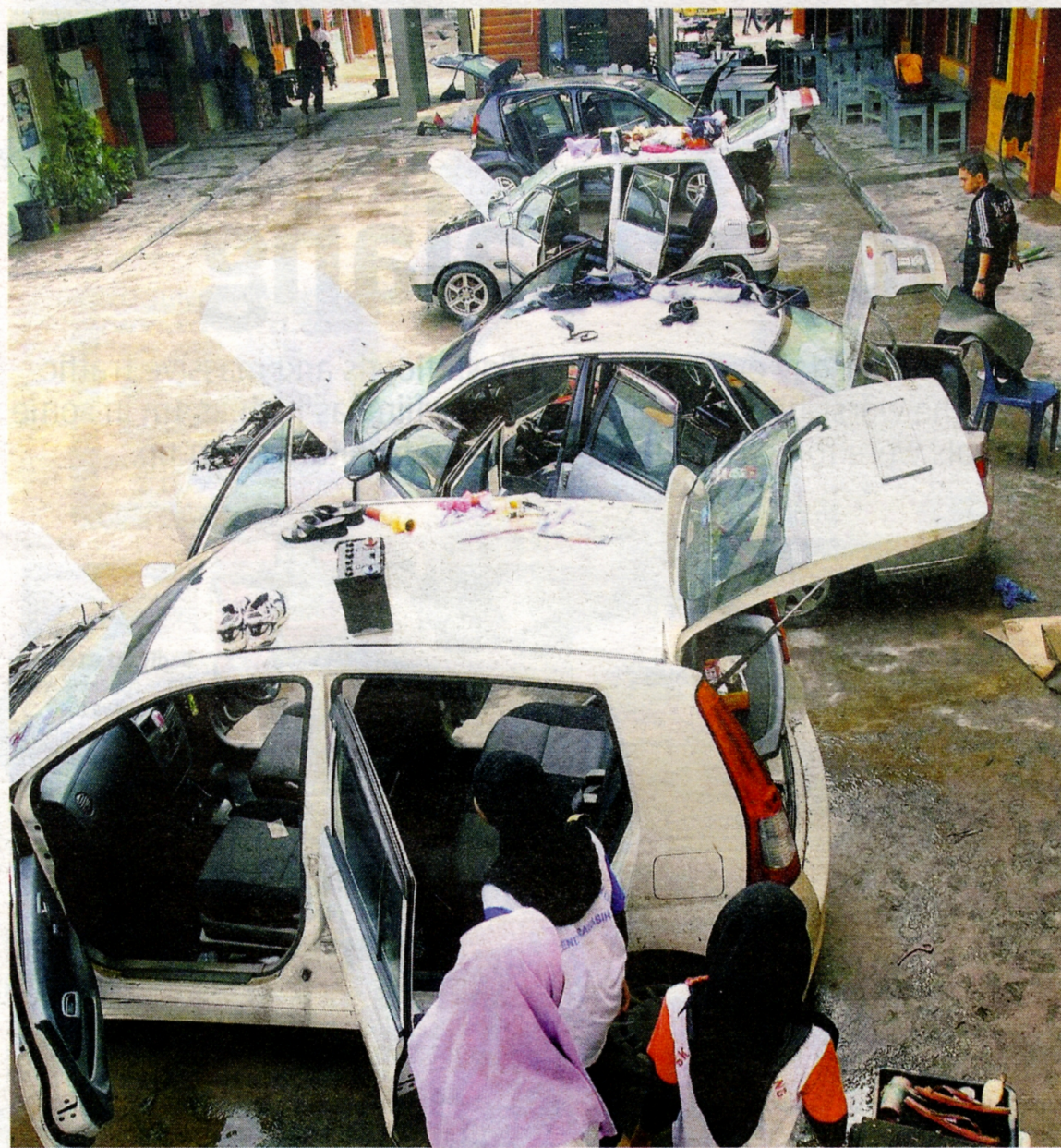




Picking up the pieces

Affected residents and business owners in Kajang and Serdang are busy hosing mud and debris off their premises after Tuesday evening's flash floods. >2&3

Expensive aftermath

SK Sri Serdang teachers airing out their cars and hoping that the vehicles can be salvaged. — By SHAARI CHE MAT / The Star



Inundated: A house near Sungai Ramal during the flash floods on Tuesday evening.

Wet night for Kajang

A downpour in the Klang Valley on Tuesday evening caused flash floods and massive traffic jam. Kajang and Serdang were the worst-hit areas with water reaching as high as 1m in some residential areas. Several schools were forced to shut yesterday to facilitate clean-up.

By **EDWARD R. HENRY**
edward@thestar.com.my

A CLEAN-UP operation was carried out in the outskirts of Kajang after flash floods wreaked havoc on Tuesday evening, forcing more than 200 families to move out of their houses as flood waters reached waist-high.

The Kajang Municipal Council (MPKJ) sent out a damage assessment team to determine the number of houses and businesses that were affected by the floods.

Council president Datuk Hasan Nawawi Abd Rahman said the immediate measure was to help residents clean their houses of mud and silt.

"We have sent out a team of 30 men equipped with water jets to clean the affected houses and roads. We are also evaluating damage done to these premises to ascertain the losses.

"Tuesday's downpour started at 3.30pm and lasted for four hours. Within the first two hours, the rain index was above 60mm according to the Drainage and Irrigation Department's (DID) alert signal. It reached 113mm at 5.43pm which was classified as a disaster alert," he said.

Hasan said he was informed of the flash floods by the Kajang police operations room.

"DID notified me that water had overflowed the banks of Sungai Langat and Sungai Jelok. The situation worsened as the downpour continued until 7.30pm. Drains around the villages of Kampong Jambu, Taman Muhibbah, Sungai



Badly affected: Some residents were able to save their belongings by placing them on higher ground.



Kantan, Taman Sekamat Kampong Tasik Sungai Chuah, Kampong Paya in Sungai Ramal and Taman Impian Setia at Jalan 8 were inundated with water," he said.

Hasan said the North-South Expressway opposite Country Heights heading towards Universiti Putra Malaysia was closed to traffic for 40 minutes as it was flooded.

"No one in Kajang was evacuated from their houses to the relief centre as flood waters subsided by 10pm and clean-up had begun in the wee hours of the morning," he said.

He added that reports found that ponds close to the river had also burst their banks.

A check with the Kajang police showed no reports were lodged on injuries caused by the floods.



Tough job: Many spent the morning cleaning their houses of mud and silt.

Waters rise too quickly

Some businesses in Serdang unable to salvage their stock when the flood hit

By **TAN KARR WEI**

karrwei@thestar.com.my

Photos by **ROHAIZAT MD DARUS**

RESIDENTS and business owners in Taman Sri Serdang spent the whole of yesterday morning cleaning up after a massive flash flood hit the area on Tuesday night.

Soggy mattresses and damaged furniture can be seen dumped outside homes while house and business owners got busy cleaning the mud and debris that had washed into their premises.

Jamek Maju restaurant owner Abdul Karim Abdul Rahman, 71, said it started raining about 5.30pm and by 6pm the water level rose rapidly in shops along Jalan 18/45.

"We have had floods in this area before but it was never this bad. We could not salvage our stock in time.

"We had to throw out most of the cooked food and items such as sugar, flour and rice. Three of our refrigerators have also been damaged and we are trying to wash the mud of bottled drinks that are not damaged," he said.

Hikmat Auto worker Rizal Zakaria said the water rose to waist level and most of the cars and machinery in the car repair shop were damaged.

"Most of us had to wait out the floods on the tables of the restaurant next door. The water didn't subside until about 1am in the morning," he said.

Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) public relations senior assistant director Asfarizal Abdul Rashid said the council had deployed about 50 personnel including Emergency Response Team officers and cleaning contractors to help with the clean-up.

"Our priority is to clean up the main roads and we will be picking up the damaged bulk items thrown out of houses and shops.

"We are also helping with the clean-up of SK Sri Serdang that has been closed for a day," he said.

The Fire and Rescue Department, Parents-Teachers Association and residents' association committee members were also at the school to clean up the classrooms.

Seri Kembangan assemblyman Ean Yong Hian Wah said SMK Seri Indah and SJKC Serdang Baru 2 in Serdang Lama were also badly affected by the floods.

"The Fire and Rescue Department had to use boats to ferry afternoon session students who were still in school when the floods hit. Many cars were also damaged. MPSJ was cleaning the area in the morning," he said.



To the rescue: Fire and Rescue officers ferrying students and residents to safety during the flash flood in Taman Sri Serdang.



Plenty to do: Rizal cleaning up the muddy mess outside the car repair shop.



Soaking wet: The shophouses along Jalan 18/45 were inundated with waist-high waters.



Saving themselves: The water level rose so quickly that most residents did not have time to salvage their belongings. Most of the cars parked there were damaged.