

# Nepalese killed in Penang flash floods

**GEORGE TOWN:** Continuous rain in the wee hours yesterday caused flash floods, toppled trees and triggered traffic jams in parts of Penang.

At least 45 houses in low-lying areas in Jalan P. Ramlee, Jalan Singgora, Jalan Air Terjun, Kampung Dodol and Kampung Makam were submerged in knee-deep floodwaters, affecting more than 100 residents.

The situation, however, did not warrant an evacuation.

There were reports of fallen trees in 20 areas.

In Jalan Perak and Taman Lip Sin here, fallen trees crashed on the roof of a house and several cars.

In Jalan Tasek, Simpang Ampat, a Nepalese man, in his 20s, was killed when an oil palm tree fell on a shed he was sleeping in.

Rescuers reached the scene at 10.30am to recover the body.

A traffic gridlock was reported in Jalan Scotland here while traffic was slow elsewhere, including in Jalan Masjid Negeri.

Partially submerged cars were stalled in several locations. A car in Jalan P. Ramlee was pushed out of a flooded area by volunteers.

Mohamad Asrul Hamzah, 32, who lives in Jalan P. Ramlee, said he was shocked to see his house compound inundated by floodwaters.

He said he spent three hours cleaning up the compound, which was caked in mud.

"I started clearing the compound after it stopped raining.

"The irrigation system needs to be changed as it can no longer support heavy rainfall, especially when it lasts for more than an hour," he said yesterday.

Another resident, Aminah Halimah, 42, vented her frustration on the Penang Island City Council for its "shoddy" maintenance of the irrigation and drainage systems.

"Recurring floods should serve as a wake-up call. The drainage system is flawed.

"The state administration should tackle the root cause of the floods.



Residents **pushing a car** out of a flooded area in Jalan P. Ramlee, **George Town**, yesterday. Pic by Shahnaz Fazlie Shahrizal

"This area has been notorious for flash floods for too long. Enough is enough."

The floodwater levels in the vicinity receded at 11am yesterday.

A statement released by state Local Government Committee chair-

man Chow Kon Yeow's office said the flash floods occurred in low-lying areas.

Chow said the heavy rainfall in a short time caused Sungai Pinang, Sungai Jelutong and Sungai Air Terjun here to overflow their banks.

"(The) unsystematic drainage system resulted in water to flow fast, flooding low-lying areas."

To prevent a recurrence of flash floods, Chow said the drainage system in low-lying areas would be upgraded.