

Kajang flooded

Residents caught unawares by downpour, KL also not spared

KUALA LUMPUR: A three-hour-long downpour flooded the Klang Valley town of Kajang while bringing the national capital to a traffic standstill.

Floodwaters gushed into the homes and shops in the township, stranding many people at shoppers' favourites such as Plaza Metro.

Some were caught off guard in their vehicles as strong currents

swirled around them. Cars in the basement of the shopping complex were submerged.

The badly affected areas in the township were Jalan Bukit, Jalan Sulaiman, Jalan Raja Haroun, Jalan Tun Abdul Aziz and Jalan Jelok Tiga.

In some places, the water level was as high as 1.5m.

The rain started at about 3pm.

About two hours later, it became a drizzle, and the floodwaters receded to leave a trail of damaged vehicles, homes and shophouses.

Nine people, including three senior citizens, were plucked to safety late in the evening.

Over in Kuala Lumpur, motorists

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In the deep end: Parked vehicles stranded in flash floods which hit Kajang town after the downpour yesterday. Inset: Taxi drivers pushing their vehicles through floodwaters. In some areas, the water level rose to as high as 1.5m. The floods damaged vehicles, homes and shophouses.

Woman trapped on top of van rescued

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were stuck in a massive gridlock along the New Klang Valley Expressway, Elite, Kesas and Kajang highways.

In a dramatic scene caught on video and uploaded onto YouTube, several people rescued a woman trapped on top of a van amid the havoc in Kajang.

They lowered a ladder onto the roof of the vehicle and hauled her up.

Another video showed staff of a shopping centre desperately moving

merchandise to higher floors.

Selangor Fire and Rescue Department operations assistant director Mohamad Sani Harul said several people trapped at home were brought to safety.

"They were from Kampung Sungai Kantan and Jalan Kelapa," he said.

Sani said the department received a distress call at about 3.50pm and arrived at the scene 10 minutes later with a team of 14 firemen from stations in Kajang and Cheras.

Kajang Fire and Rescue Department station chief Ariff Mohd Kassim said heavy rain caused Sungai Jelok

and Sungai Kantan to overflow and submerge areas around the Kajang market.

The flash floods also halted KTM train services into the town.

Kajang assemblyman Lee Kim Sin was quoted as saying that the natural disaster was the worst since the big flood in 1971.

Kajang Municipal Council workers were busy clearing the streets of river sediment late into the night using heavy machinery.

Damage to vehicles and businesses was estimated to be in the hundreds of thousands of ringgit.



Rain havoc: (Top) A man trying to get to his car at the Kajang Metro Shopping Centre's underground carpark yesterday. (Right) Kajang folk cleaning up their offices after the floodwaters receded. — NORMAN HUI and CAROL LEONG / The Star



To safety: A video grab from YouTube showing people helping a stranded woman reach higher ground in Kajang yesterday.

Kajang traders count losses following floods

KUALA LUMPUR: Traders in Kajang are counting their losses after floods swamped their shops and stalls here.

Shoe store owner Lee Tee Khoo, 58, said the flood was the worst since he started his business off Jalan Bukit in 1996.

"My business records and many of the shoes placed on the shop floor were soaked through.

"Luckily, I have raised the floor of my shop years earlier. Or else the damage would have been worse," he said.

He said several customers, who were trapped by the heavy rain and flood, helped him and his workers to move their goods.

"But now, school shoes and the stock for Chinese New Year have

been damaged," he added.

Wholesaler Chong Soon Hung said the floodwaters damaged 400 trays of eggs, which had been stacked up on his shop floor.

"This is the third time this year that the area has been hit by floods," he said.

K. Anantha Kannan, 38, a trader at Kajang Market, and his wife rescued two people from a van.

"My wife took a crash helmet and smashed the side window of the van. The man and woman trapped inside then climbed onto the roof of the vehicle and got to safety," said Anantha.

Another shop owner, who declined to be named, said the flood was so bad that even newly resurfaced roads had been damaged.