



MUHAMMAD ASHRAF/THE SUN

Movie-goers at GSC Tropicana City Mall standing proud as *Negaraku* is played before the screening of the movie.

**BRIEFS**

**HIGHER GRANT FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

IPOH: A RM6 million allocation has been set aside to accommodate the financial needs and improve the education quality of Sekolah Agama Rakyat (SAR), also known as the People's Religious Schools in Perak this year. State Islamic Education, Personality Development, Entrepreneur and Cooperative Development Committee chairman Dr Mohd Nizar Zakaria said the amount allocated this year was higher compared with RM5.8 million in 2012 and RM4.6 million in 2011. The allocation is based on the increase in student enrolment, he said in response to a question from Zawawi Abu Hasan (PAS-Gunung Semanggol) in the State Assembly here yesterday. – Bernama

**RELA TO BE GOVERNMENT AGENCY SOON**

PUTRAJAYA: The Cabinet has approved a proposal to turn the People's Volunteer Corps (Rela) into a government agency, said Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi. Speaking at the launch of the Rela flag-waving campaign ahead of Merdeka Day, he hoped the upgrading of Rela to the status of a department would inject a new spirit into Rela members. Last month, Ahmad Zahid said the proposed upgrading would provide promotional opportunities and encourage greater participation from semi-active and inactive members. – Bernama

**LEPTOSPIROSIS CLAIMS 28 LIVES**

PUTRAJAYA: Twenty-eight deaths from 2,925 leptospirosis cases were recorded in the country from early this year until Aug 24, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam said yesterday. He called on local authorities to improve the cleanliness and hygiene of food premises. – Bernama

# Negaraku in cinemas

> National anthem played before movie screening in conjunction with Merdeka Day

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The first day of the playing of the national anthem at cinemas in conjunction with Merdeka Day got off to a rousing start at the GSC Tropicana City Mall when movie-goers joined in a robust rendition of the *Negaraku*.

Many of the viewers at the first show of the day at 1.30pm gamely stood up when a voice over asked them to do so while the national anthem was being played.

Some sang along bravely after starting nervously on a tune that they may not have



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sung since leaving school.

"It was instinctive for me to stand," said college student Priscilla, 21.

"I am glad they are playing the national anthem in cinemas, as I had not noticed many advertisements this year for Merdeka Day on radio or television."

IT analyst Sheela Devi, 27, said it was a

brilliant initiative by the government to highlight the fact that Malaysians are proud of their country.

She said it will also show that warriors who lost their lives for the country will always be remembered.

Earlier, as soon as viewers took their seats, an emotional clip entitled *Pesanan Terakhir* (Final Message) by the National Film Development Corporation of Malaysia (Finas) was screened.

The short clip re-enacted selected events of the Lahad Datu incursion, giving tribute to the many brave souls who lost their lives during the conflict.

This elicited an emotional response from some while a few applauded. This was followed by advertisements and movie trailers but moments before the movie started, there was a call for all to rise for the national anthem.

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