

Floods hit 3 states

ALL ALERT: More than 500 evacuated in Johor and Terengganu over the weekend

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Hheavy rainfall which lasted for six hours here on Sunday caused flooding at Kampung Laut and Poh Chee Leng near Skudai.

A total of 495 people from 119 families were evacuated as water rose to almost 2m in the areas.

As of late yesterday, the evacuees were still at the flood relief centre at SK Skudai despite the floods having receded.

"We still need to clean up our homes and we are also worried because it seems the rain will continue, especially in the afternoon," said Zailan Abd Kadir of Kampung Laut.

He said water level had risen very fast on Sunday evening, forcing his family to leave their house without saving any of their belongings.

M. Manimegalai, 17, who is sitting for his Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia said he did not manage to save his books when his family were evacuated about 10pm.

"I am glad that one of my teachers fetched me to school this morning for the examination and I think I managed to answer the questions rather well," added the student of SMK Taman Desa

Skudai.

There were at least nine other SPM candidates among the evacuees.

Nusajaya state assemblyman, Datuk Abd Aziz Sopian, who visited the evacuees said all assistance, such as food and blankets had been distributed by the Welfare Department.

"We are bracing for more floods in flood-prone areas," he said.

"The flooding was not because of poor drainage system as those had been taken care of during the menteri besar's recent visit here. It's because of the heavy rainfall."

In Batu Pahat, 23 people from four families were evacuated from their homes in Kampung Cahaya Baru and Kampung Parit Sagil in Air Hitam when water rose to more than 3m.

They were sheltered at the multi-purpose hall of Taman Cahaya Baru.

Johor State Security Committee secretary Mohamad Yusri Hashim said all agencies involved in flood relief efforts had been put on alert.

"We are monitoring the weather pattern and level of rainfall at all catchment areas and main rivers. This will enable us to promptly evacuate those in the affected area."

In **KUALA TERENGGANU**, Za-



Children playing in floodwaters in Kampung Merbau Menyusut in Setiu yesterday.

Pic: ASWADI ALIAS

rina Abdullah reports downpour in Hulu Terengganu, Marang and Setiu over the weekend forced some 50 people to leave their homes and take shelter at several relief centres.

Floodwater rose to more than 1.5m in villages Kolam, Kerbau Menyusut, Pengkalan Berangan and Marang.

However, all main roads in Terengganu remained open and there were no casualties to date.

A spokesman for the state Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID), said as at 5pm yesterday water levels at the Sungai Setiu river basin and Sungai Marang were at danger level, while at other rivers statewide, the situation had returned to normal.

Its 24-hour operation to monitor

the flood situation since Sunday is still open.

For flood updates, the DID information centre is 09-6224072.

In **KOTA BARU**, **Sharifah Mahsinah Abdullah** reports several low-lying areas, including 13 Avenue Garden in Kampung Wakaf Stan and Jalan Sultan Yahya Petra, were hit by flash floods yesterday following heavy rains since Sunday.

Water level was only knee-high, and residents claimed the poor drainage system were to blame for the floods.

"It happens every time there is a downpour," said resident Minah Daud, 61, when she woke up early yesterday for her *subuh* prayers at 6.30am.

A check along Jalan Sultan Yahya Petra showed that several

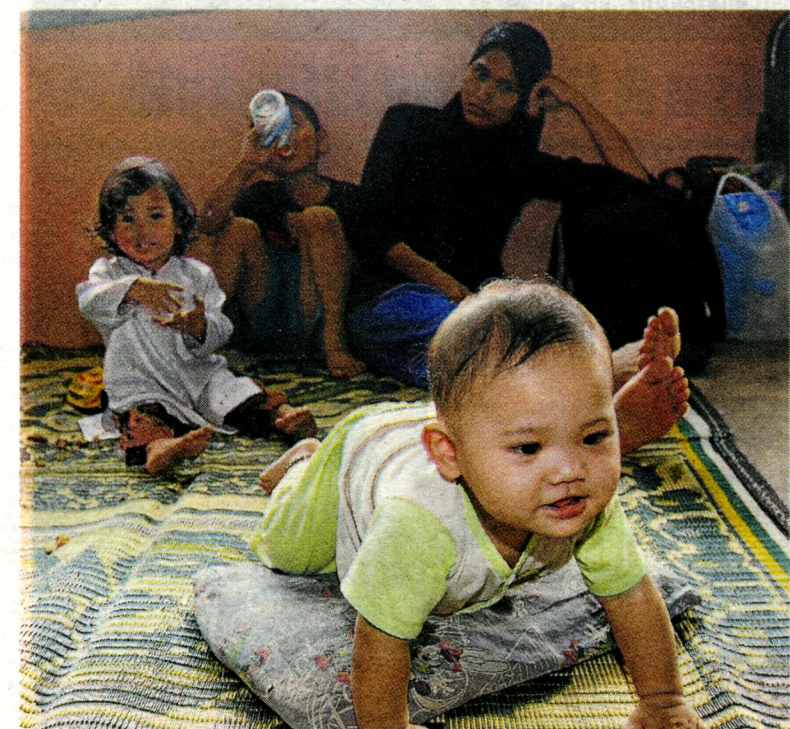
shophouses along the road were also affected and the owners were busy moving their goods to a higher ground.

In **KOTA KINABALU**, a group of Tahfiz Al-Quran students were shaken after a night of heavy rain on Saturday cause a landslide to hit the city mosque here, reports **Edmund Samunting**.

The landslide had caused massive damage on the mosque's kitchen and storeroom, close to the students' hostel.

The mosque and hostel were located on a hill and no one was reported hurt in the 8pm incident.

Housing and Local Government Deputy Minister Datuk Seri Lajim Ukin urged relevant departments to be prepared for possible landslides.



Kampung Laut resident Suriana Mohd Salleh with her children at the evacuation centre at SK Skudai yesterday. Pic: ZULKARNAIN TAJUDDIN

Warning of heavy rains till Thursday

KUALA LUMPUR: The Meteorological Department has issued a heavy rain warning (orange stage) alert, stating that the current wet spell was expected to persist until Thursday.

It said intermittent and occasionally heavy rain was expected over Kelantan (Tumpat, Pasir Mas, Kota Bharu, Bachok, Pasir Puteh, Machang, Tanah Merah and Kuala Krai districts) and Terengganu (Besut, Setiu, Kuala Terengganu, Marang, Hulu Terengganu, Dungun and Kemaman districts).

Starting from tonight until Thursday, a heavy rain advisory (yellow stage) was also issued with intermittent and occasionally moderate rain was expected in Perlis (Padang Besar, Kangar and Arau districts) and Kedah (Kubang Pasu, Padang Terap, Kota Setar, Pokok Sena, Pendang and Langkawi districts).

This condition may result in floods at low-lying areas.

The yellow stage warns of the possibility of a monsoonal surge in the

next 24 to 48 hours.

An orange stage states that strong winds with sustained wind speed of 50kph to 60kph (thatched or zinc roofs can be blown off by the wind) was expected together with moderate monsoon rain and flooding at low-lying areas and areas by riverbanks.

The most severe and final red stage will experience heavy widespread monsoon rain together with tropical storm or typhoon and major swift water currents.