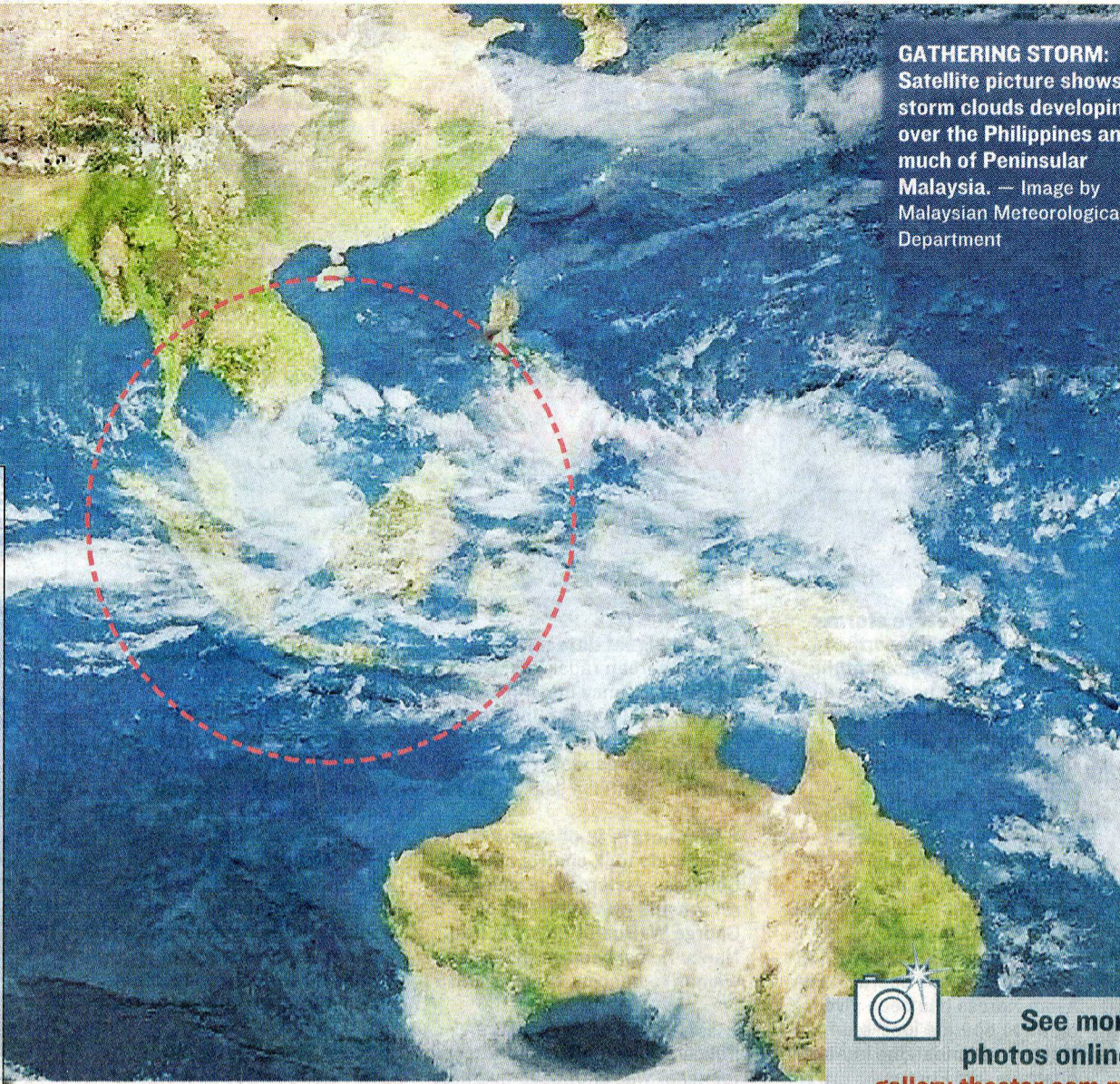


**GATHERING STORM:** Satellite picture shows storm clouds developing over the Philippines and much of Peninsular Malaysia. — Image by Malaysian Meteorological Department



**SEVEN** northern and east coast states are bracing for thunderstorms, heavy rain and possible floods as strong winds may develop into a cyclone.

Severe weather is expected to hit Perlis, Kedah, Penang, Perak, Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang from today till Monday.

- > **Current strong northeast monsoon winds of 65kph may worsen.**
- > **Six-metre waves expected on the east coast**
- > **Waves may reach three to four metres in northern parts of the Straits of Malacca.**
- > **Fishermen, ferry operators and sailors on small vessels advised not to go to sea.**
- > **Police, fire and rescue department and the National Security Department are on stand-by.**

> **SEE PAGE 4**



See more photos online at [gallery.thestar.com.m](http://gallery.thestar.com.m)

# Storm brewing

# Brace for severe storms

STAR 51

## Yellow alert, which warns of possible floods, issued to seven states

By **MANJIT KAUR**  
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Seven states in the northern and east coast regions of the peninsula have been issued with a yellow alert warning of thunderstorms and strong winds over the weekend.

A "tropical depression" (or cyclone) is also expected to hit Perlis, Kedah, Penang and Perak in the north, and Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang in the east.

The Science, Innovation and Technology Ministry warned that the northern states would see scattered rain becoming widespread and heavy from tomorrow until Monday.

The east coast states, on the other hand, would see widespread moderate to heavy rain from today to Monday.

Other states in the peninsula are likely to experience moderate rain during the same period.

There would also be moderate rain in most parts of Sarawak until tomorrow, and in most parts of Sabah until Sunday.

The yellow alert denotes the possibility of incoming wet weather, an orange alert existing heavy rainfall that is normal during the monsoon season but not serious, and a red alert widespread heavy rain.

In issuing the yellow alert, the ministry also warned residents to brace themselves for possible floods.

Deputy Minister Datuk Kong Cho Ha said fishermen in the east coast had been advised not to go out to sea during this period.

"The storm is expected to bring heavy rainfall and the people should be prepared for severe weather. The seas would be rough



**Be prepared:** Fire and Rescue Department Kelantan director Yahya Madis (far left) and some firemen double-checking the readiness of a boat for flood operations yesterday.

and the conditions will be dangerous for small boats," he told reporters at Wisma MCA here yesterday.

Kong said the leaders of the respective states as well as the police, fire and rescue departments and the national security department in the Prime Minister's Department had been told to be on stand-by in case of floods.

"The current strong northeast

monsoon winds of 65kph are expected to develop into a cyclone," he said.

Stormy weather is expected in the west and the middle of Peninsular Malaysia by today, he warned.

"We can forecast heavy rain, but it is not possible to predict the amount of rainfall and the exact areas that would be affected," he said.

"Therefore, we can't say for sure if floods will occur. But we want people to be on stand-by for evacuation."



See more  
photos online:  
[thestar.com.my](http://thestar.com.my)

## Penang agencies get ready for floods

**PENANG:** Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon has issued a directive to government bodies to be prepared for floods.

State Local Government, Traffic Management, Information and Community Relations Committee chairman Datuk Dr Teng Hock Nan said district offices and the Drainage and Irrigation Department would be the first to be mobilised in the event of floods.

But if it were to get worse the State Disaster Security Council chaired by the Chief Minister would be called into action, he said, adding that welfare officers would also have clothing and bedding in preparation for any emergency.

## Be ready to move, Kedahans advised

**ALOR STAR:** Kedah must be prepared for the worst. Those staying in flood-prone areas must be ready to relocate to safer ground.

"People must not wait until the last minute. They must do something fast to save their lives and belongings," said State Public Works committee chairman Datuk Nawawi Ahmad. He said any flood would be major blow to the country's rice bowl, as padi was now ripe for harvesting.

## Volunteers to man Kelantan ops room

**KOTA BARU:** The Kelantan national unity department has formed a committee comprising volunteers to man mobile operations rooms. Senior officer Sydina Abidin Abdullah said the committee members are Rukun Tetangga members. Sydina, who is the state Amateur Radio Club coordinator, said the members have also set up channels for members to relay information about rising floodwaters.

## Terengganu tells reps to stay put

**KUALA TERENGGANU:** Terengganu has directed all its state assemblymen not to leave their constituencies and to brace for any eventuality in the face of worsening weather. State Health, Unity, Infrastructure and Environment committee chairman Toh Chin Yaw said the directive would allow aid to be distributed fast to victims and also provide better ground coordination.