

# Kedah in for a wet Raya

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**NO STOPPING FESTIVITIES:** Som Ali, 68, (centre) and her relatives preparing ketupat in the hall of her flooded house at Kampung Changkat Logan in Kodiang, Kedah, yesterday. Looking on is her husband Mat Samsu, 76, (left).

**JITRA:** More areas along the lower reaches of the Kedah river, especially in Kota Star district, are expected to be flooded as floodwaters upriver flow downstream.

Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid said 15 areas in the district were already flooded, with some 450 residents evacuated to four evacuation centres, including one which opened yesterday.

He said the water level at Sungai Bata in Kota Star district was nearly 1m above the 8.5m danger level.

"The high tide expected on Thursday will also slow down the receding of the floodwaters," he added.

Speaking to reporters after visiting flood victims in Kodiang near here yesterday, he said 150 flood victims had been evacuated in the Kubang Pasu district to two evacuation centres.

Mahdzir said floods had also hit 11 villages in Pendang but no evacuation centre was opened there as the villagers were putting up with relatives.

He said all district officers in the state had been ordered to open flood operation centres to monitor the situation.

Meanwhile, 50 families at

Kampung Lubuk Keriang in Kota Star district will literally hold Hari Raya "open house" because their village had been flood-hit.

The villagers, who have fled their homes since Sunday, plan to put up two tents on the approach road to the village to prepare food for Hari Raya.

Bukit Lada assemblyman Ariffin Man said the decision to hold the open house was to enable all the villagers to celebrate Hari Raya without the need to visit each other.

"Everybody will be there. So there is no need for them to visit each other after Raya prayers," he said, adding that the floodwater there was only expected to recede after Hari Raya.

The Meteorological Department said in a statement that most states in the peninsula were expected to encounter bad weather.

The widespread thunderstorms and heavy rain with strong winds occurring in Perlis are also expected to continue.

The department said scattered thunderstorms and heavy rain with strong winds were also expected in Kedah, Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan, Malacca and Johor.