**A show of youthful talents**

**Patricia Hulul**

KUCHING: Medan Pelita was merrier than usual when it became the venue for Live @ Wayang Street, organised recently by Azam Young Souls. Passers-by were at first intrigued by the buskers’ performances outside the building facing the heavy traffic along Wayang Street.

Busking4Charity featured local talents such as Sasha Ningkan, Izzu Izzudin, Syed Haziq & Nazrin Askor, Mr Schneider, Black Velvet, Guitar Strings and Jalee from Sonar Instinct. The money collected was donated to charity.

After the busking ended around noon, the musical performance continued inside with a mini concert, featuring RonneyBukong, Bob Zauqan, JejakBiru, Asyraf Hardy + Co, Soulz Action, Daytime Drama and JejakBiru.

Although the event was fun and energetic, the youths did not forget the sad tragedy affecting the country as all performers in the live concert paid tribute to the passengers and crew of MH370 and their families.

A white banner with ‘Pray for MH370’ written on it was on display, allowing the public to write good wishes and prayers for those onboard and their loved ones.

Live @ Wayang Street was not only for those with musical flair.

During the event, mini Tamiya 4WD Run Race saw Tamiya racers assembling before the race.

A Tamiya racer even brought along his own mini-workshop, equipped with lightings and compartments within which to build his 4WD.

These mini Tamiya 4WD cars are more than just toys. It takes a lot of precision, skills and engineering to ensure that once released, the car, designed by its individual racer, stays on the tracks and runs fast enough to win the race.

Once it flies off the track, you’re out of the game.

Tamiya is a Japanese manufacturer specialising in plastic model kits, radio controlled cars, battery- and solar-powered educational models, sailboat models, acrylic and enamel model paints, and various modeling tools and supplies.

Various items ranging from food and beverage to sports merchandise, ethnic handicrafts and health products were on sale from vendors like cookies and hijab, Googly Eye Arts, AGUN BMX shop, Star Bundle, RJ Extreme Skate Shop, HNC Global and SelaanLlnau Handicraft during Live @ Wayang Street.

And, of course, another fun part of LIVE @ Wayang Street was the arts exhibition where artistic youths were given the opportunity to showcase their work and passion.

The exhibition included young local painters like Amy Amin and Normalisa Othman who were among those exhibiting their artworks.

Normalisa, a 23-year-old interior design student from Limkokwing University, whose artwork ranged from pencil sketches to abstract portraits, said it was the first time she took part in an exhibition.

Kuching Film Photography had different types of lomofilm cameras on display to show participants film photography was not dead in the rise of digital photography.

Two members from the society — 24-year-old Alex Wilkes, a civil engineering student from UTM, and tourism student Muhd Nurhidayat Maslan, also 24, from Kolej Komuniti Kuching, explained most of the cameras were bought online and added to their growing collection of classic cameras.

Other exhibitors included ORG Kampung, Gulled Design, Reja & Steffany, Aney Sheik, Ali, ArtifJinat and Limkokwing Institute of Creative Technology Borneo.

Tucked in a corner of Medan Pelita’s lower groundfloor was a section called #KCHREADS, prepared by Azam, to encourage young Kuchingites to read.

There were books from various genres in Malay and English for young people. A few youths were seen flipping through the books while waiting for their friends or next events.

Not missing out on the fun, X-games enthusiasts gathered outside Medan Pelita, taking turns to show off their skills in skateboarding, inline skating and BMX.

Loud speakers blasting funky music harmonised with the X-gamers’ moves.

Live @ Wayang Street is a vehicle promoting Azam Youth Central as a platform for urban youth to take active part in self-improvement activities, gain more knowledge, polish their talents and skills and enhance their social network and interaction to engage urban youths in nurturing their city towards becoming a socially and culturally vibrant city.

It is a new series of events, organised by the Young Souls this year under Azam’s Youth Development program called Young Souls & the City, introduced in 2012.

What sets Live @ Wayang Street apart from other youth events is that they managed to gather youths from different racial, educational backgrounds under one roof and organise activities that everybody enjoyed.

Keep yourself updated with latest activities from Azam by visiting their website at www.azam.org.my.
The youths with MH370 on their minds.

Local singer Bob Zaquan, a finalist from The Stage Summer Mall sings in tribute to MH370.
A BMX biker makes a leap outside Medan Pelita during the Mini Extreme Sports Session.

Normalisa next to her first artwork exhibition at Live @ Wayang Street.
Members of Kuching Film Photography, Alex (left) and Nurhidayat (right) at their booth.

Tamiya 4WD racers take the sport seriously.
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Signs showing the way to different activities at Live @ Wayang Street.

One of the performers, Rueben Qiaw doing the Orang-Ulu dance.