

Wet in a flash

Heavy rain wreaks
havoc for a second day

PETALING JAYA: Exceptionally heavy rain engulfed a vital artery of the capital in under an hour, causing a river to overflow its banks and wreaking havoc on thousands of commuters.

The waters of Sungai Bunus spilled onto Jalan Tun Razak and the nearby low-lying areas on Tuesday, but that was not all. A downpour yesterday again caused flash floods in various parts of Kuala Lumpur.

It was a repeat of Tuesday's traffic snarls on major roads in the city, including Jalan Raja Chulan, Jalan Pudu, Jalan Tun Razak and Jalan Sultan Ismail. The basement carpark of a popular shopping complex in Jalan Bukit Bintang was reported to be under water.

Drainage and Irrigation Department director-general Datuk Ahmad Husaini Sulaiman said the 100mm of rain was "exceptional and isolated".

His department has submitted a plan to reduce the impact of heavy rain in the area in future, using a system similar to the SMART Tunnel to divert floodwaters.

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Dec 13: This was the scene in Jalan Tun Razak on Tuesday evening after Sungai Bunus overflowed its banks.
— AZHAR MAHFOF / The Star



Dec 14: It was back to normal at 3.30pm yesterday but some other areas were hit instead.
— KAMARUL ARIFFIN / The Star

Heavy rain leaves many stranded in KL again



KUALA LUMPUR: Heavy rain caused flash floods in various parts of the capital again and even in places where floods have not occurred in a long time.

Motorists and city dwellers encountered a repeat of Tuesday's nightmare of flash floods and heavy traffic snarls along major roads in the city. The areas flooded yesterday included Jalan Raja Chulan, Pudu, Jalan Tun Razak and Jalan Sultan Ismail.

Motorists were stuck in massive traffic jams, while others were affected by faulty traffic lights.

Some members of the public tweeted that the basement car park of a popular shopping complex was flooded and posted pictures of it.

The basement carpark of the Sungei Wang Plaza was filled with up to knee-deep water.

Many could not drive their cars out of the basement and had to wait until the water level receded at about 8pm.

Others tweeted about thunderstorms and heavy rain in the afternoon while they were on the road.

On Tuesday, various parts of the capital were hit by flash floods, trapping thousands of motorists heading home after work.

The floods occurred when a two-hour downpour caused Sungai Bunus to overflow.

City Fire and Rescue Department director Khirudin Drahman said he was told by the Meteorological Department to brace for heavy rain this evening.

He said firemen had been directed to be on standby for floods that might occur at low-lying areas including Jalan Gurney, Jalan Jelatek, Wangsa Maju and Jinjang.

"We have boats and personnel to be sent to these areas if needed," he added.

Waterway: Motorists trying to make their way out of the flash floods in Jalan Brunei near Furama Hotel in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — ELLIS KHAN / The Star

KL city centre hit in a flash

Downpour causes Sg Bunus to overflow

PETALING JAYA: After less than an hour of rain, a vital artery of Kuala Lumpur was engulfed by floodwaters.

Sungai Bunus overflowed its banks on Tuesday and its waters spilled onto Jalan Tun Razak and the surrounding areas, bringing traffic to a standstill.

Drainage and Irrigation Department director-general Datuk Ahmad Husaini Sulaiman said the 100mm of rain was exceptionally heavy.

"There have been flash floods in the area before but this incident was exceptional and isolated," he said.

He said the waters of Sungai Bunus rose rapidly and subsided very quickly and were back to near normal levels by late Tuesday evening.

Ahmad Husaini also clarified that the floods were not connected to the SMART tunnel water diversion system built to prevent flooding in the inner city.

"Sungai Bunus is a tributary within the city and is not covered by the SMART system.

"The SMART Tunnel was designed to divert excess water upstream of Klang River to bypass the city before releasing it downstream," he said.

Ahmad said the department built a water retention pond next to Sungai Bunus recently to reduce flooding.

He said the department has submitted a detailed flood mitigation plan for the area – a water-diversion system similar the SMART Tunnel – to the Ministry of Natural Resources

and Environment.

Under the plan, excess water from Sungai Bunus would be diverted to Sungai Gombak and water catchment ponds, he added.

The Meteorological Department has issued a "yellow alert" advisory on its website for heavy rain and thunderstorm that may result in floods in low-lying areas.

It said that intermittent rain, occasionally moderate, is expected in Terengganu (Setiu, Kuala Terengganu, Marang, Dungun and Kemaman), Pahang (Kuantan, Maran, Pekan and Rompin) and Johor (Mersing and Kota Tinggi) from Saturday to Monday.

On Tuesday, the department said a tropical depression was forming about 591km west-northwest of Kudat and 571km northwest of Kota Kinabalu in Sabah.

It warned of conditions that may cause thunderstorms and strong winds over the South China Sea and the west coast of Sabah, Labuan and Sarawak.

The National Heart Institute said it was not affected by the floods on Tuesday.

Chief executive officer Tan Sri Dr Robaayah Zambahari said that neither the institute nor the KL Hospital were affected by the floods in Jalan Tun Razak.

In **KUANTAN**, the flood situation in Rompin and Kuantan districts have improved with only seven victims still at a relief centre.

All victims in Rompin have returned to their homes. However, in Raub, 141 victims from 34 families in Kampung Gali Tengah and Kampung Ulu Gali have been evacuated to relief centres.

Big task ahead:

Workers clearing the rubbish near Sungai Bunus in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — KAMARUL ARIFFIN / The Star



Sg Bunus – a small tiger turns roaring river

KUALA LUMPUR: Not many city folk know of Sungai Bunus, a tiny river which flows past Kg Baru, Jalan Semarak and some parts of Setapak.

The river, a tributary of Sungai Klang, is more often than not dismissed as a “storm drain” due to its size.

On Tuesday, the sleeping tiger in Sungai Bunus awoke after a heavy downpour caused it to overflow and spill onto the city’s major roads.

“We could see Sungai Bunus from our college hostel. We never expected such a small river could swell so

much and cause such a big flood,” said Naim Azhar, an 18-year-old student of TM Multimedia College.

The college campus was submerged by floodwaters as high as 2m at some of its low-lying areas.

“The campus was flooded in February, too,” said Naim, who now has to take the stairs to his fourth-floor room in the dormitory as the hostel’s lift was damaged in the flood.

Staff member Abdullah Othman said this was by far the worst flooding incident.