

Rising river levels hold no fear

RANTAU PANJANG: Although the water levels of the rivers in Kelantan rose yesterday, this did not deter locals along the border from ignoring their safety by continuing to cross Sungai Golok by boat.

The locals, mostly women, had crossed the river either to visit relatives living in the southern part of Thailand or for other activities.

They claimed that the increase of water level at Sungai Golok was normal to them and, therefore, had no fear to cross the river.

Salamah Ahmad said she and her friends would normally cross the

river to Bukit Lata every day to meet relatives and buy essential items which were cheaper there.

"It is normal for us (to see the water level increase) but we have to be careful on the boat so that we will not fall into the river," said the 43-year-old housewife.

Trader Aziz Derahman said many villagers continued to cross into Thailand and vice-versa as it had been their routine over the years.

"Many of us have relatives there, so it is a must to visit them almost every day," said Aziz.

Checks at other illegal jetties along the border, including at Pangkalan

Ibrahim Pencen, Pangkalan MCA, Pangkalan Syed Agil and those near Lubok Jong showed that the crossings were still rampant.

In **Kota Baru**, flood victim Suziman Zulkifli, who was evacuated to SK Tiong, said she and her family were forced to move after their home in Kampung Tiong was submerged by about 2.5m of floodwaters.

"We were lucky as we had packed our important documents early, so, there would be no problems when, we were ordered to move," said the 28-year-old, who has a 2-year-old son. **Additional reporting by Zarina Abdullah**

Weather forecast for today

INFOGRAPHIC: **NST**

	Peninsula	Sarawak	Sabah & Labuan
Morning	Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang : Intermittent rain occasionally moderate. Elsewhere: Cloudy.	Kuching, Sarikei and Mukah: Isolated rain over coastal areas. Elsewhere: No rain.	Kudat and Sandakan: Isolated rain over coastal areas. Elsewhere: No rain.
Afternoon	Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang : Intermittent rain occasionally moderate. Selangor, K. Lumpur & Putrajaya, N. Sembilan, Malacca and Johor : Isolated thunderstorms. Elsewhere: Isolated showers.	Kuching, Samarahan, Sri Aman, Betong, Sarikei, Sibu and Mukah: Isolated thunderstorms. Elsewhere: Isolated showers.	Sandakan and rural areas: Isolated thunderstorms. Elsewhere: Isolated showers.
Night	Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang : Intermittent rain occasionally moderate. N. Sembilan, Malacca and Johor: Isolated rain. Elsewhere: No rain.	Miri, Bintulu and Kapit: Isolated rain. Elsewhere: No rain.	Rural areas and Labuan: Isolated rain. Elsewhere: No rain.

Source: Central Forecast Office, Malaysian Meteorological Department, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation