

# High tide worsens Kedah flood woes

NST 24/10/2006.

**PENDANG:** Floods have affected parts of Kedah following heavy rain with a five-year-old drowning in a swollen stream.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid expected the flooding to continue until Thursday.

He said the situation had been worsened by the high tide.

To date, 138 families from 28 villages in Kubang Pasu, Kota Star and Pendang have been evacuated to six relief centres.

He said the water level at several rivers in these areas had reached the danger level.

Meanwhile, Muhammad Izzat Hamidi Azizan drowned after falling into the stream while playing beside his house in Kampung Alor Pering, Tanah Merah, here last Sunday.

The cries of his twin sister, Nurul Izzah Izzati, alerted his family which was busy with preparations to break the fast.

Izzat's father Azizan Hamid, 43, said his 70-year-old father-in-law pulled Izzat out and sent him to a nearby Government health clinic where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

He was buried at the village cemetery yesterday.

In Kepala Batas, Penang, some

150 families in Kampung Gurun and Kota Aur in Penaga here are on a flood watch as the Sungai Muda broke its banks.

Twenty houses were flooded with water rising to a metre in three of them on Sunday evening.

This followed days of continuous rain, particularly in the Baling district of Kedah.

Shahrudin Mokhtar, 34, of Kampung Gurun said he began moving electrical items and furniture to higher ground when the water rose.

"We have kept vigil until early yesterday morning for fear of a massive flood.

"We do not want a repeat of the 2003 incident," he added.

In October 2003, hundreds of houses in the Seberang Prai Utara district were flooded.

Tens of thousands of people were evacuated and some 10,000 hectares of agricultural areas were affected.

Kepala Batas Umno Youth committee member said the Kepala Batas service centre had begun distributing aid to the villagers in both areas.

A spokesman for the state meteorological department said the heavy rain was likely to continue until Friday.



Aishah Wahab, 40, with her children preparing lemang despite flood waters in Kampung Alor Pak Ngah, Alor Star, yesterday. — NST picture by Shahrizal Md Noor