

Kelantan floods still bad

FLOODWATERS NOT RECEDING:

2,360 evacuated in Kelantan while situation in Terengganu improves

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THE flood situation in Kelantan remained grim while the situation improved in Terengganu yesterday.

As of 5pm, the total number of evacuees in Kelantan increased to 2,358 people who were evacuated to 20 relief centres.

Sungai Golok in Rantau Panjang was still above its nine-metre danger mark and stood at 10.2 metres while water levels at other flood assessment points were below the danger mark.

"The weather is clear today (yesterday), but floodwaters in many villages had yet to recede."

The spokesman said the number of districts affected by floodwaters had dropped to three compared with seven on Wednesday.

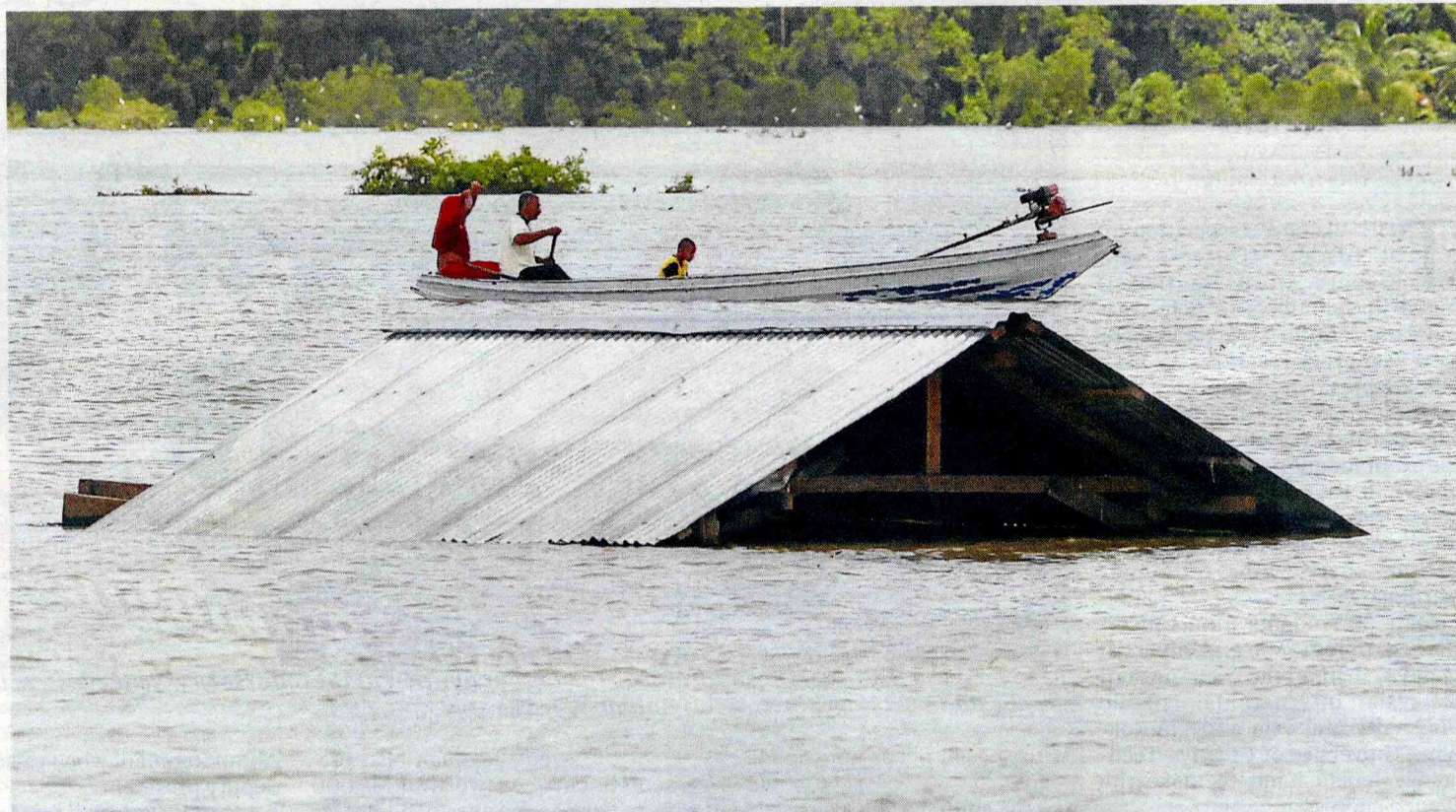
Four roads in the state remained closed to traffic — Jalan Pasir Mas-Pohon Tanjung, Jalan Tanah Merah-Kampung Ipoh, Jalan Cabang Empat-Meranti and Km24 Pasir Mas-Rantau Panjang highway.

State education director Hussin Awang said the department had yet to decide whether to reopen the 33 schools which were closed due to flood waters.

"We will wait until Saturday before giving a statement.

"If there is no rain, most probably all the 33 schools will be reopened and more than 10,000 students will resume classes."

In **Kuala Terengganu**, the overall flood situation in the state improved and saw the



Villagers in Bendang Pak Yong, Kelantan, using a boat to get to higher ground. Pic by Syamsi Suhaimi

number of victims at evacuation centres drop from 3,500 on Wednesday to 338 people yesterday.

Only 258 people from 62 families are still in seven flood evacuation centres in Besut, while in Setiu, the two flood evacuation centres in Surau Kampung Banggol and Surau Kampung Nyatoh housed the remaining 80 people. The sunny weather yesterday was also a big relief for affected families who were allowed to return home after three consecutive days of heavy rain.

Village Development and Security committee (JKKK) members in Hulu Besut were

directed to monitor the 250 flood victims who returned home yesterday to ensure that they had sufficient food and other essentials in their homes.

Hulu Besut assemblyman Nawi Mohammad said committee members would send sundry items to homes which lacked essentials due to the floods.

State Education, Higher Education, Science, Technology and Human Resources Committee chairman Datuk Ahmad Razif Abd Rahman said 14 schools in Besut and eight in Hulu Terengganu re-opened yesterday.

He said three schools in Setiu remained closed and will re-open on Sunday.

In **Perak**, 95 evacuees from 31 families in Kampung Padang Serai are the last remaining flood victims in the state.

A spokesman for the Perak Civil Defence Department said the victims evacuated on Monday spent their fourth night yesterday at the relief centre in Sekolah Agama Rakyat Padang Serai. Continuous rain kept the houses in Kampung Padang Serai still submerged in flood waters which stood at 0.63 metres. **Additional reporting by S. Ista Kyra, Fahirul N. Ramli and Emilia Gazali**