

Three states brace for second wave

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ALOR STAR: Kedah, Perlis and Pahang are prepared to face another wave of flooding.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said personnel from the police, Civil Defence Department and People's Volunteer Corps (Rela) were on standby until the end of the year.

"More than 1,000 security personnel and volunteers from the three agencies helped out in the recent floods in Kedah and Perlis and we can add more people."

He said this after launching the Malaysian Muslim Restaurant Operators' fund for flood victims at the Sekolah Kebangsaan Hj Abdullah Sadun flood relief centre in Kuala Kedah here yesterday.

"We can get more volunteers and personnel from other states."

He said he had instructed the de-

partment and Rela to focus on cleaning up schools and places of worship in areas where floodwaters had receded.

In **Kuantan**, Pahang State Secretary Datuk Seri Muhammad Safian Ismail said the state had put in place preparations to face any major flood.

The Fire and Rescue Department had prepared 36 boats, eight jetskis and one amphibious vehicle for its 784 personnel to evacuate people.

The floods have so far spared Pahang.

Safian said: "We improved the registration system for flood evacuees to better distribute aid to them and to minimise fraud."

He said this after launching a national-level fire disaster exercise at the state Fire and Rescue Department headquarters here yesterday.

Safian, who chairs the state Flood Relief Committee, said only two per cent of flood victims refused to be evacuated last year.



Nik Mah Nik Mat, 45, placing discarded tyres around her house to stave off erosion by the sea in Kampung Pantai Dasar Sabak, Kota Baru, yesterday. — NST picture by Syamsi Suhaimi

Cops find body of man who fell into canal

JITRA: Police recovered the body of a man, believed to be mentally unstable, who had fallen into a canal in Taman Seri Utama on Sunday.

The body of Ahmad Hamizan Ahmad Suhaimi, 24, was recovered from Tandop Tegar Canal, 3km from where he was last seen, at 8am on Monday.

Kubang Pasu district police chief Superintendent Sawaludin Hamenudin said police had classified the case as sudden death.

Hamizan's father, Ahmad Suhaimi Md Diah, 51, said his son had left the house at 11pm on Sunday.

"We had just returned home after spending several nights at a relief centre nearby. Our house was in waist-deep water.

"My son, who must have been shocked by the condition of our house, went out for a walk.

"Now, he is gone."

Floods also claimed the life of Nur Irshah Rosli, 9, whose body was found

in Sungai Tanjung Bendahara at 9am on Friday.

Other flood victims were Nurul Nadia Syukur, 13, and her sister, Nurul Syafiqah, 8, who drowned after they fell into an irrigation canal in Kampung Telaga Emas, Langgar, in Pokok Sena, last Wednesday.

Nur Irshah and her friend, Awwab Hakimi Rudaini, both 7, were reported missing on Thursday after they fell into the river and were swept away.

Two other victims were German woman Erna Fischer, 64, who drowned in Kampung Kota Giam near Jitra on Nov 1 and Mohd Zaki Shaari, 13, who fell into a pond in Kampung Charok Bongor on Nov 2.

Meanwhile, 120 students from Universiti Utara Malaysia and Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia conducted a go-tong-royong in Taman Tabung Haji here yesterday.

In Alor Star, 70 students from Kolej

Poly-Tech Mara (KPTM), Alor Star branch, visited victims in Kampung Padang and Kampung Pekan Anak Bukit.

KPTM chairman Datuk Sohaimi Shahadan said the group also visited Kampung Alor Gunung and cleaned up almost 50 houses.

Shell Malaysia gave away cooking gas cylinders worth RM60,000 to 480 residents in Kampung Alor Senjaya in Kepala Batas.

Shell northern region retail manager Calvin Eng said it also distributed 600 cartons of mineral water to villagers.

In Kuala Lumpur, MIC Youth secretary C. Sivaraajh said people could donate in cash and kind to MIC centres here and in Kedah and Penang.

MIC Youth social and welfare bureau chief S. Subramaniam urged those who lived in flood-prone areas to be alert and prepare themselves for floods.



Zubaidah Nor, 38, and her son, Mohd Yusri Mohd Noor, 11, sorting through their muddied clothes after floods damaged their house in Kampung Bukit Derang, Kedah, yesterday. — NST picture by Shahrizal Md Noor



Muar folk know victims' pain

MUAR: The experience of facing big floods in Johor four years ago prompted staff at the Muar Municipal Council to donate RM2,000 to Tabung Bencana New Straits Times Press-Media Prima yesterday.

Council president Muhamad Fuad Radzuan presented the donation to

NSTP Muar branch manager Mohd Nazri Mahmud.

Fuad said the municipality staff were concerned about the victims in Kedah, Perlis, Kuala Terengganu and Kelantan.

He said the big floods at the end of 2006 and early 2007 had badly af-

ected Muar resident and they understood the hardship faced by flood victims. "It may not be a big donation but we hope the money can ease the burden faced by flood victims."

In Alor Star, the Malacca government donated RM111,000 to help flood victims in Kedah.



Muar Municipal Council president Muhamad Fuad Radzuan (fourth from right) presenting the RM2,000 contribution to NSTP Muar branch manager Mohd Nazri Mahmud yesterday.

TABUNG BENCANA



NSTP media prima

Contributions can be sent to NSTP Finance Department, 31, Jalan Riong, 59100, Kuala Lumpur, or any NSTP branch.

Make out the cheques to "Tabung Bencana NSTP-Media Prima"

You can also make cash deposits into Maybank account no. 514105-320757

(write your full name and address at the back of the cheque)

More evacuees in Kedah go home

ALOR STAR: Flood evacuees in Kubang Pasu and Kota Star can heave a sigh of relief as floodwaters in both districts continued to recede.

Until 4pm yesterday, the authorities had closed 13 relief centres in both districts after it allowed 5,914 evacuees to return home.

A National Security Council spo-

kesman said 16,915 people from 4,594 families were still at 41 centres in the state.

"The number of flood evacuees in Kota Setar dropped from 16,760 people the previous day to 11,496 people.

"There are now 29 temporary shelters in the state," he told the *New*

Straits Times yesterday.

In Kubang Pasu, 650 evacuees were allowed to return home after floodwaters receded.

The authorities closed five relief centres.

However, there are still 12 temporary shelters housing 5,419 evacuees in the district.

'Perlis dam needs funds for upgrade'

KANGAR: Raja Muda of Perlis Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail asked the Federal Government to allocate funds for the upgrading of the second phase of Timah Tasoh Dam.

Tuanku Syed Faizuddin said the state had experienced two major floods over the past five years. He added that if the authorities did not take action to solve this matter, Perlis could face another major flood within five years.

"I hope the second phase of upgrading the dam will be carried out soon.

"Without the second phase, the upgrading of the first phase will be of no use," he said after visiting the Sekolah Sena flood relief centre here yesterday.

The first phase of the project, which is almost completed, will see the banks of the dam increased by an extra 3.5m and a storage capacity of up to 80 million cubic metres.

"Even if the first phase is ready, the dam will not be able to contain the water if the spillway is not upgraded.

"This will bring more danger, which is what happened in the recent floods."

The state government said it needed more than RM300 million for the second phase.

Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Md Isa Sabu urged all flood victims to lodge police reports on damages they incurred in the floods.

He said flood victims, regardless of whether they had moved to relief centres, must lodge police reports on the number of items destroyed and the amount of losses for insurance and claim purposes.

The floods that hit Perlis forced more than 15,000 people to seek shelter at relief centres.

Yesterday, there were still 3,249 evacuees at 17 relief centres here.



Ali Abdul Hamid (wearing white skullcap), 61, leading villagers in praying for safety in Kampung Padang Telok Tunjang, Alor Star, yesterday. — NST picture by Syaharim Abidin