

Dept: Heatwave to last until March

HOTTER DAYS AHEAD: People advised to be frugal to prevent shortage of clean water supply

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THE hottest spots in the country this week are Lubuk Merbau in Perak and Prai in Penang, with temperatures peaking at 36°C, while Langkawi has not

seen rain in the past 29 days.

The Meteorological Department is predicting hotter days with less rainfall in some parts of Perak, Kedah, Selangor, Negri Sembilan, Malacca, Johor, Kelantan, Pahang and Sabah, which last experienced showers 11 days ago.

All schools are on high alert after the Education Ministry issued a circular last week to have enough water supply at all times and use discretion regarding outdoor activities.

The Health Ministry has warned of a possible 50 per cent increase in dengue cases.

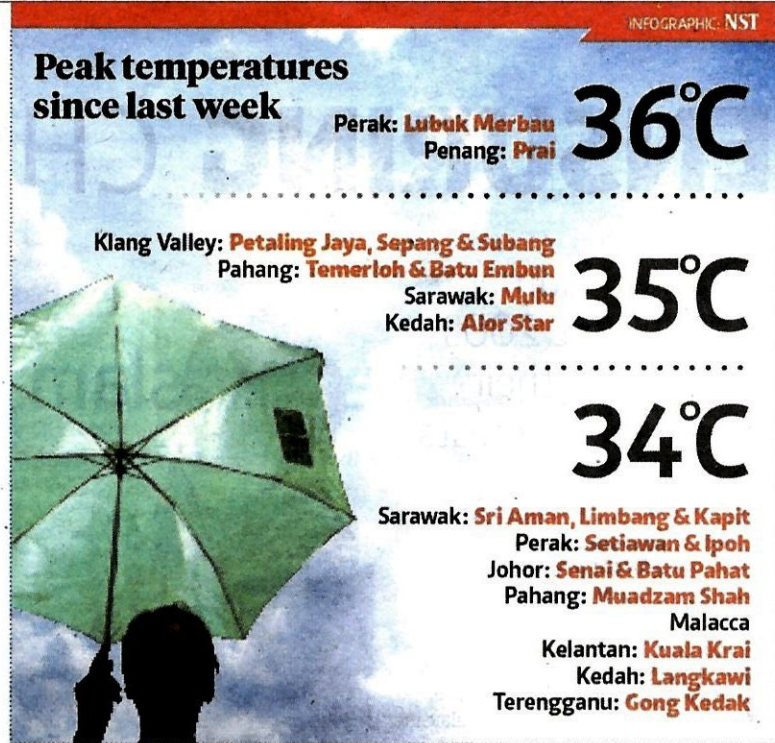
The latest weather reports showed that Monday was the hottest day for this week so far, spiking at 35°C in seven areas — Petaling Jaya, Sepang and Subang

(Selangor), Temerloh and Batu Embun (Pahang), Mulu (Sarawak) and Alor Star (Kedah).

Another 12 areas — Sri Aman, Limbang and Kapit (Sarawak), Setiawan and Ipoh (Perak), Senai and Batu Pahat (Johor), Muadzam Shah (Pahang), Malacca, Kuala Krai (Kelantan), Langkawi (Kedah), and Gong Kedak (Terengganu) — reported temperatures of 34°C.

Meteorological Department records show the normal temperatures in these areas were between 29 and 32°C.

Its deputy director-general (weather and climate) Alui Bahari said the warm and dry weather would reduce rainfall by between 20 and 60 per cent, especially in Perlis, Kedah, Penang, northern Perak and eastern Sabah, while Ke-



lantan, Terengganu, western Sabah and eastern Sarawak would receive 20 to 40 per cent less rain until March.

"Besides less rainfall, the temperature is expected to go up by 0.5 to 2°C nationwide."

The department advised

Malaysians to be frugal in using water due to a possible shortage of clean water supply as a result of less rainfall.

"People are also advised to reduce outdoor activities during hot weather to avoid health problems caused by the strong heat."