

Heavy rains wreak havoc in Balik Pulau villages

GEORGE TOWN: A three-hour downpour yesterday caused flash floods, mudslides and landslides, as well as uprooted trees here.

Four villages in Balik Pulau — Kampung Genting, Kampung Pulau Betong, Kampung Pinang Lirai and Kampung Terengganu — were severely affected by flash floods.

The water levels rose to knee-deep, damaging household items of some 20 houses.

Access roads to the villages were also blocked by floodwaters.

Daharah Bakar, 61, of Kampung Pinang Lirai, said this was the sec-

ond flooding at her house in the past one week.

"I had finished washing the floors and repaired some damaged furniture when flash floods struck again.

"Now, I have to repeat the cleaning and repairs," she said yesterday.

Daharah said she was awakened by the heavy rain at 6am and moved some of her belongings to the first floor of her house before water started seeping in.

"By 10.30am, the water was ankle-deep. It took several hours before it receded."

Another villager, Mohd Saad

Hashim, 62, said this was the third flooding this year.

"The access road to the village was also cut off.

"I could not check on my family members living nearby," he said.

Checks by the *New Straits Times* showed that the rivers along the village were gushing and overflowing with muddy water.

The downpour, which abated at 8am and stopped at 1pm, caused massive traffic congestion, resulting in hundreds of office workers being late for work.

Several minor accidents were re-

ported in Jalan Paya Terubong and Jalan Bukit Gambir.

Public Works Department workers were seen assisting with traffic flow along the winding Jalan Balik Pulau here where a landslide occurred.

They were also spotted clearing fallen trees.

Last week, the "supermoon" thunderstorms wreaked havoc, flooding various parts of the island here.

In **Shah Alam**, the Fire and Rescue Department rescued 20 toddlers and five female teachers from a kindergarten at Lorong Lautan Samudera 9/5 in Bandar Puncak

Alam after water rose a metre high in a flash flood yesterday evening.

Selangor Fire and Rescue Department operations assistant director Mohd Sani Harul said the department received a call at 5.25pm, alerting them of the flash flood and a team from the Bestari Jaya station was rushed to the location.

Some of the toddlers were carried to safety while the rest were transferred to a safer location using a sampan.

A temporary relief centre has been opened at a surau in the neighbourhood.