

# UKM 'lions' come head to head

Pendeta Za'ba residential college triumphs over five other teams in competition

THE lion dance team from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's (UKM) Kolej Pendeta Za'ba emerged champion after a dazzling display of skills in the 4th Lion Dance Competition held in conjunction with the university's 23rd Pesta Ang Pow.

The duo, Bryan Tan and Chai Man Wai beat five other teams from UKM's other residential colleges to clinch the title.

Head judge Lew Sai Tet, from the International Wulong Wushi Sport (Lion and Dragon Dance) Federation, said it was crucial that lion dancers worked well with the drummers.

"The most important thing is whether the 'lion' can follow the drum beats," he explained.

Lew added that Tan and Chai

worked well with each other, and this was also a key factor to their win.

The competition, held at the university's Pangung Seni in Bangi, was launched by Star Media Group Bhd group managing director and chief executive officer Datuk Seri Wong Chun Wai.

Wong said in his speech that such events should be encouraged among the young.

"It helps promote the culture," he said, adding that the event helped the students to bond and gave the organising committee an opportunity to cultivate leadership skills.

"The university holds a special place in my heart as I am a UKM alumnus," Wong said.

The Pendeta Za'ba team flanked by UKM Pesta Ang Pow secretariat president Wong Choon Yee (left) and organising chairman Lim Soon Pin (right) while Lew looks on. — GLENN GUAN/The Star

He pointed out that he was surrounded by UKM alumni. His sister-in-law and brother-in-law were graduates of the university, and so was Star Media Group chief operating officer Calvin Kan, he revealed.

Other UKM alumni at The Star Media Group are Admin and Building Services general manager Iris Tan, *Sunday Star* editor Esther Ng and *StarMetro* news editor Sujata V. Poobalasingam.

The students who took part in the lion dance competition trained at the Gui Qing Cultural Centre in Negri Sembilan in January to prepare themselves.



The lions taking centre stage during the competition.



(Above) A team in action during the 4th Lion Dance Competition.

(Left) Students adding some entertainment to the event with their singing.