

Toddler among two more dead

WORSENING SITUATION: Drownings bring toll to four as Terengganu and Kelantan report more evacuations

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FLOODS in Terengganu and Kelantan continued to worsen yesterday with two more deaths, including a toddler, while the number of evacuees rose to 3,400.

The dead were identified as 2-year-old Sharul Aiman Mohd Ridzuan, who fell into knee-deep water from his house in Pasir Mas on Wednesday, and Muhammad Raihan Haslan, 15, whose body was found not far from where he was reported missing in Lemal, Pasir Mas. The latest deaths bring the toll to four.

In **Terengganu**, the number of evacuees rose to 2,404 yesterday. Setiu topped the list with 1,540 people from nine villages, including Kampung Saujana, Kampung Tasik and Kampung La, seeking shelter at 16 relief centres.

Other affected areas included Besut, Kemaman, Hulu Terengganu and Marang.

In Kelantan, more than 1,400 people in five districts — Pasir Mas, Bachok, Kuala Krai, Machang and Tanah Merah — were moved to 28 relief centres.

Rising floodwaters also forced 47 Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia candidates to shift to alternative examination centres yesterday after their private religious schools in Pasir Mas and Kuala Krai were flooded.

Kelantan education director Hussain Awang said the 28 students of Sekolah Agama Al Falah in Pasir Mas were moved to Sekolah Menengah Agama Banggol Stoi, while candidates from Sekolah Agama Saadatun Qura in Kuala Krai took the exam at Sekolah Agama Darul Salam. The move, however, did not disrupt the examination



Fire and Rescue Department director Azmi Osman **carrying** Zulfikri Zulkifli, who just underwent **circumcision**, to a relief centre along with evacuees from **16 other families** from Kampung Serungga in Pasir Mas, Kelantan, yesterday. Pic by Fathil Asri

process.

Meanwhile, water levels at Sungai Golok and Sungai Kelantan breached the danger mark, at 10.24m (danger level is 9m) and 16.07m (danger level is 16m) at the Guillemard bridge, respectively.

Five rural roads in Pasir Mas, Machang and Tanah Merah have been closed to traffic since Wednesday.

In **Kuantan**, T.N. Alagesh reported that two families in Kampung Chendor Baru were evacuated yesterday after their homes were inundated following heavy rain on Wednesday.

A spokesman at the Pahang flood operations room said the weather

had shown improvement, compared with the downpours that had lashed the state capital over the past two days.

In **Pekan**, 203 emergency personnel from various agencies took part in a two-hour flood rescue simulation exercise.

In **Malacca**, the number of evacuees increased from 24 to 72 yesterday at two relief centres, while **Johor** recorded 23 evacuees at one relief centre.

National Security Council secretary Datuk Mohamed Tajudeen Abdul Wahab said a total of 4,246 flood victims were taking shelter at 72 relief centres nationwide.

In **Kedah**, six districts, including

Kubang Pasu, Padang Terap, Kota Star, Pokok Sena and Langkawi, remained on "yellow alert" since Tuesday.

The "yellow alert" by the Meteorological Department signifies the first phase of advisory for heavy rains and thunderstorms that can trigger floods in low-lying areas.

A Muda Agricultural Development Authority spokesman said water levels at the Muda and Pedu dams were still below the danger mark.

In **Perlis**, which had already experienced three episodes of flooding this year, Sharanpal Singh Randhawa reported that Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Md Isa Sabu

said the state government was doing its best to resolve the perennial problem.

Isa said the water level at the Timah Tasoh dam had been reduced by a metre to 28.1m, allowing it to hold more water, while the rivers, including Sungai Repoh and Sungai Arau, had been widened and deepened. **Additional reporting by Zarina Abdullah**

Page 1 pic: Students of SM Tiang Chandi keep their **spirits up** as they wade through floodwaters to **return home** after sitting a Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia exam paper in Pasir Mas yesterday. Pic by Fathil Asri



Children are ignorant of the danger as they **play** in floodwaters in Marang, Terengganu, yesterday. Pic by Rozainah Zakaria

Pahang, Terengganu on 'orange' alert

KUALA LUMPUR: The Meteorological Department has lowered the red alert warning of heavy rainfall in Terengganu and Pahang to "orange", but warned of possible flooding in low-lying areas.

Department deputy director-general Che Gayah Ismail said heavy intermittent rainfall was expected in the two states and Kelantan until today, following which there would be less rain tomorrow, barring any sudden weather changes.

She said the heavy rains in the east coast states, especially in the Kuantan and Pekan districts, would result in floods in low-lying areas.

"For the next two days, the rain intensity is expected to drop. However, wet weather is still expected all over the states with scattered rain in the morning and afternoon."

The department also issued a "yellow" alert in Perlis and Kedah.

Dataran Padang Besar, Kangar and Arau in Perlis, and Kubang Pasu district, Padang Terap, Kota Setar, Pokok Sena, Pendang and Langkawi in Kedah are expected to experience "intermittent rain until today in which floods are expected to hit low-lying areas".

The department also issued a warning of strong winds at 50 to

60kph and rough seas with waves of up to 4.5m in the waters off Kelantan, Terengganu, Samui, Con-dore, Reef North and Layang-layang until Tuesday.

Meanwhile, a category one warning of strong winds at 40 to 50kph and rough seas with waves of up to 3.5m were forecast for Langkawi, Perlis, north Kedah, Pahang, east Johor, Sarawak, Labuan, Sabah (interiors, West Coast and Kudat), Phuket, Tioman, Bunguran, and Reef South and Palawan, until Tuesday.

The east coast areas in Peninsular Malaysia are also exposed to high tides.