

DATE: 01 / 08 / 2007

THEN



The hustle and bustle never stops

NST - 1/8/2007

MALAYSIA
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MOTION

MERDEKA SPECIAL

THE above picture, taken in 1959, is how most of us remember the Causeway. Choked with traffic. That particular year, the jam was due to a ruling that all travellers entering the federation from Singapore must be vaccinated against smallpox.

Completed in 1924 and spanning 1,056 metres, the Causeway was the first land link between the two coun-

tries. It was built with road and rail links and also bears vital water pipes to Singapore. (By the way, the first water agreement was signed in 1927.)

Not many people know this but the link was partially severed in 1942 during World War Two to prevent the Japanese from invading Singapore. Rebuilt once the Japanese captured

Singapore, the Causeway was closed once more in 1964 for about five days because of the race riots that year.

Since then, the constant traffic congestion resulted in the construction of a Second Link in 1998. Today, the Causeway is still as busy — as we can see from the second picture taken just days ago — but the burden is now shared with the second bridge.

NOW

