

NSJ 23/11

# Exam hopes nearly swept away by flood

**MALACCA:** When Fifth Formers Norhelda Muhamad and Nurlela Harun woke up yesterday morning, they wondered if they could make it to school for their Mathematics paper.

Heavy rain overnight had caused the nearby century-old Gadek dam to overflow, and cut off their village Kampung Gadek Dalam.

Villagers sent out a call for help, which arrived just in time in the form of a police Land Rover.

Gadek police drove the two students to their school, SMK Datuk Hj Talib Karim, about seven kilometres away, a police spokesperson said.

They arrived about 8am, just in time to take the paper.

The rain had started at 6.30pm on Sunday, causing water levels in rivers and channels surrounding Gadek-Tebong, Batang Melaka Menggong and Kemuning to rise.

Dam gatekeeper Baharud-

din Othman said he had to open the gates about three hours later.

"But the rain was so heavy that the dam overflowed about 2am," said the 35-year-old, who lives by the dam.

These days, Kampung Gadek Dalam is inundated each time there is a downpour, according to village Development and Security committee chairman Ismail Abdul Latif.

The Gadek dam, which is next to the village, cannot store the excess water and often overflows, he said.

"Water channelled to the dam through the Batang Melaka river had caused the dam to overflow."

Some 20 houses were affected by the flood. The occupants would have to be evacuated to nearby mosques and community halls should the wet weather worsen.

"Some villagers could not make it to work," added Ismail.



Schoolchildren take the road less travelled after rain caused the Gadek dam to overflow. — Picture by Nashairi Mohd Nawi