



People from all walks of life having a picnic while enjoying vibrant colours on the historical Sultan Abdul Samad building. — Photos: MUHAMAD SHAHRIL ROSLI/The Star

Still the place to be

Dataran Merdeka continues to attract city folk day and night

NESTLED in the heart of Kuala Lumpur, Dataran Merdeka is popular among city folk as a place to socialise and gather on weekends.

Many come with friends and loved ones to soak in the vibrant atmosphere at the iconic spot where, on midnight of Aug 30, 1957, the British flag was lowered and the Malayan flag was raised for the first time.

Many cultural events, such as Pentas Seni Merdeka which takes place every second Saturday of the month, are held here.

In January, thousands of football fans thronged the square to

watch the first leg of the AFF Cup semi-final match on the big screen.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall closes the adjacent Jalan Raja to divert traffic during such events.

During Ramadan, many Muslims from the nearby business district throng Dataran Merdeka to enjoy a picnic after the break of fast.

During the day, tourists often gather at the square as a starting point to explore heritage buildings in the area.

Whatever time of day, Dataran Merdeka continues to be an important public space for social and civic life.



Many young couples bring their children to enjoy quality time at the iconic square.



The square gets more vibrant on Saturday nights with the presence of food trucks.



Dataran Merdeka is a popular venue for cultural and social events such as Pentas Seni Merdeka, pictured here.



A boy riding his bicycle near the fountain at the square. (Right) Children enjoying a game of ping pong.