

## CITY WATCH

## Arabian delights

AN Arabian themed fair is making its presence at several shopping centres to welcome Middle Eastern tourists to Malaysia. The fair, themed An Arabian Legacy, is currently on at The Curve until July 17 and moves on to KL Plaza from July 19 to 31. Bangsar Shopping Centre (July 26 to Aug 7), Lot 10 (Aug 4 to 15) and Chulan Square after that. The road show features handicraft works, furnishing and clothing from Asia and the Middle East. For details, call 03-4105 2340.

## Story-telling competition

THE Sri Maha Eswaran Temple in Taman Melati, Setapak, will be organising the Thirumurai/Famil Writing and Story-telling competition on Sunday from 8am to 3pm. The competition is held to promote the study of Thevaram and Tamil language among the younger generation. There will also be competitions for adults and parents. For details, call 012-6310422 (Magesh).

## Just for kicks

BRAZIL. Football Centre is starting its "20-year-old and above" training session. Being one of its kind in town, football enthusiasts will not be able to play on the football field, but get to be trained by Brazilian coach, Lamartine F Da Silva. The event will be held today at 7pm at the 3K field, Subang Jaya. For details, call 03-5635 6321 or e-mail sports@fcm.net.my

## Free pick-up service

SERI Sinar Charity Foundation in Pandan Mewah, Ampang, is providing free pick-up services for those wishing to give away usable furniture, electrical items and other household goods. For details, call 03-41291 7022 / 012-686 1633 or e-mail ching\_bob@yahoo.com or visit <http://pass.my.dip.net>

## Talk on non technology

THERE will be a talk by an aesthetic and holistic doctor on Non-Surgical Facial Lifting/Radio Frequency Therapy. This new technology on non-surgical facial lifting, cellulite and fat reduction will be held today from 10.30am to 11.30am at the Regensis Rejuvenation Centre in Mid Valley City. For details, call 03-2282 5737 / 012-333 7372.

## Prayer Times

	Subuh	Zohor	Asar	Maghrib	Iyak
K. LUMPUR	5.46	1.20	4.45	7.27	8.42
SEREMBAN	5.46	1.19	4.44	7.26	8.41
SHAH ALAM	5.46	1.20	4.45	7.28	8.43

## Cut and stick on your refrigerator

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PORT KLANG	Time	Minutes
AM	0:16	1.0
	6:03	4.9
PM	12:17	1.0
	18:18	5.4
PORT DICKSON	Time	Minutes
AM	1:31	0.3
	6:45	2.4
PM	13:18	0.4
	19:01	2.9

TIDES

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SEREMBAN  
49 Jalan Yam Tuan, 70000 Seremban  
Tel: 06-761-2992, 762-6984  
Fax: 06-761-2577

## EDITOR: TAN JU-ENG

KLANG  
46 Jalan Pasar, 41400 Klang  
Tel: 03-3344-8978

PUTRAJAYA  
5 First Flr Jln P9 G/7,  
Precinct 9, 62250 Putrajaya  
Tel: 03-8889-5113,  
Fax: 03-7955-4039



Families love shopping at the wholesale centre, as they never go home empty-handed or displeased with their purchases.



Shoppers crowding the wholesale centre, especially during the weekends when about 80,000 people visit it.

By DHARMENDER SINGH  
Photos by LOW LAY PHON

THE Nilai 3 Wholesale Centre has in just a few years become one of Malaysia's more popular shopping areas. Not bad for a centre where shopping was not even part of its original concept.

Nilai 3, at the North-South Expressway's Nilai interchange, was set up as an effort to save buyers' investments at Nilai's light industrial lots. It was created to house support industries that backed larger factories in its vicinity.

But due to economic uncertainties in 1999, most of the smaller industries were not willing to shift to the units. So, in 2001, developer Pemaju Perumahan Sungei Ramal Sdn Bhd decided to hold a warehouse sale with only 25 lots participating. But its success prompted the company to urge the Negri Sembilan government to change Nilai 3's concept to a warehouse shopping centre. The company has never looked back since.

There are currently about 400 light industrial units in the area that offer shoppers nearly everything from carpets and furniture to canned food, nuts, clothes, pottery, handicraft, car accessories and even crystals.

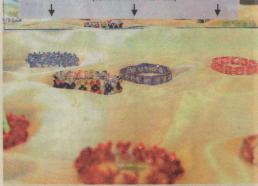
Some, like a carpet shop, offer products from India and the Middle East. So good is the business that it occupies five shop lots.

Another that sells flower pots, vases, mini fountains, sculptures and dried flowers from China, Thailand, Japan, Johor and Perak takes up five lots.

## Promosi Gelang Zircon

- A) Beli 1 Diskaun 45%
- B) Beli 2 Diskaun 50%
- C) Beli 3 Diskaun 55%
- D) Beli 4 Diskaun 60%

(Semantara stok masih ada)



Simple bracelets made from crystals going for a steal at one of the shops in the centre.

# even if it's by happy chance



Dried and artificial flowers from Japan and Korea are a big hit with shoppers.



Glassware such as these are popular items with the shoppers.



Abdul Rahman: Trips increase during festive periods

A small shop that sells crystals has its products brought from Brazil, South Africa, Germany, Myanmar and Korea, among others.

A short distance away from it, a shop offers furniture from Indonesia.

It isn't just products from overseas that make their way to the wholesale centre. There are also pottery from Ayer Hitam (Johor) and Ipoh, mats and handicraft works from Sabah and Sarawak besides local plastic ware, clothes and batik.

Though Nilai 3 is a huge warehouse with plenty of parking space, finding a vacant spot is difficult, especially on weekends when some 80,000 shoppers visit the centre. Some come on chartered buses from as far as Kelantan, Terengganu, Johor and Padang Besar. There is even a depot specially designated for such buses.

According to Penang-based Kembara Riadah Enterprise assistant manager Abdul Rahman Ismail, who offers trips to Nilai 3, shoppers did

not mind the six- to eight-hour journey to the centre.

"The number of trips increase during festive periods," he said, adding that the passengers had from noon to evening to do their shopping.

"The passengers are usually exhausted on their trip back, but excited and pleased," said Abdul Rahman. "I have yet to hear them complain about their purchases."

Winnie Tan, who sells pottery and artificial flowers, said she started her business at the centre with only one shop lot a few years ago. "Before long, I had to acquire more lots to cater to the demand," she said.

"Because of the large number of shops the competition is great. So, most of the shops offer competitive prices for their products," she added.

Micheal Ong, who sells brooches and jewellery in crystal form, has the Negri Sembilan government to thank for the booming business.

"It holds frequent promotions to lure more shoppers," he said.

Shopper Norzali Kadir from Old Klang Road said he shopped at the centre almost every other week with his family.

"I find everything I want at one place," said the 53-year-old.

## Park to become a landmark in more ways than one

THE success of Nilai 3 in luring tourists to the wholesale centre has sparked an ingenious idea. A tourist park, featuring scale models of some 20 landmarks in the world, is to come up in the area.

Nilai 3 Wholesale Centre management chairman and managing director Wong Ah San said the idea had been proposed to the Negri Sembilan government.

"It could become one of the largest tourist attractions in the country," he said, adding that the replicas of Eiffel Tower, Leaning Tower of Pisa and the Great Wall of China, Arch of Triumph (Paris), Taj Mahal (India), Balinese house

(Indonesia) and Colosseum (Italy), among others, would not be small.

"They will be of towering height with shops inside them."

Wong said as for the landmark of Pisa, it would be bigger than the original and its safety would be ensured.

"If all goes well, we will begin with the Great Wall of China in September," he said, adding that each landmark would take six months to complete.

"So as to complete the whole project by 2007, Pemaju Perumahan Sungei Ramal Sdn Bhd will assign different contrac-

tors to build the different landmarks," said Wong.

The developer will also add local flavour to the park with a Minangkabau house, Malacca Nyonya house, Chinatown, replica of the A Formosa Fort and a Sarawakian longhouse.

Other buildings include a modern glass tower, a restaurant called The Ship and an ice-cream House.

"The Ship will be in a middle of a pool with private dining areas set on isles around it," said Wong, adding that much of the 100,000 sq m space would be allocated for restaurants.



Wong: Cuisine served in each of the replicas will be unique to the country in which the landmark is

"Cuisine served in each of the replicas will be unique to the country in which the landmark is."

Also in the works is a one-of-a-kind wholesale market featuring more than 1,000 stalls.



Norzali Kadir: I find everything I want at one place