

Rain falls in 2 cloud seeding sites

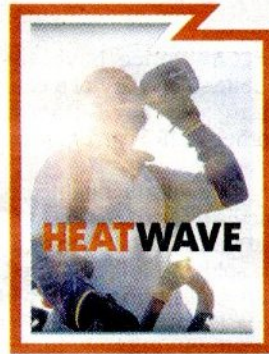
ONGOING:

Operations fail to induce rain over 10 critical dams

KANGAR

CLOUD Seeding Operations (CSO) conducted at 12 locations in five states in the peninsula yesterday managed to produce rain in two areas, namely Beris in Kedah and Padang Besar in Perlis.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim said 10 dams, namely Muda,



Pedu and Ahning (Kedah); Air Itam and Teluk Bahang (Penang); Bukit Merah (Perak); Durian Tunggal, Jus and Asahan (Malacca); and, Gemencheh (Negri Sembilan), failed to receive rainfall.

"We will continue with the CSOs

today (yesterday) in all the areas and hopefully they will produce rain," he said here yesterday.

Shahidan, who is also National Security Council (NSC) deputy chairman, said the operations were carried out in collaboration with the Royal Malaysian Air Force and the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry.

Perlis Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) director Abdul Najib Abdullah said the water level at the Timah Tasoh Dam had dropped to 26.15m as at 5pm yesterday, 0.02m lower than on Saturday. The critical level is 26.5m.

In **Alor Star**, Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah said the state government had no plans to impose water rationing despite the continuous drop of water

levels in dams in the state.

Citing information provided by the DID and Muda Agricultural Development Authority (MADA), Bashah said the water level in the Beris Dam had dropped to 38.9m and is expected to last for about 30 days more, while the Muda Dam recorded 93.3m water level, which could last for 50 days.

Pedu and Ahning Dams still recorded a safe level at 91.5m (68.9 per cent) and 106.9m (75.4 per cent).

"Despite the continuous drop of water supply in the dams, there is still enough water supply for domestic and agriculture purposes.

"Rain was recorded around the Muda water-catchment area recently, as well as at several locations, resulting from the cloud seeding ex-

ercise which began last Wednesday.

"So far, there is no need for the state government to impose water rationing," said Bashah, adding that the Muda Dam was supporting the Beris Dam for both domestic and agriculture demands.

Bashah said this after handing over contribution of cash and basic necessities to 150 needy families here in Kampung Batin, a programme organised by the Alor Star City Council.

"The state government is working closely with the Irrigation and Drainage Department and MADA, which continuously monitor the water levels at all dams in the state to ensure the public are able to enjoy sufficient water supply. Meetings with them are conducted almost daily."