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Raihan performs at CHOGM gala

ANOTHER first for popular nasyid group Raihan. It has been invited to perform at the Prince's Royal Trust Gala in Edinburgh, Scotland, held in conjunction with Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) which started yesterday and will end on Monday.

This is another feather in its cap after the good sales of its debut album, Puji-Pujian, which exceeded 600,000 units.

The group will deliver two numbers, Meniti Subuh and Iman Mutiara, during its performance there. "We are honoured with this opportunity. It gives us a chance to promote Malaysian music, especially nasyid, overseas," he said.

The guests scheduled to attend the show are Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Prince Charles, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and heads of other Commonwealth countries.

\* TRUE friendship means sticking by one another through thick or thin. This was evident when members of Rusydan rejected more than 10 road shows from last month to mid-December.

Rusydan did this because one of its lead vocalists, Mohd Amar Rusdi, was preparing for the SPM examinations, scheduled from next month to December.

"It is not fair for us to perform without him. We started with five members and it should remain that way," said the other lead vocalist, Zaiyad Yatim.

Though this might deter show promoters from inviting it for future shows, Zaiyad said Rusydan hopes promoters will be more understanding.

"We rejected the offers with justifiable reason. We believe our fans would surely want to see all of us together," he added.

Shows aside, Zaiyad said Rusydan would still carry out other promotions, such as photography and meet-the-fans sessions at shopping complexes.

\* A TEENAGE singer found out fame has a downside during a recent show in Mahkota Parade shopping centre in Malacca.

The singer, whose debut album was produced by Fauzi Marzuki, was taking a break during a performance, when he was approached by some teenagers who hurled abuses at him.

"These guys were apparently irritated by my performance. One of them suggested I quit singing and go into a different profession as he thought I had no potential."

The singer is unperturbed by the remarks. "This is part and parcel of being an artiste. I am willing to face challenges. I guess it shows that people are paying attention to me," said the singer.

\* THE production crew of Mat Despatch (a series shown on TV1) was embarrassed when it was thrown out of an office where it was filming a scene recently.

Director Rashid Sibir said the crew was supposed to shoot for three days at the particular place from 9am to noon.

"Everything was fine on the first day. On the second day, we were told to wrap up by 6pm and that the venue was not available the next day. We were told that the company's general manager was not too keen on having us film at his company," said Rashid, adding that the crew had had to find a new location.

\* EVERYTHING looks rosy for singer Ramziela. She has been receiving a bouquet of flowers from an unidentified man every day for the last two months.

"I am surprised, but I would feel better if I know the person's identity. I am eager to find out who he is," said Ramziela.

She said the florist was not willing to reveal the sender's identity save for the fact that he is a middle-aged man.

\* ZARUL, the lead vocalist of Umbrella, who has been distancing himself from the group over the past few months, is in trouble. Mekar Production director (Umbrella's managing company) Nik Anura Nik Abdul Rahman said the company intends to take legal action against the singer for being uncooperative.

"I've had enough of Zarul. Things started changing after he got married last year. He has been disappearing without notice." Nik Anura said Zarul never bothered to inform her each time he was unable to participate in the shows. "The group's name is tarnished as a result of this," she said.

"However, she said the group's fans need not worry as the band is back in full swing with keyboardist, Isnin Baharom, taking over as singer.

(END)