

Kelantan sees two more deaths

By Sulaiman Jaafar,
Sharifah Mahsinah Abdullah,
T.N. Alagesh
and Zarina Abdullah
news@nst.com.my

KOTA BARU: While the floods in Terengganu and Kuantan abated yesterday, the situation in Kelantan worsened with another two people killed.

A police spokesman said the body of 17-year-old Farid Zulkifli was recovered about an hour after he fell into a flooded area in Kampung Tok Marbu, Tumpat.

He said Farid had gone to the area with his younger brother to catapult birds when the incident happened about 3.30pm.

"According to the brother, Farid is believed to have been swept by strong currents and disappeared," said the spokesman, adding that the boy's body was found by villagers near the area about 4.30pm.

Meanwhile, 8-year-old Mohd Haiqal Sabri slipped and fell into a river near Kampung Lubuk Kuin in Bachok about 4pm.

Bachok police chief Deputy Superintendent Yahya Saleh said the pupil of SK Gunung 2 was with five friends

when the incident occurred.

A search party comprising police, firemen and villagers found Haiqal's body about 5pm.

The third wave of flooding in Kelantan improved in Bachok, Pasir Putih and Tanah Merah, with all evacuation centres shut down yesterday.

However, the number of evacuees in three other districts — Pasir Mas, Kota Baru and Tumpat — rose to 3,590, compared with 2,626 people on Saturday.

A flood operations room spokesman said Pasir Mas still had the biggest number of victims with 2,136 people, followed by Tumpat (1,278) and Kota Baru (176).

The spokesman also denied reports that all access to Rantau Panjang had been cut off.

"It is still accessible via the new Pasir Mas-Rantau Panjang road. Only the old road at Km9 Pohon Tanjung-Rantau Panjang at Kampung Siram has been closed to traffic."

The spokesman said five other roads in Pasir Mas were opened only to heavy vehicles.

They are: Km3 at Pengkalan Rakit; Pohon Tanjung-Meranti; Km10 Rantau Panjang-Panglima Bayu; Km23 Banggol Kulim; and, Km24



Pupils of SK Bukit Tadok cleaning their classroom after floodwaters receded at Kampung Tadok in Hulu Terengganu yesterday. — NST picture by Aswadi Alias

Pasir Mas-Rantau Panjang.

In Setiu, only 89 people remained at relief centres as the flood situation in Terengganu improved yesterday.

A police spokesman said 82 people from Kampung Beris Tokku were still at the Beris Tokku community hall while another seven from Kampung Rhu 10 remained at SK Rhu 10.

After six continuous days of grey skies and intermittent rain, there was sunshine in most parts of the state yesterday.

In Hulu Terengganu, the remaining victims at relief centres returned home yesterday morning and the flood operations room at the Kuala Berang police station was closed soon after.

In Kuantan, all 18 evacuees from Kampung Chendor Tengah here were allowed to return home yes-

terday morning after floodwaters there receded.

The victims from four families had sought shelter at the Chendor community hall, near here, after their homes were inundated on Friday.

A state police operations centre spokesman said the flood relief centre was closed about noon yesterday after the victims returned home about 10am.

He added that the roads linking Pahang to Terengganu were opened to all vehicles.

Despite the gloomy weather and downpour yesterday evening, there had been no report of floods in the state.

A total of 244 people from 59 families sought shelter at four flood relief centres here on Friday after floods affected their homes in Cherating,

Balok and Beserah, near here.

Meanwhile, Bernama reports that the Meteorological Department forecasts strong winds and choppy seas off Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang will persist until Wednesday.

The department said yesterday north-easterly winds with speeds between 50 and 60kph and waves up to 5.5m would also be prevalent in the waters off Samui, Reef North, Layang-layang, Condore and Palawan, and posed a danger to beach-goers, shipping and fishing activities as well as to oil rig workers until Wednesday.

Inclement weather conditions are also expected in eastern Johor, Sarawak (Mukah, Bintulu and Miri), Labuan, Tioman, Sabah (west coast, interiors, Kudat and Sandakan), Bunguran, Reef South and Sulu until Wednesday.