

By CHONG KAH YUAN, LOGEISWARY THEVADASS, INTAN AMALINA MOHD ALI, N. TRISHA and LO TERN CHERN
Photos: ASRI ABDUL GHANI, GARY CHEN, CHAN BOON KAI, LIM BENG TATT, ZHAFFARAN NASIB, LO TERN CHERN and GEORGE CHEAH



Crowds at Juru Auto-City watching the fireworks display.



Chan at the meet-and-greet session with fans at Sunway Carnival Mall.



Six Bomb entertaining revellers at the Bukit Jambul Complex.



Only World Group chief executive officer Datuk Seri Richard Koh and chief operating officer Datuk group photograph at Level Five during the New Year countdown celebration.



Koh (far back, with mascot) together with staff members of The Top@Komtar posing for a group photograph.

Welcoming 2017 in grand fashion

Hong Kong star greets fans and couple get engaged amid New Year revelry

PENANG held one of the most exciting New Year celebrations ever for 2017. This year, Komtar Tower joined in the festivities with their own sparkling countdown party. The highlight of their party was a stunning laser light show, which started just before midnight, and brought part of the tower's facade to life with imagery. Revellers also had a wonderful evening at the New Year's Eve dinner at the CocoCabana Bar and Bistro on the rooftop at Level 68. Much merriment was in the air when entertainment was provided by a deejay, live band and an upside down automated musical orchestra, as well as live feeds of the laser show. Cuddly mascots George and Pearl also made a special appearance during a parade at Level Five of The Top@Komtar. Revellers and visitors watched the fireworks displays on the island and mainland against the city lights below. Over at Gurney Plaza, businessman Chong Yen Kai, 33, went down on one knee and proposed to his girlfriend of 12 years, seven minutes before midnight on New Year's Eve. "I wanted it to be a surprise and chose to make it close to 2017 as the 'one-seven' could also signify 'yi qi' (together) in Mandarin," said Chong.

Chong said both of them were from Kuala Lumpur. "My fiancée Teh Ting Ling is my business partner for a branding and marketing company and we are here in Gurney Plaza as we are involved in the countdown celebration. Earlier, after the live band had sung Utada Hikaru's 'First Love', Teh, 33, was called to the stage to open a box which unveiled three balloons. Chong later went on stage with a ring box on one hand and a bouquet of flowers on the other. He went down on one knee and proposed to her. Teh said 'yes'. Gurney Paragon Mall hosted a spectacular balloon drop at the Festive Square at the stroke of midnight. The temperature at Bukit Jambul Complex was set a notch higher when sensuous popular K-pop girl group Six Bomb took the stage. Revellers cheered for more as local five-piece band Northern Jazz Unit, Malaysian Astro artiste Jacqueline Ng and Malaysian rapper SonaOne pumped up the mood at the countdown party. At Straits Quay Retail Marina, the crowd were treated to fire acrobatics and LED dance

performances by Russian group Delirium. Malaysian band Wild Fiv performed upbeat numbers while smooch-cum-DJ Mathan got the revellers all pumped up. Shoppers at Queensbay Mall were entertained with street dance, silk walkers, clowne making balloon sculptures and stage games. The crowd at Auto-City in Juru, Bukit Meritajam, were treated to an entertaining performance by dance troupe United States of Monarchy and other live band performances. Fireworks displays were also held at Bukit Jambul Complex, Straits Quay Retail Marina, Queensbay Mall and Penang Times Square. At the New Year Countdown Bash in Sunway Carnival Mall in Seberang Jaya, thousands gathered to usher in 2017 and catch a glimpse of Hong Kong actor and singer Rizzo Chan. Held at the car park in front of the mall, the celebration saw diehard fans of Chan arriving before sunset to get their space beside the fences put up around the erected stage. As the crowd settled down to wait for Chan, various dance and singing performances were held. Among the notable performances were

a live band show by Sepember-X, a drum performance by Rizzy Band and a modern dance by Winds Studio. A drizzle midway did not dampen the spirit of the fans and a zumba party saw participants dancing in front of the stage. The moment the fans were waiting for finally arrived before the countdown at about 11.50pm, when Chan stepped onto the stage. Members of his fan club were seen holding placards and LED boards to show their love and support for Chan. He performed three songs - 'Wei Chai', 'Chi Jiao Bu' and 'Bu Zai You Yu' before several fans presented him with a durian birthday cake. "This is the third time I have been in Malaysia, but it's the first time I'm celebrating the New Year here. "The people here are definitely friendly and I shall return for a better performance and for the local food," he said before wishing his audience a prosperous year ahead. Seconds before midnight, Chan, the management team from event co-organiser Gpx Central Sdn Bhd, mall general manager Chow Heng Wah and marketing manager Shueley Doi went on stage to usher in the New Year.



Revellers looking at a hip-hop performance at Queensbay Mall.



Teh showing her ring after Chong proposed to her at Gurney Plaza, Penang.



Russian group Delirium and revellers ushering in 2017 at Straits Quay Retail Marina.



Performing clowns joining adults and children at the New Year's Eve countdown celebration at Gurney Paragon Mall.