



**Final move:** Jia Yong (left) moving the final few squares to emerge second while Adrian finishes third.

# Whole new dimension

## Giant snakes and ladders game a huge hit with children

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Photos by ZAINUDDIN AHAD

**S**NAKES and ladders is a classic children's board game. It is played by two or more players on a board with numbered grid squares.

Penang Times Square recently organised a snakes and ladders game on a giant board, bringing cheer to hundreds of children.

Organised as part of the mall's 'Holidayz Fiesta and held over two weekends at the breezy open plaza, the contest drew almost 100 contestants, aged five to 12, all eager to have a go at the life-sized version of the popular board game.

The children had to toss a huge polystyrene dice and advance a number of squares indicated by the dice roll.

There were a lot of twists and turns, some were fortunate to land on a ladder square and advanced quickly, while others landed on a snake square and were demoted.

The first weekend of the contest saw the preliminary rounds where the first three in each game advanced to the semi-finals held on the second weekend.

From then on, only the winner of each of the three semi-finals made it to the final.

Sometimes, luck plays an important role, as 12-year-old Khor Jun Xian found out.

With all three finalists delicately poised on squares numbered in the 90s, Khor standing on square 96, was next up to roll the dice. The dice bobbed around in a gust of strong wind.

It seemed to have stopped on three, which would have put Khor on square 99.

But the wind blew just hard enough, and the dice teetered



**Happy finalists:** (From left) Jia Yong, Jun Xian and Adrian showing their prizes.

»We will be organising more exciting activities every month«

PENANG TIMES SQUARE CONSULTANT PAULINE TEH

before coming to rest on four, putting Jun Xian at square 100 and winning him the game.

"When I heard about the contest, I immediately decided to take part. I'm really excited, and am lucky to win it," the SRJ (C) Sin Kang student said, adding that he would save the RM200 prize money.

He also took home RM350 worth of gift vouchers.

Second was 10-year-old Choo Jia Yong of SJK (C) Union, who won RM150 and RM200 gift vouchers.

"I've played this game since I was seven, and felt confident of my chances," Jia Yong said.

Rounding out the top three was 12-year-old Adrian Yeoh Tzen Chuen of SJK (C) Han Chiang, who took home RM100 and RM150 vouchers for his efforts.

Besides the giant snakes and ladders contest, there was also a colouring contest and a talent search contest open to children aged 5 to 16.

"Since it's the school holidays, we wanted to have activities that would bring fun to the children. We will be organising more exciting events every month until the end of the year," said the mall's consultant Pauline Teh.

In conjunction with Father's Day, dads who visit the mall on June 20 and 21, are entitled to one complementary cup of coffee to be redeemed at the Old Town White Coffee outlet.

It is limited to the first 50 fathers per day while redemption vouchers are to be collected from the mall's customer service counter.