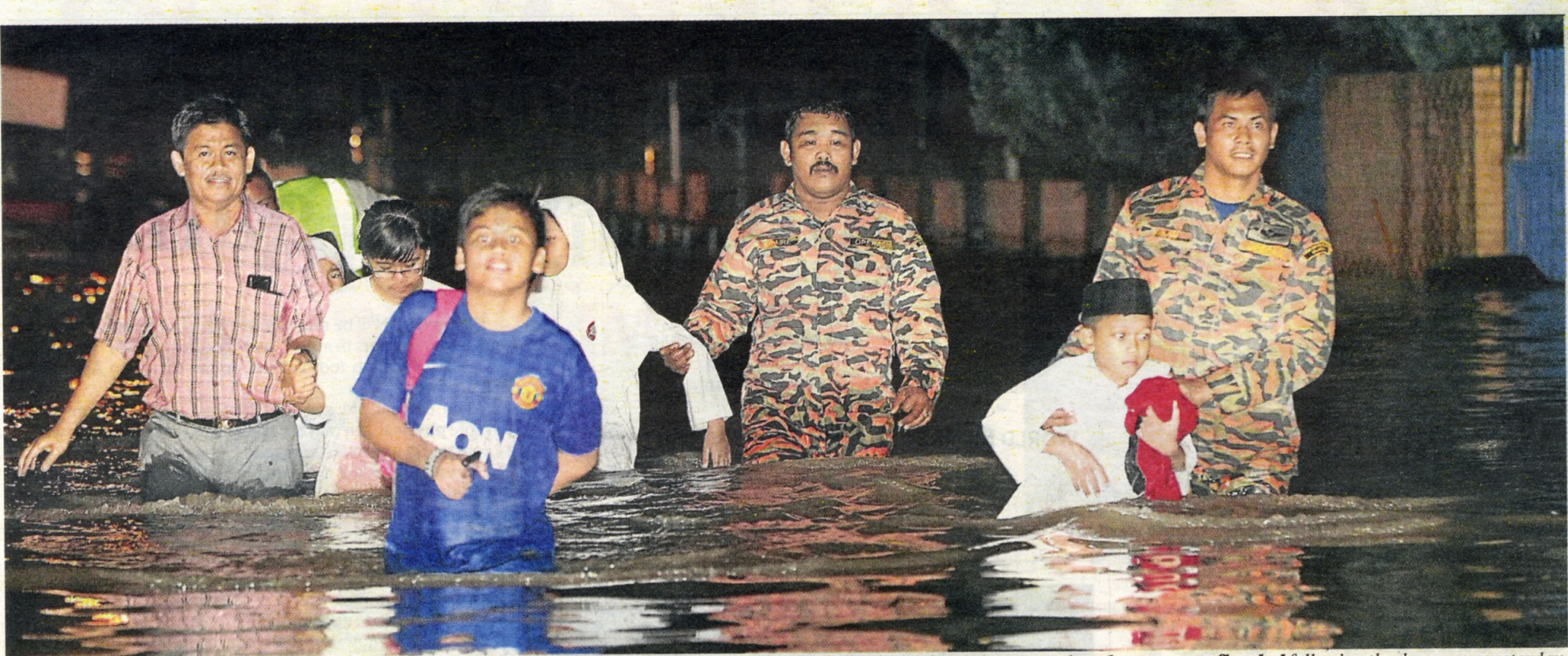




Selangor Fire and Rescue Department personnel helping to evacuate residents at Taman Seri Serdang in Seri Kembangan whose homes were flooded following the downpour yesterday. Pix by Mustaffa Kamal

Flash flood havoc in Klang Valley

IMPASSABLE: Downpour and flash floods cause North-South Expressway and major roads to be closed to traffic

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A DOWNPOUR since 4pm yesterday brought traffic to a standstill at several major roads as well as flash floods in the Klang Valley.

Highways and roads near Kajang, Serdang, Bangi and Nilai saw flash floods following the evening downpour.

Vehicles heading from the city to outlying areas were caught in a bumper-to-bumper crawl because of flash floods at Km303.8 of the North-South Expressway near Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Both sides of the expressway were impassable to traffic. At 7.50pm, PLUS tweeted that the stretch near the Sungai Besi toll plaza was closed.

About 9pm, PLUS officials opened an alternative route before the toll plaza to ease the traffic congestion.

The lanes on both sides of the expressway were finally opened to traffic about 10.30pm.

At the Besraya Highway, flash floods in front of the KTM Serdang station saw traffic backed up to the Palace of the Golden Horses, Mines

and Balakong with only one lane accessible on most stretches.

However, the highway to UPM was opened at 9.40pm.

On the SILK highway, floods near Bandar Sungai Long forced the roads to Cheras and Kajang to be closed.

However, by 8.20pm, all lanes of the highway were reopened, including those heading towards Cheras and Kajang.

The downpour also brought flash floods to several areas in Kajang, particularly at Country Heights, Balakong, Sungai Chua and Jade Hill.

Serdang police chief Assistant Commissioner Abdul Razak Elias said the nearby areas of Taman Sri Serdang and Taman Serdang Indah were also affected.

In Taman Sri Serdang, about 100 vehicles were left stranded and 350 houses were in a metre of floodwaters.

Razak added that the rain started about 5.30pm and continued until midnight.

Selangor Fire and Rescue Department operations commander Assistant Superintendent Mohd Sani Harul said the department received a call from a resident at Taman Sri Serdang at 6.06pm



Floodwaters left several vehicles stranded in Taman Seri Serdang.

about floods in the area.

"Our fire engine arrived at the scene 15 minutes after the report was lodged.

"Everything is under control and right now, we are rescuing victims stranded in their cars.

"A school as well as several residential areas were affected," he said, when contacted by the *New Straits Times*.

Sani added that the department also monitored several rivers in Kajang.

"Checks revealed that the water at several rivers in Kajang is at a cautionary level, but it is under control."

Sani said at Country Heights, the water rose up to a metre and only four-wheel-drive vehicles were able to enter the area.

"Checks revealed that the water at several rivers in Kajang is at a cautionary level."

Assistant Superintendent Mohd Sani Harul
Selangor Fire and Rescue Department operations commander



Police directing traffic at the Kajang toll plaza.