

King tide wreaks coastal havoc

ON ALERT: Villagers, however, stay put as rising water level receded a few hours later

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THE king tide has caused havoc in several villages here but residents stayed put.

While access to Kampung Bagan Panchor was partly closed as water rose rapidly, it subsided about four hours later.

Heavy rain since midnight had caused 3km of the village road to be flooded, said Manjung district Drainage and Irrigation Department engineer M. Sasitharan.

"Water level started to rise at 1.30am and reached 3.4m above sea level, but started to recede about 5am.

"The houses are not affected as we have placed sandbags in high-risk areas," he said.

In **Parit Buntar**, however, about 20 houses in Kuala Bagan Tiang were inundated after a downpour but water started to recede at 4am.

Resident Mohd Nizam Jamaluddin, 44, said the villagers were on guard as the high tide phenomenon was expected to continue.

In **Taman Kuala Sepetang**, some 30 houses, located 500m from Sungai Kapal Changkol, were inundated.

Villager Lee Kang Chai, 70, said some of the residents had installed steel barricade around the compound and in front of the doors.

"The water level started to rise at 4.30am due to continuous rain but we expect it to recede soon."

In **Kangar**, residents living along the coastal area were not bothered by the high-tide phenomenon and went about their business as usual, despite the rise in sea level by 3.2m.



Strong waves caused by the high-tide phenomenon lashing the beachfront in Pantai Bersih, Butterworth, yesterday. (Inset) Civil Defence personnel evacuating Azizon Morad, 58, to the storm shelter at Sekolah Seri Kuala in Kota Kuala Muda, Kedah, yesterday. Pix by Amir Irsyad Omar and Shahrizal Md Noor

They said the rock embankment along 3.4km from Kuala Perlis to Sungai Padang had lessened the impact of the high-tide phenomenon.

Norhayati Mohamad, 54, who operates a food stall about 30m from the Kuala Perlis coast, said there were times when big waves would spill onto the road but did not flood the area.

Perlis Irrigation and Drainage Department director Abdul Najib Abdullah said Kuala Sanglang which had yet to be covered was surrounded by mangrove trees.

In **George Town**, the high-tide phenomenon has caused prices of

fish to go up by almost two-fold.

Fishmonger Muhamad Redzuan Amin, 36, said the supply of fish had fallen sharply as fishermen stayed away from the sea. **Additional reporting by Shaiful Shahrin Ahmad Pauzi, Farah Suhaidah Othman and Phuah Ken Lin**



Amirul Hakim looking at his flooded house in Kampung Sri Keramat, Klang, yesterday. Pic by Muhammad Sulaiman



Civil Defence personnel and villagers inspecting the sandbags along the coast in Manjung, Perak, yesterday. Pic by Noor Hidayah Tanzizi