



A group of **children being evacuated** from the Telekom Malaysia Training Centre's nursery in Jalan Semarak yesterday. Pic courtesy of Fire and Rescue Department

Thousands trapped by floods

OVERFLOW: 23 children and 3 teachers rescued from nursery as heavy rain causes havoc in city

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TRAFFIC at some of the busiest stretches in the city came to a standstill yesterday evening following a downpour.

As Sungai Bunus — that stretches to the city areas of Jalan Tun Razak, Jalan Semarak and Kampung Baru before flowing into Sungai Kelang — overflowed, boats were rushed to evacuate 23 children, including a 2-month-old baby, from the first floor of the Telekom Malaysia (TM) Training Centre in Jalan Semarak.

A car in the Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel caught fire due to overheating, causing a massive disruption to south-bound traffic.

City Hall's Integrated Transport

Information System (ITIS) hotline reported that Jalan Tun Razak was cut off since 5.30pm after the road was flooded.

The tunnel was closed from 4.25pm to allow excess water to be channelled out, but the road heading towards Seremban was reopened at 6.25pm.

The trigger was the flooding of Sungai Bunus.

The Drainage and Irrigation Department said the upstream of Sungai Bunus in Air Panas recorded a rainfall of 230mm in only one hour and 45 minutes.

Federal Territory DID director Mat Rahim Ismail told the *New Straits Times* that a rainfall of 80mm and below would be manageable.

"The tunnel helps bring down the water level in Sungai Kelang.

"This has eased the situation in

Sungai Bunus."

City Fire and Rescue Department assistant director (operations) Aziz Ismail said two teams from Jelatek and Jinjang fire stations were despatched to Jalan Semarak to evacuate the 23 children and three teachers from a nursery there.

"We received a distress call at 5.46pm about children trapped in the nursery on the first floor of the TM Training Centre. The operation, which also involved officers from our scuba unit, took about an hour before all of them were safely taken to a road nearby, where their family members were waiting."

As for the car which caught fire in the tunnel, two teams of firemen from the city headquarters and Pudu fire station had to use the tunnel's emergency shaft to reach the car.



Kuala Lumpur City Hall officers **removing a tree trunk** that fell on a car due to heavy winds in **Taman Danau Kota** yesterday. Pic by Sairien Nafis