



Snapshots of Malaysia with a dance performance by the Orang Asli community (above), and (left) *bhangra* drums from the Indian community, *kompang* used by the Malays, and a lion, part of the familiar lion dance shows at Chinese celebrations.

THE best of Malaysia came to the forest in Kuala Lumpur to mark some important milestones.

Taman Tugu, a 27ha forest park near national monument Tugu Negara, was the host in celebration of its seventh anniversary of opening to the public.

Celebrate Malaysia @ Taman Tugu, also held in conjunction with Malaysia's independence and formation, showcased the country's vibrant culture through traditional arts and games while strengthening community bonds.

More than 2,000 people came to enjoy traditional Malay dances, Punjabi *bhangra*, Chinese lion dance, a *kompang* performance and Bornean *sape* music.

They also tried traditional games such as *congkak* and *batu seremban*, and creative workshops, while food vendors sold a variety of local cuisine.

Children living at public hous-

# Celebrating culture, nature at KL forest park

## Over 2,000 people enjoy traditional performances, activities, food to mark national milestones

ing scheme PPR Batu Muda were among special guests, according to a Taman Tugu media release.

Since 2018, Taman Tugu, a corporate social responsibility initiative by Khazanah Nasional Bhd and managed by Amanah Warisan Negara (Awan), has welcomed 1.6 million visitors.

Up to 1,000 trees within its secondary forest have been tagged for preservation in partnership

with Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM).

These include indigenous species like *jelutong* (*Dyera costulata*), *tembusu* (*Cyrtophyllum fragrans*), *pulai* (*Alstonia angustiloba*) and famed agarwood *gaharu* – many measuring over 1m in diameter and are potentially 100 years old.

The walking trails created for the public are also dotted with

oil palm trees believed to be from the British era when seeds from West Africa were planted for ornamental purposes.

Numerous community-focused, wellness and environmental events had been held at the site, the statement said.

"Taman Tugu is more than just a green lung in the heart of Kuala Lumpur.

"It is a symbol of preservation,

inclusivity and community spirit," said Awan chairman Datuk Amirul Feisal Wan Zahir.

"Through this event, we honour our Malaysian spirit and diversity while reaffirming our commitment to protecting this urban forest for future generations.

"As Malaysia looks ahead to Visit Malaysia 2026, Taman Tugu hopes to position itself as a welcoming public green space and a must-visit destination for both local and international visitors to enjoy nature, culture and the unique spirit of Malaysia."