



Fun time: Children playing in flood water after the downpour at Kampung Setol in Kepala Batas. — ASRI ABDUL GHANI/The Star

Flash floods wreak havoc in Penang

GEORGE TOWN: Heavy rains brought by the northeast monsoon continue to lash Penang, which was hit by floods on Deepavali day.

After residents in Bandar Baru Air Itam, Taman Lumba Kuda and Jalan P. Ramlee bore the brunt of the torrential rain on Saturday, it was the turn of those living in Batu Maung and Permatang Damar Laut.

Continuous rain from 3am yesterday caused the water level to rise to a metre in Batu Maung, affecting more than 30 houses.

Penang Civil Defence Department operations officer Muhammad Aizat Abdul Ghani said 10 personnel rushed to the scene to help.

"However, water had receded by then and there was no immediate danger to the residents," he added.

Muhammad Aizat said Penang Island City Council workers helped to clear the debris in flood-hit houses.

Public Works Department direc-

tor Salleh Awang said the water from the hills had overflowed from the retention pond of a housing project and discharged into the drains along the road.

"The water was supposed to be retained in the pond. The drains along Jalan Batu Maung have not been completed because of the project," he said yesterday.

Salleh added that the road upgrading project was scheduled to be completed by end of next year.

A Penang Meteorological Department spokesman said rain over the past few days was the result of the northeast monsoon.

"The rain on Saturday was evident as the winds were blowing in the north and bringing rain in the evening," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the Kek Lok Si Temple has refuted news that the temple was closed to the public.

Temple trustee Datuk Steven Ooi said the temple was open as usual.