in the eastern hemisphere and the venue for the Formula One Malaysian Grand Prix, A1 Grand Prix, the Malaysian Motorcycle Grand Prix and other major motorsports events like kart racing and motorcross.

As General Manager of SIC from 2000 to 2001, Dato' Azmi organised and managed the first Merdeka Millennium Endurance Race (MME) in 2000. The MME is a gruelling 12-hour endurance race that was held annually in late August to coincide with the Merdeka celebrations. The MME was the brainchild of the late chairman of Malaysia Airports & SIC, YBhg Tan Sri Basir Ismail.

In 2007, there was a record high number of participants but out of the 103 cars that signed up, only 77 made it to the starting grid in accordance with the Federation of International Automobiles (FIA) circuit license granted to SIC. In this year's race, cars will be flagged off at 11.30am on 30 August 2008 and should complete the endurance race at 11.30pm. At the stroke of midnight, everyone in the SIC will rise to sing the National anthem and usher in Merdeka on August 31. What follows is a double celebration in the podium ceremony and Merdeka festivities in the circuit. From his enthusiastic descriptions, it was clear that Dato' Azmi derives much satisfaction in successfully organising the MME since 2000 and this year will be his ninth MME.

> "My greatest satisfaction is when the organisers, authorities and spectators are all happy at the end of a successful race"



Dato' Azmi was involved with organising and promoting the Formula One Grand Prix with great success and is proud that there was a record high of more than 126,000 spectators on March 23, 2008! "A Malaysian is able to organise an international F-One event," quipped Dato' Azmi. He was referring to his personal satisfaction because this world-class event was beamed "live" to 600 million viewers worldwide!

"My greatest satisfaction is when the organisers, authorities and spectators are all happy at the end of a successful race. When the race is over without major incidents and there are no long queues in or out of the circuit, then the management is deemed excellent!" he said. The entire experience at the SIC is important to him because he firmly believes that we should give a positive impression on all spectators and guests in the country.

Driven by success, Dato' Azmi is inspired to consistently strive for world-class standards. When KLIA won the World's Best Airport award (15 to 25 million passengers per annum) for three consecutive years, 2005, 2006 and 2007, he felt so proud and yet humbled in his role as Head of Operations. He is simply delighted that Malaysia has such excellent infrastructure in a world-class international airport and race circuit, and he's directly managing it!

"I love working!" Dato' Azmi admitted honestly. But when he's not working, he will spend time with his wife, their 3 children; 2 sons and 1 daughter – and 5 grandchildren. Sometimes he would enjoy a round of golf with colleagues and business clients. Weekends are special family bonding times when they will have outings and end up in one of their children's homes for lunch or dinner.

In October, the SIC will host the Malaysian Motorcycle Grand Prix, a prestigious Formula One event for motorcycles. After 37 years with the Department of Aviation, it looks like there's just no slowing down for Dato' Azmi.

THREE MUST HAVES WHEN TRAVELLING

1. My Blackberry!
2. Vitamin supplements
3. Aviation magazines or autobiographies

MALAYSIA'S SOUTHERN JEWEL – THE ENDAU-ROMPIN NATIONAL PARK

Loretta Ann Soosayraj explains why the world-famous national park is a must-see destination while visiting Johor.







IN 1985, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj waved off a group, led by the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), as they embarked on what would later be regarded as a crucial expedition in conservation history. The expedition discovered many hidden natural treasures and led to efforts to preserve the area as the Endau-Rompin National Park, a Johor attraction that straddles the border of Pahang.

The name may ring a bell to even first-time visitors to Malaysia, for this was the park that made the news not too long ago for claims of an Asian Bigfoot population, with fuzzy photographs and sketchy stories of their existence. True or otherwise, Endau-Rompin is undoubtedly best known for its real residents and not so much its mythical beings.



Pictures by Vincent Chow



Named for the two rivers which flow through the park, Sungai Endau and Sungai Rompin, it is a beautiful example of a travel destination that justifies the usage of 'ecotourism', the current buzzword of the travel industry.

While the word 'ecotourism' may be used by many, few know what the term means. A visit to Endau-Rompin, however, would be just the thing to teach them the true meaning of the word. Managed by the Johor National Parks Corporation, there are well-equipped accommodation options which promise not to rob you of the earthy experience of the forest by providing luxurious comforts!

Home to elephants and tigers, and the endangered Sumatran rhinoceros, the park also boasts a large variety of birds, reptiles and amphibians, and has a true botanical distinctiveness. The park and the surrounding forest complex are internationally recognised as offering one of the best chances for the tiger's survival.

Herpetologists (experts in the study of reptiles and amphibians) regard Endau-Rompin with a deep reverence, for the scientific delights it promises. Studies conducted by local and foreign researchers have resulted in many new species being discovered; and it is almost certain that many others are patiently waiting to be similarly discovered.

Night-time walks with spotlights will reveal nocturnal creatures like the Slow Loris and several kinds of civet, but take care not to blast your lights into the faces of the animals you may find, and observe them for a short time, and from a distance.

'Plant people' may want to take note too as there is also a unique diversity of orchids and begonias in the park, and butterfly enthusiasts will be pleased to know that the Rajah Brooke birdwing is no stranger in these woods.

As it is a protected area, however, nothing in the park can be removed, so the old adage of taking nothing but pictures applies here.

The Endau-Rompin National Park is a gem of a discovery for tourists and researchers alike, for its unique offerings. It is also an inspiring example of state government commitment to preserving wild places for wild plants and animals.



For trips to Endau-Rompin National Park, visit www.mns.org.my and www.johorparks.com

MALAYSIA TURNS 51!

It's that time of the year when all Malaysians stand as one to celebrate our independence







MALAYSIA turns 51 on August 31 and despite the economic uncertainty affecting the world, organisers are pulling out all the stops to make sure that this year's celebrations are nothing short of spectacular.

While promising a show full of pomp, pageantry and splendour, organisers admitted that this year's celebrations will be held on a more moderate scale.

Despite this, the standard Merdeka Day parade which showcases Malaysia's rich cultural heritage and spirit of national unity will still take your breath away with huge processions of colourful costumes, a rich blend of cultures and a parade of eye-catching floats.

State-level celebrations include Malam Ambang Merdeka, a cultural extravaganza with loads of performances, concerts and shows that will bring Malaysians from all walks of life together.

It is learnt that the independence month organising committee had sought RM80 million for the nationwide celebrations but was given RM20 million by the government.

"Despite the sluggish economy, we will make sure that the whole country, especially Kuala Lumpur, will be decorated with lights and national flags," National Unity and Integration Department director-general Datuk Azman Amin Hassan was quoted as saying.

> "Despite the sluggish economy, we will make sure that the whole country, especially Kuala Lumpur, will be decorated with lights and national flags." - **Datuk Azman Amin Hassan**

Azman, who represented Unity, Culture, Arts and Heritage Ministry secretary-general Dr Muzahet Masruri, briefed 150 building owners in Kuala Lumpur recently on the national flag-flying and building beautification campaign.

Kuala Lumpur will be turned into a city of lights as its mayor, Datuk Ab Hakim Borhan had asked building owners to light up their premises from 7pm to midnight as well as fly the national flag to usher in the auspicious day.



MEDIATE CELEBRATES OPENING OF NEW CORPORATE OFFICE



Amber Chia, Serena C, Dato' Gary Thanasan and Datin Dr Sharmilla Thanasan



Chris Lim, Ravi S. Kumar and Desmond Nathan





Octavia Hardy, Mandovia and Marcello



MEDIATE COMMUNICATIONS SDN BHD recently treated business associates, clients and friends to a party to celebrate the opening of its new corporate office in a prestigious area of Bangsar.

The party, held on June 6 at 150 Jalan Maarof, included a sumptuous spread and champagne. Guests included supermodel Amber Chia, Sasha Bashir and Serena C, among others.

Meanwhile, Samsonite Malaysia also celebrated the opening of its signature boutique and service centre located at the same address.

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Matthew Stuart and Peter Lazou



From left: Sharan Valiram and Mukesh Valiram

gadget galore THIS MONTH ON EBAY



FRANKLIN TG-450 12 LANGUAGE TRANSLATOR

This gizmo translates 400,000 words and phrases, with 317,000 inflections. Translates to and from: Czech, Dutch, English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and TurkishPhonetic spell correction, calculator, metric/currency converter, local/world clock.

PARROT CK3100 BLUETOOTH-ENABLED HANDS-FREE CAR KIT

It's a Bluetooth-enabled hands-free car kit with dashboard-positioned LCD screen, external microphone & under-dash control unit. LCD screen displays incoming, recent & missed calls plus voice mail & phone directory

Caller's voice is reproduced over the vehicle's stereo that is automatically muted for phone conversations.



TASCAM GT-R1 GUITAR TRAINER

The GT-R1 is a portable MP3 recorder for capturing your axe work, capable of recording to MP3/WAVE at 48/44.1 kHz 24-bits uncompressed. That's not bad quality, and since it works with SDHC, you'll have plenty of recording time. Better yet it's got multiple effects built-in, and also has a "trainer" function which allows you to play along with your favourite tracks at your choice of speed—without changing the pitch. Brilliant!



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For a more detailed listing, visit www.bata.com.my

STYLISH, SPORTY, FLASHY

Yet, the Polo GTI is small and compact.





THE Volkswagen Polo GTI may not be as popular as its bigger brother, the Golf GTI, but it surely does make quite an impression on the road.

The car was conceived after the Golf GTI started growing, with bigger and more powerful engines, dimensions, sealing its iconic status.

The Polo GTI on the other hand, is more pure and simple. There's hardly innovation in it like the Golf, but it does portray the character of what the first Golf was.

The driving experience isn't any different. The 150bhp 1.8-litre motor is equipped with a 5-speed manual offers a fun drive. However, you'd really need to appreciate such cars to buy and own one.

Pushing out 150bhp, it isn't very powerful. It could be better but this is obviously what VW didn't it for. Equipped with a turbocharger, it could easily muster more horsepower.

But if it were to be more than it presently is capable of, it would be meaningless and less fun to drive.

As it is, the 220Nm of torque can hardly be felt. This is simply because of the beautifully tuned engine that does not have any turbo lag whatsoever.

Those who have experienced the Golf GTI Mk1 will be able to relate to the Polo GTI's driving experience. It is just so simple that there isn't any drama.

The sports suspension does offer some fun, especially along the twists and turns. Lowered by some 15mm, the suspension layout complements the 16-inch 'Denver' wheels.

On any other car, the 16-inch wheels would have looked odd but for the Polo, at 3,915mm long, it actually looks good. Despite the size, the car can still accommodate up to four adult-sized passengers.

Boot space is small and could be better.

Steering input is precise. Feedback from the road surface is vital to enjoy a drive in the Polo.



Having a GTI badge, the Polo comes equipped with stainless steel twin tailpipes, honeycomb radiator grille, 'GTI' badges, 'Interlagos' fabric seats, and leather wrapped steering wheel and gearshift knob.

Golf GTI was launched some 30 years ago and instantly became an iconic hot hatch. While it still dominates VW's agenda, the Polo GTI looks like it would carve out a niche of its own soon.

At RM138,888, the Polo GTI is a value for money buy, especially when hot hatch cars are concerned.



INCREASING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS



MENTAL health awareness in Malaysia has progressed tremendously over the past two decades. To create a better understanding of the problem, the psychiatrists in the country have embarked on numerous awareness programmes this year.

One such programme is the Schizophrenia Awareness Day, on August 8. One of the major issues regarding mental health is the stigma associated with it. The Schizophrenia Awareness Day was held at Dewan Sekapur Sirih, Dataran Trauma, University Malaya Medical Centre.

The issue of stigma is closely related to the past forms of treatment that were available. Today, there are many different forms of treatment in psychiatry that are safe and effective.

Although art therapy is not widely practiced in many parts of the world, it has long been a crucial instrument of therapy for various situations. This form of therapy has many benefits, including encouraging expression without having to deal with the difficulty of verbalising a traumatic experience.

Patients stand to benefit not only from individual therapy but also from group art therapy. In group work, patients are further encouraged to express themselves, promoting increased self-esteem, increased networking, and group cohesion and eventually develop a stronger self-identity.

An exhibition will be held on October 10 at the Central Market, Kuala Lumpur, featuring artwork, including drawings, sculptures, and all forms of artistic expression, done by patients with psychiatric disorders or mental health problems from ASEAN and other countries.

What: The Schizophrenia Awareness Day
Where: Dewan Sekapur Sirih, Dataran Trauma, University Malaya Medical Centre
When: August 8, 9am.

What: Art therapy exhibition. Showcases art, including drawings and sculptures created by patients with psychiatric disorders or mental health problems from ASEAN and other countries.
Where: Central Market, Kuala Lumpur,
When: October 10

FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT:
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Associate Professor in Psychological Medicine, University Malaya.
e-mail ; stephen@um.edu.my , koyaka@hotmail.com



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BASE JUMPERS JUMP FOR JOY

Adrenalin rush at the KL Tower International Jump





UNIQUE skyscrapers and beautiful urban landscapes.

That is perhaps, the best description for the capital of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur.

And, what would be the best way to celebrate the beauty of this city? BASE jumping, of course.

For the uninitiated, BASE means buildings, antenna, span and earth where jumpers take off and, as one of the more extreme types of extreme sports, BASE jumping has many enthusiasts all over the world.

With its unique tall buildings, Malaysia certainly has the potential to be the BASE jumping centre of the world and for the past seven years, Menara Kuala Lumpur has been organising the KL Tower International Jump.

With its unique tall buildings, Malaysia certainly has the potential to be the BASE jumping centre of the world



Starting from KL Tower, several other towers throughout the country have joined in this ultimate expression of an adrenaline rush.

This year's event on August 3, aptly dubbed the 'Ultimate Test of Courage', will kicked off from the top of Menara Pelita, in Kuching, Sarawak, which, on the scale of one to 10, charts a whopping 9 in difficulty.

From the beautiful lush greenery of Sarawak, jumpers will move on to the pristine blue beaches of the Land Below the Wind, Sabah on August 9-10.

The sight of colourful parachutes floating off of the tallest structure in Kota Kinabalu, the Menara Tun Mustapa, with clear blue skies as a backdrop, is indeed a sight to behold.

The other legs of the circuit will be held at Menara Alor Setar, in Kedah, on August 15, 16 and 17, Menara Komtar in Penang on August 23-24.

The finale will be held in Kuala Lumpur, at Menara Kuala Lumpur on August 29, 30, and 31 and Menara TM, also on August 31.

For enthusiasts who will not be at the top of the towers and jumping, cheering on for your favourite jumpers will definitely be a treat with the many ground events lined up to cater to your enjoyment and needs.

Take advantage of the festive air at the ground level with the numerous activities organised by sponsors of the Jump and cheer on your heroes in their quest to be the best in the 'Ultimate Test of Courage'.



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BATA: IN STEP WITH CHANGING TIMES



THE name synonymous with shoes – Bata – is well on its way to transforming itself to meet the demands of a more discerning consumer.

Over the past year and a half, the shoe maker has embarked on a marketing campaign to change the perception of the 114-year company by regularly introducing new products at competitive prices, branching out into accessories like leather bags and belts, giving customers a whole new shopping experience and moving aggressively into the lifestyle market.



"We decided to change and go into the lifestyle segment because we have a whole range of products that complement our line of footwear," said Dato' James Selvaraj, Bata Marketing Sdn Bhd's senior manager for marketing.

He added that customers nowadays are a lot more discerning and demand the very best, not only in terms of the products but the overall shopping experience as well.

"That's why we've set up two distinct types of retail outlets to differentiate our products. The City Store concept carries the more high-end stuff while the Family Store has the more affordable range," he said.

Selvaraj added that the stores are being upgraded to give customers a new shopping experience. The company is spending between RM600,000 and RM700,000 to beautify its 2,600 square feet store in Kuala Lumpur City Centre.

Bata also has another 'superstore' in Mid Valley Megamall with a floor area of 3,200 square feet. Selvaraj said the company plans to open more such superstores throughout the country. The biggest will be the one in Sabah, which will cover a whopping 6,000 square feet!

For a company that is rooted deeply in tradition, change is something that may be anathema to some. But Selvaraj sees it differently.

"Change is always for the better. Our advertising campaign 'First to Bata, then to school' was so effective that people remember us for just that. When those kids grew up, landed well-paying jobs and had a little bit more money, they would invariably go with other brands because they thought that school shoes were all that we had.

"When they get married and have children of their own, they'd come back to Bata. We wanted to make sure that they never leave us. That's why it's important they realise that we are more than just a company that specialises in school shoes," he said.

To do that, Selvaraj said the company is bringing in the full range of shoes from Spain and Italy, just to show customers here the broad spectrum of products available in the Bata stable.

Selvaraj is also excited about the 2008 Arabic collection the company unveiled recently.

"The collection is targeted at tourists from the Middle East. We've designed a range of footwear to suit their demands. We've got everything – for ladies, men and children. The prices are also very competitive; with the lowest going for RM29.99 to about RM600 for the high-end shoes."

QUICK TAKES

There are 220 Bata stores nationwide. 15 more targeted by the year's end. Bata, contrary to popular belief, is NOT a Malaysian brand.

It was established in Zlin, Czechoslovakia by Tomáš, Anna and Antonín Bata.

Bata came to Malaysia (then Malaya) in 1933.

Bata Malaysia opened the biggest shoe store in seremban town today, at No 1, Jalan Dato Sheikh Ahmad. The Big Format concept store measuring more than 5000 sq feet has a full range of ladies, men's, children and sports shoes which cater for the whole family.

SETTING THE SKY ON FIRE

The Malaysia International Fireworks Competition lights up our nightscape





FOR two weeks in August, the skies over Putrajaya will be bathing in lights in a spectacular display of pyrotechnics as the Ministry of Tourism will once again host the Malaysia International Fireworks Competition.

Renowned world-class fireworks teams from around the world will compete for the 'Golden Merdeka Trophy'. The pyrotechnic artistry will be different from regular fireworks shows as this one will be choreographed to music.

Making the event sweeter this year is the fact that the event is free for all!

For 25 minutes on each competitive night, the maestros of the night will awe spectators with breathtaking presentations of fire, light and music.

Prior to the final night, a judging panel of international and local celebrities will select a winner. Although a prestigious award will be presented to the victorious team, their true prize is the audience's delight.

The highlight of the event is a reverberating, pulsating grand finale, which will be jointly designed and produced by last year's winner -- Howard & Sons and MIFC Producer Joe Ghazzal. The theme is 'Colors of Malaysia'. Don't miss the World Class Finale Presentation on August 29.

Last year's competition drew an average of 350,000 to 400,000 people to Putrajaya for each competition night, breaking all attendance records. The total number of people who attended, including international and domestic tourist for the two weeks, was estimated at a whopping 3.5 million people.

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F. 603 7726 1311
E: shows@globalcomm.com.my

IN FOR A GRILLING GOOD TIME

IF you're looking for a place to unwind and chill out after a long day at the office, head for Spaghetti Grill, located at MidValley Megamall.

The outlet, which serves some good old fashioned Italian fare, has plenty to offer revellers. Happy Hour starts from 3pm to 9pm and you can enjoy 50 per cent off on beers and house pouring liquor, 20 per cent on Premium wine bottles, RM5 off on Margaritas and a choice of strawberry, mango, original, or mixed strawberry and mango Margaritas, not to mention lychee Martini.

Spaghetti Grill also has a fine selection of wines, including Pinot Grigio.

Specialising in all things Italian, the outlet has just about everything to satisfy your taste buds.

From rich and smooth pastas to thick, juicy, succulent steaks, Spaghetti Grill has an extensive selection made from the best ingredients.

Brought to you by the same team that brought you Chili's Grill and Bar, Spaghetti Grill offers a blend of American and Italian dishes the way mum used to make them.

The outlet opened its doors on May 15 and serves a wide variety of food, including loads of vegetarian dishes. There are 47 dishes in the menu. Signature dishes include Seafood pasta, the Lamb Shoulder and the brick oven and wood fired pizzas.



The restaurant's Stuffed Mushrooms (baked mushrooms with Italian sausage filling served with creamy cheese sauce), is a perfect way to start off your dining experience. Another favourite is the Bruschetta (Toasted garlic bread topped with seasoned tomatoes with extra-virgin olive oil drizzle, and fresh parsley sprinkle). Add the Spinach and Artichoke dip (Marinated artichoke hearts with spinach, mushrooms, onions, and bell peppers, topped with seasoned tomatoes) into the mix and you're in heaven.

For the main course, the favourites are the Raviolli (pillows of pasta filled with traditional Italian sausage sauce and tucked into bed with a generous helping of the house's own style of spinach sauce).

The Seafood pasta (Spaghetti tossed with marinara sauce, bell peppers, prawns, lala, mussel, and squid and topped with parmesan cheese) was a delight.

The Tuscany Ribeye (Pan fried ribeye steak seasoned with Italian herbs and served with steamed veggies, mashed potatoes with gravy, and garlic toast) was a tad dry but the mashed potatoes that accompanied the dish more than made up for it.

Spaghetti Grill's dessert menu may not be as extensive as that of other outlets but the Bread Butter Pudding (warm bread pudding topped with vanilla ice-cream and caramel) was like a slice of heaven. Light, smooth and perfectly textured, it was simply to die for and the perfect way to end a meal. And if you're celebrating your birthday there, you get a complimentary dessert.

The restaurant has a seating capacity of 180 people and can cater to large groups. It can also tailor your meals according to your dietary requirements. Soft drinks are refillable and Kids Meal is free when an adult orders a main meal (one child to one adult). There are also plans to introduce full alfresco dining soon, although the dates have not been confirmed.

HOW TO GET THERE
Spaghetti Grill, Lot G (E) 17, MidValley Megamall, MidValley City, Lingkaran Syed Putra, 59200 Kuala Lumpur. For reservations, call 03-2287 2220.

KLIA CONTINUES PURSUIT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE WITH 'WALK THE ENVIRONMENT' CAMPAIGN

KL International Airport (KLIA) continued its quest for environmental excellence by organising the 'Walk The Environment' campaign on June 14, strengthening its position as an eco-friendly and environmentally-concerned corporate citizen.



THE campaign is part of KLIA's Project Green Planet, which was launched last year to highlight KLIA's efforts in environmental conservation. 'Walk The Environment' is being organised in conjunction with the World Environment Day, which was celebrated on June 5.

Project Green Planet KLIA was launched last year, in tandem with KLIA's achievement of being awarded the Green Globe 21 Certification for the fourth year running. KLIA was first certified in 2004 and is the first and only airport in the world to attain the status of being Green Globe certified.

Green Globe is the global Benchmarking, Certification and improvement system for sustainable travel and tourism. It is based on Agenda 21 and Principles of Sustainable Development endorsed by 182 Heads of State at the United Nations Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit. It provides companies and communities with a path to sustainable travel and tourism.

Several events were held during the one-day programme, including 'pledge-a-plant', where participants can buy a plant for RM10 to be planted at an area in KLIA. Each tree will be labeled with the donor's name, the tree's scientific and botanical name. Certificates will also be issued, carrying details of the donor, locations and type of tree. Donors will also be able to visit this area from time to time.

Other activities included 'Walk The Environment Race' held at the KLIA Green Park. Some 150 participants competed – treasure hunt-style – with clues on environmental issues, and along the way, experienced a chance of a lifetime to explore the greenery of the KLIA Green Park.

The concept of the race was to promote the KLIA forest that has many unique species, such as merawan siput jantan, jelutong, and pinang penawar, among others. It is estimated that there are between 200 and 400 species in the forest.

The race was also to officiate the name change of the KLIA forest to 'KLIA Green Park'. The KLIA Green Park is ideal as an educational research centre for students and other forestry bodies because of the huge variety of plant species available. It is also suitable as a recreational area (jogging, trekking, mountain biking, camping, etc).

Apart from these, 'Walk The Environment' also featured public activities, exhibitions, displays, talks on the environment, demos and entertainment performances.

Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Aris Othman, Chairman of Malaysia Airports, in his speech said: "We recognise the need for sound environmental practices – to reconcile the needs of present and future generations through the application of technology and human ingenuity. KLIA has managed to address this in its efforts to be a World Class Environmental Friendly Airport – answering the needs of the future generation."



MALAYSIA AIRPORTS AIMS TO ELEVATE TEACHERS' ENGLISH PROFICIENCY VIA BESMAT

MALAYSIA AIRPORTS continues its Beyond Borders programme with an English skill workshop called 'Better English for Science & Mathematic Teachers' or BESMaT, aiming to elevate English proficiency for the teachers at its adopted schools.

A total of 82 teachers from Malaysia Airports' nine adopted schools were involved in this workshop. The schools were:-

1. Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Batu Maung, Penang
2. Sekolah Kebangsaan Batu Maung, Penang
3. Sekolah Kebangsaan Pokok Sena, Penang
4. Sekolah Kebangsaan Bukit Pinang, Alor Star, Kedah
5. Sekolah Kebangsaan Bukit Changgang, Selangor
6. Sekolah Kebangsaan Wira, Kuantan, Pahang
7. Sekolah Kebangsaan Pengkalan Chepa, Kota Bharu, Kelantan
8. Sekolah Kebangsaan Petagas, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah
9. Sekolah Kebangsaan Pulo, Kuching, Sarawak

Dato' Seri Bashir Ahmad, Managing Director Malaysia Airports said: "The objective of this workshop is to further develop confidence among Science and Mathematic teachers in spoken English, with a view of becoming highly motivated individuals with positive communications skills and a resourceful mindset to aid in the teaching process.

"At the end of the workshop, it is our hope that the participants' English language proficiency and fluency will be much better so as to enhance teacher-student communication. They will also be better equipped with a higher level of self-confidence when they return to their respective schools, he added.

The BESMaT module encompassed an intensive five-day training programme that incorporated basic grammar reviews with continuous presentations and discussions that will result in more confidence and knowledge.

BESMaT is tailored to develop confidence in communicating in English correctly among teachers and thereafter, reviewing their knowledge of grammar for better communication and teaching skills, and finally, to enhance their application through school projects.

"All these programmes are aimed at developing a positive mindset to aid in producing highly resourceful and competent Science and Mathematics teachers for the future, Dato' Seri Bashir added.

Dato' Seri Bashir said: "After this, the teachers will apply what they have learnt here to develop projects for their respective schools and compete among our nine adopted schools to win RM10,000 for their schools. The competition also provides cash prizes for second place, which is RM7,000 while third place will receive RM3,000."

To kickstart the projects, Malaysia Airports will give RM2,000 to each school.

For BESMaT, Malaysia Airports has engaged the services of Excel Total Solution Sdn. Bhd. to ensure a sustainable approach with a long-term positive impact on the school teachers, enabling them to subsequently conduct language and educational activities for their students.

Malaysia Airports and ETS will continuously provide special consultation sessions with the teachers concerned at their respective schools with regard to implementing related projects. The teachers will also be able to consult on-line with ETS trainers on grammar issues and project matters.

BESMaT is part of Malaysia Airports' activities in continuously enhancing its PINTAR programme. Malaysia Airports' PINTAR took the honour of being the first to have its own theme – Beyond Borders, making Malaysia Airports the first GLC to have a theme for its PINTAR project.



(MTB) Main Terminal Building

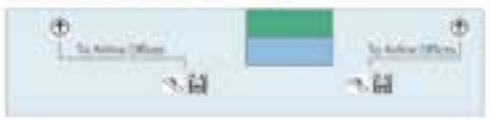
DEPARTURE LEVEL - (LEVEL 5)



ARRIVAL LEVEL - (LEVEL 3)



MEZZANINE LEVEL - (LEVEL 4)



LEVEL 2

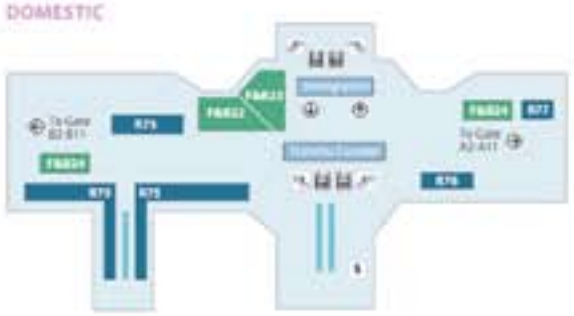


(CP) Contact Pier

INTERNATIONAL



DOMESTIC

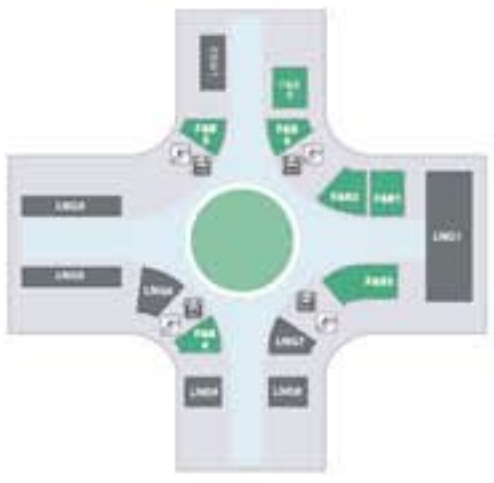


Satellite Building

PASSENGER LEVEL



MEZZANINE LEVEL



Temporarily Relocated Outlets (Passenger Level)

L1	Asian Fashion & Gifts	L6	Made In Malaysia
L2	Bags N Bags	L7	Multiple Brand
L3	Choc Stop	L8	Sunglasses Express
L4 M1	Dome Cafe	L9	Sony
L5	Electrical & Electronics	L10	Selberan Gold & Jewellery
W1	Gifts & Souvenirs		

Legend

	Retail	$	Money Changer		Lounge / Hotel
	Food & Beverage		Information Counter		Aerotrain
	Station Lift	ATM	ATM Machine		First Aid Centre
	Escalator		Walkalator		Smoking Lounge
	Aerotrain		Batik Batik Retail Mall (Opening In September)		Transfer Desk

DEPARTURE LEVEL - (LEVEL 5)

RETAIL

ACCESSORIES
Bonia Leatherwear R55
Tie Rack R58

BOOKS & MAGAZINES
Books & Magazines R64

BOUTIQUES
Bonia R52
Sembonia R62

CANDIES, CHOCOLATES & DELICATESSEN
Choc Stop R60
The Famous Amos Cookies R63

CHILDREN'S WEAR
Children's Boutique R66

FRAGRANCES & COSMETICS
Perfume & Cosmetics R61
The Body Shop R53

HEALTH
Pusrawi Pharmacy R51

PHOTOGRAPHY
Fotopro R66

SOUVENIRS & GIFTS
Gifts & Souvenirs R58
Kampung Ku R54
Royal Selangor Pewter R51

WATCHES
TIME by Swiss Union R57

FOOD & BEVERAGE

CAFES
Asian Cafe F&B17
Cafe Marche F&B16
Caffe Ristalia F&B12

FASTFOOD
KFC Restaurant F&B18
McDonald's F&B13

RESTAURANTS & BARS
Eden F&B14
Travellers Bar F&B15

SERVICES

BANKING
CIMB Bank R59

MEZZANINE LEVEL - (LEVEL 4)

FOOD & BEVERAGE

FOOD COURTS
Food Paradise F&B21

ARRIVAL LEVEL - (LEVEL 3)

RETAIL

BOUTIQUES
D'Trendz R69
Just Nice Boutique R68

CANDIES, CHOCOLATES & DELICATESSEN
Choc Stop R72
Chocolates & Confectionery R67

CONVENIENCE STORES
Airport Shoppe R70

DUTY FREE
Liquor & Tobacco R73

FRAGRANCES & COSMETICS
Perfume & Cosmetics R74

SOUVENIRS & GIFTS
Florist Kiosk R76

FOOD & BEVERAGE

CAFES
Delifrance Express F&B20
Malaysian Wok / East Point F&B27

FAST FOOD
Burger King F&B19

LEVEL 2

FOOD & BEVERAGE

FOOD COURTS
Food Garden F&B28

INTERNATIONAL

RETAIL

DUTY FREE
Duty Free Kiosk K1
Duty Free Kiosk K2

EMPORIUM
Harrods R79

SOUVENIRS & GIFTS
Kraft Mart R78

FOOD & BEVERAGE

CAFES
Harrods Cafe F&B30

FAST FOOD
1901 Hot Dog F&B26

RESTAURANTS & BARS
Palms Grill & Bar F&B29

DOMESTIC

RETAIL

CANDIES, CHOCOLATES & DELICATESSEN
The Famous Amos Cookies R76

CONVENIENCE STORES
Convenience Store R77

EMPORIUM
The Flying Emporium R75

FOOD & BEVERAGE

CAFES
Cafe F&B24

RESTAURANTS & BARS
Asian Station F&B22

PASSENGER LEVEL

RETAIL

ACCESSORIES & APPARELS
Imana Collection R29
Tie Rack R8

BOOKS & MAGAZINES
Books & Magazines R6

BOUTIQUES
Alfred Dunhill R40
Burberry R39
Christian Dior R36
Coach R49
Guy Laroche R41
Hermes R46
Lacoste R42
MNG (MANGO) R38
Montblanc R47
Salvatore Ferragamo R37
Tumi R2
Versace R33

CANDIES, CHOCOLATES & DELICATESSEN
Godiva Chocolatier R48

CHILDREN'S WEAR & TOYS
Toy Paradise R4

DUTY FREE
Cigar Shop R5
Cigarettes R44
Duty Free Emporium R12
Duty Free Kiosk K3
Duty Free Kiosk K4
Duty Free Kiosk K5
Liquor R45

EMPORIUM
Harrods R13

FINE JEWELLERY
Gold City R17
Habib Jewels R18
Zam Gems R19

FRAGRANCES & COSMETICS
Colours & Fragrances R43
Cosmetics R14
Perfumes R11
The Body Shop R7

HEALTH
Guardian Pharmacy R9

SOUVENIRS & GIFTS
AJP Art Gallery R16
Made In Malaysia R15
Royal Selangor Pewter R3

SPORTS STORE
Sportswear R10

WATCHES
After Hours R1

FOOD & BEVERAGE

BARS & LOUNGES
Forrester Bar F&B9
Tropical Lounge F&B8

CAFES
Delifrance F&B7

SERVICES

MASSAGE
JR Reflexology & Massage Centre 4R

HOTEL
Aerotel Transit Hotel LNG2

MEZZANINE LEVEL

FOOD & BEVERAGE

CAFES
Cheers Bar F&B3
Sbarro F&B4
Starbucks Coffee F&B5

FAST FOOD
Burger King F&B1

RESTAURANTS
Nooodles F&B1
Bimba Jungle Cafe F&B6

SERVICES

LOUNGES
Cathay Pacific Lounge LNG6
China Airlines Lounge LNG3
Emirates Lounge LNG5
MAS Golden Lounge LNG1
Plaza Premium Lounge LNG7
Singapore Airlines Lounge LNG8
Thai Airways Lounge LNG9
VIP Lounge LNG4

MALAYSIA AIRPORTS

CONGRATULATIONS

ON USHERING IN A NEW DAWN OF EXCELLENCE AT KLIA



The KLIA Awards are presented annually to companies that continuously push the boundaries of excellence in their field. We offer our warmest congratulations to the winners of the 2007 KLIA Awards on their stellar achievement.

CARRIER OF THE YEAR
Malaysia Airlines

LOW COST CARRIER OF THE YEAR
AirAsia

FOREIGN CARRIER OF THE YEAR
Biman Bangladesh Airlines

PROMISING NEW FOREIGN CARRIER OF THE YEAR
Cebu Pacific Air

FOREIGN CARRIER OF THE YEAR BY SECTOR

South East Asia	Singapore Airlines
North East Asia	Cathay Pacific Airways
Europe	KLM Royal Dutch Airlines
South Asia	SriLankan Airlines
Middle East	Emirates

F & B OUTLET OF THE YEAR
McDonald's, LCCT – KLIA
(Golden Arches (M) Sdn. Bhd.)

RETAIL OUTLET OF THE YEAR – OVERALL
The Zon (DFZ (M) Sdn. Bhd.)

RETAIL OUTLET OF THE YEAR – YIELD PERFORMANCE
The Zon (DFZ (M) Sdn. Bhd.)

CARRIER OF THE YEAR – CARGO
MASkargo

FOREIGN CARRIER OF THE YEAR – CARGO
Korean Air

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD
Tourism Malaysia

KLIA 10 ANNIVERSARY

KLIA WORLD'S BEST AIRPORT

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The word 'shopping'

conjures up images of chaotic malls and impulsive buying in most minds. Not in Malaysia, though.



Besides having plenty of spacious and modern malls offering all the nicest things in the world that money can buy, this country is also dotted with local markets boasting the freshest produce; quaint antique stores; treasure troves filled with beautiful batik, elegant pewter and other exotic handicrafts; and a fascinating trail of bazaars from the East to the West.



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