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Flea market draw at Stadium Merdeka

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STADIUM Merdeka, which played a significant role in the country's history is now the main attraction for bargain-hunters looking for exotic collectibles and valuable antiques from Asean countries like Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam.

Called Pasar Ria Stadium Merdeka, the event aims to light up the city's night for the benefit of both locals and foreign tourists.

The idea for the project came from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Pasar Ria is jointly organised by the Kuala Lumpur branch of the Malay Chamber of Commerce and United Engineers Malaysia, which is the owner of the stadium, with the City Hall.

On a faxed statement, the chamber said the Pasar Ria was to promote Stadium Merdeka, the first stadium built in the country, as a popular tourist destination.

"Furthermore, it is located in the heart of the city and is easily accessible.

The Wembley-type flea market hosts more than 100 stalls mushrooming along the 400-metre track, besides a number of food stalls on the parking lot.

It also offers other items including clothes, souvenirs, handicraft and household items which are offered at prices cheaper than those found at retail outlets.

Among the eye-catching stalls are antique cars, bundle clothes from United Kingdom and crystal jewellery from Africa.

Some of the traders participating in the event are KUB Malaysia Berhad which is offering school uniforms and bags, F&N (M) Sdn Bhd which is selling soft drinks, Bata (M) Berhad which is selling shoes (including school shoes) and Lam Soon (M) Berhad offering grocery at discounted prices.

Visitors can find Golden Creations Enterprise's wide selection of household items like towels, bed linen, curtains and comforter, imported from China and Pakistan.

For antique lovers, trader Razman Abdul Hashim, who is operating at the Central Market, is offering antiques and souvenirs from individual collectors in Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.

Among the items are spare-parts of classic motorbikes and record players from the 1950s, 1960s to 1970s.

To create a carnival atmosphere, the City Hall is sponsoring cultural performances besides the "live" entertainment by local artistes from recording companies like EMI, Suria Records, BMG, Pony Canyon, Life and NSR.

There will also be entertainment programmes for every festive season such as Christmas, Hari Raya, Chinese New Year and others.

For the children, there are also clowns and magicians to entertain them. There is even a drawing corner for the creative ones.

The market is open from 4pm to midnight every Saturday. During the fasting month, however, the market will be operating on a daily basis with up to 113 stall holders.

From Jan 14, next year, the market will be operating on Fridays and Saturdays and it will go on until end of the year.

For those interested to rent a stall at the flea market, Call the Malay

Chamber of Commerce at 03-4424711 or fax 03-4421540 for details.
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