

# Action all the way at youth jam

By JEREMY TAN

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**T**HE 'Youth Jam '09 – Largest Merdeka Youth Carnival in Penang' lived up to its billing, with several thousand youngsters gathering at the Penang Times Square to count down to the nation's 52nd National Day.

Held from 10am to midnight on Sunday, the event, jointly organised by Jazzada Solution and KDU Penang Student Council, was aimed at celebrating being Malaysian as well as instilling patriotism and unity among youths.

Throughout the day, there was a host of exciting activities such as a cheerleading workshop, deejaying workshop, 3-on-3 streetball showdown, street dance workshop, stage performances, entrepreneur bazaar and a food fair.

Youths from all races, religions and backgrounds had a real blast, enjoying the various activities and making many new friends. Some were even seen exchanging contact numbers and email addresses at the end of the day.

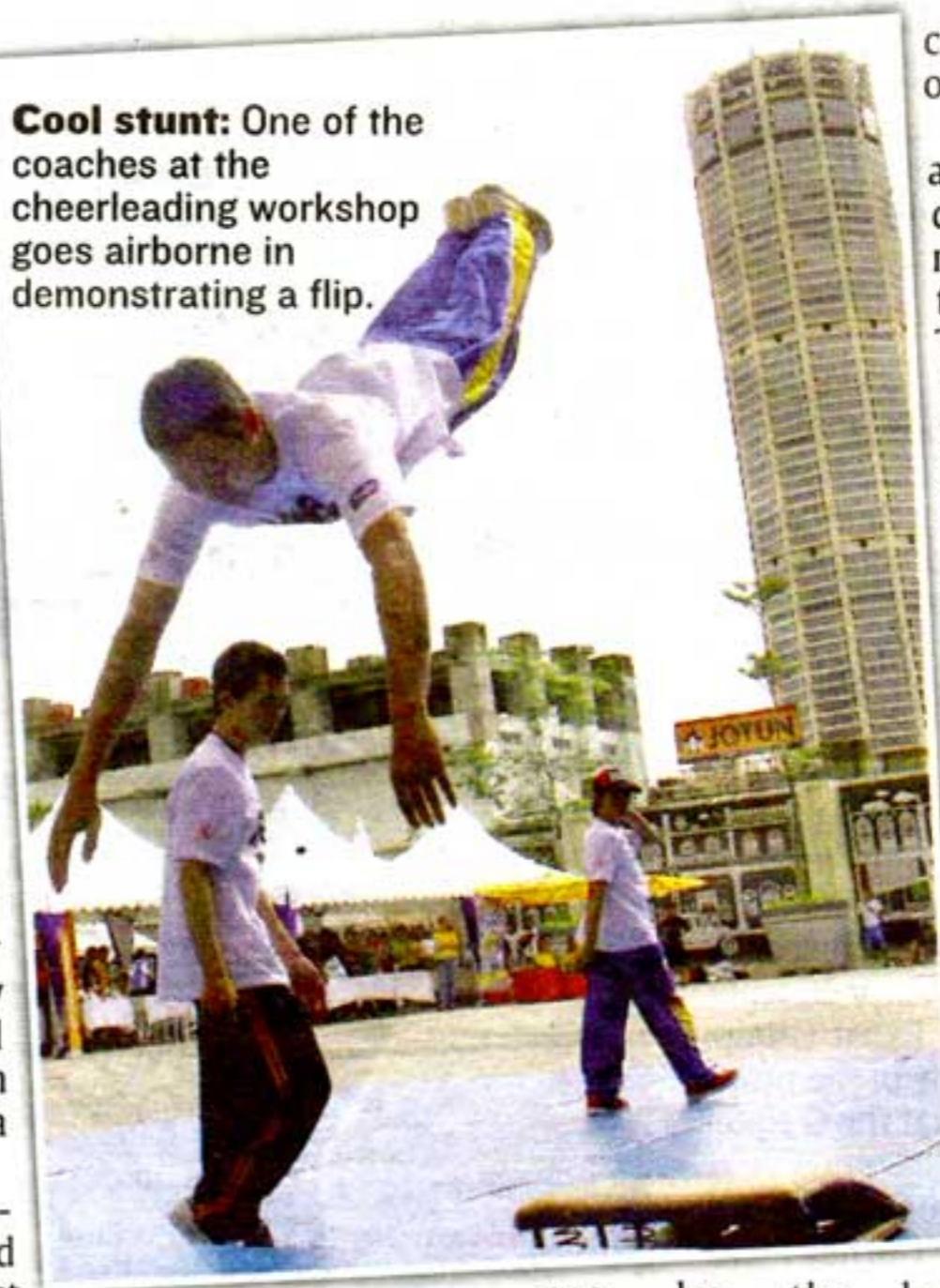
SMK (P) Sri Mutiara students

Sylvia Leng, 17 and Chan Mei Ting, 14, were among the 40 participants who signed up for the cheerleading workshop, both wanting to learn new techniques and master the more difficult stunts.

"I first saw cheerleading on television and immediately got hooked. It's lots of fun, as one could perform many different moves and routines. Whenever we have time, my friends and I will gather to work on our routines," Sylvia said.

Over at the entrepreneur bazaar held at the mall's first floor atrium, there were stalls selling various items. But all eyes were on the arachnid exhibition

**Cool stunt:** One of the coaches at the cheerleading workshop goes airborne in demonstrating a flip.



run by the Malaysian Tarantula Society.

Eighteen spiders were on display, attracting the attention of

curious visitors while making others squirm.

"We want to make people aware that not all spiders are dangerous. That's a common misconception stemming from their grisly portrayal in movies. They're not aggressive, but rather, defensive. They won't bite for no reason, and will only attack if provoked," said society member Samuel Lim.

"They're growing in popularity, and there are quite a number of people having them as pets nowadays. Besides, they're one of the easiest pets to maintain," he added.

As nightfall came, the crowd gathered at the main stage to witness a series of electrifying performances by dancers from Danzity and Ultimaxx dance schools as well as musical performances by several renowned local bands.

The day's events were capped off with the release of over 1,000 colourful balloons

at the stroke of midnight, each bearing an inscription for hope and peace written by the youngsters.