

City folk count their losses

THE AFTERMATH: Wednesday's floods leave traders and residents with heavy task of salvaging their belongings

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IN a scene that is becoming all too familiar, several parts of the city saw massive clean-up yesterday following Wednesday's flash flood.

Many traders and residents were left lamenting their losses as they tried to salvage their mud-covered belongings.

A *Streets* check at Salak South yesterday found damaged electronic items and furniture littering most of the affected premises while garbage was piled high at the side of the roads, waiting for collection by Alam Flora contractors.

Most business operators were busy cleaning their premises while a few shops had closed for the day.



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A resident **cleaning up** her house in Kampung Tasek Permai in Ampang. Pic by Zulfadhli Zulkifli

Massive clean-up in the city

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The Salak South police station was also not spared. Several pieces of furniture, including a sofa, and some files were damaged.

Sergeant Major Jamal Ahmad of Salak South police station said the flood was at its worst at 3pm.

"The floodwater rose very fast and we were unable to save important documents and belongings as the water was soon waist-high. We believed that the two-hour heavy rain had caused the Sungai Keriyong to overflow and affect the town," he said, adding the floodwater subsided at about 7pm.

A glass shop operator Lai Tin Sang, 63, said flood waters rose in just a matter of minutes, catching them off-guard.

"The flash floods had ruined our computers, printers, a glass machine imported from China and other equipment."

"I've been running my business here since 40 years ago and although there had been rain and floods in the past, we never expected that the flood could be this bad," he said, estimating his losses at about RM200,000.

His daughter, Lai Shook Kuan, 28, who worked at the same shop said they had to delay all customers' orders as it would take a few weeks for them to settle down.

"The floodwaters rose quickly and it was like being hit by a small tsunami," she said.

A restaurant operator Ricky Chang said most of the groceries in



A trader **drying documents** in front of her shop in Salak Selatan.

his restaurant were affected.

"I had to close my shop temporarily as the chairs, tables and cooking gas tanks were also damaged," he said.

A grocery shop owner, Loong Kit Yee said the flood was the worst she had experienced for the past six years.

Dr Low Hock Chye said his clinic

suffered a RM10,000 loss.

"The last time the flood hit the town was in 2006 but it was not as bad as this one. My operating table, some medicines and other equipment were ruined," he said.

The cleaning contractors from Alam Flora were present to clean up the affected areas and collect the garbage.

Kampung Tasek Permai in Ampang was another area badly hit by the flashflood.

A resident, who only wanted to be known as Ah Long, said the water at his house rose to about 1.5m.

"This is not the first time, but it is the worst in about ten years," said the 50-year-old.

He recalled similar incident taking place in 1995.

Due to strong currents, the front pillars of his house collapsed.

Fortunately, no one was injured, he said.

He added Ampang Jaya council workers had dug up the drains in December to expand it but never finished the work.

"I've lost everything including some documents, and it will take a few days to finish up the cleaning.

Ng Yoke Sze, whose house is located a few blocks away from Ah Long, said unlike his neighbour, his house was somehow spared extensive damage.

"Not much water entered my house but we still have to do a lot of cleaning work," said the 59-year-old.

Mohd Kasim Ahmad Akhir whose house is located next to the drain also suffered losses.

Kasim whose lives with his parents, four siblings and two children said the whole family had to take leave to clean the house.



Lai Tin Sang salvaging his **prized photographs**.



Sergeant Major Jamal Ahmad from the **Salak South police station** going through **wet documents**.



Alam Flora workers **clearing the garbage** left by the flashflood in Salak Selatan.



The **mess** left behind by Wednesday's flash flood in **Kampung Tasek Permai**. Pix by Zulfadhli Zulkifli and Chan Wai Yew