

7-6 新聞記事





**FORCED OUT** ... residents of these houses in Old Klang Road were among the thousands in the city who had to evacuate because of the floods. More reports and pictures on pages 2, 3 and 4

# FLOODS HIT CITY

**KUALA LUMPUR, Tues.** — More than 9,000 people were evacuated when six hours of continuous rain this morning caused the worst floods in the city since 1970.

There was no report of casualties but there was extensive damage to property. Two new semi-detached houses in Taman Melawati, costing about \$350,000 each, collapsed in a landslide caused by rain.

Thousands of motorists on their way to work from Ampang, Sungai Besi, Datuk Keramat, Kampung Pandan and Old Klang Road were caught in massive

traffic jams and many firms reported a high rate of absenteeism and many were late for work.

The basement car parks of numerous buildings were flooded and in areas such as Kampung Baru, Datuk Keramat, Kampung Sentosa and Old Klang Road, residents waded in chest-high water towards higher ground.

Water started rising at villages along the Old Klang Road at about 6am after the Klang River swelled and overflowed its banks.

At Kampung Baru, the bunds of the Sungai Buntus burst at 6am and the Sungai Baru overflowed its banks.

Water levels at most of the affected areas — Jalan Ampang Hi-

lir, Kampung Melayu Ampang, Kampung Sentosa, Kampung Kerayong, and Jalan Sungai Baru — dropped from 0.8 metre in the morning to 0.1 metre this evening.

A total of 24 low-lying areas were flooded but the worst hit areas were Jalan Raja Mahadi and Kampung Cendana where the water level reached 2.7 metres at one point.

The Civil Defence and Welfare Departments opened up relief centres and operation rooms.

A spokesman of the Federal Territory police operations room said that 180 adults and 200 children, including 20 babies, were rescued in Kampung Baru.

"Most of them were from and

around the Jalan Raja Mahadi area," said the spokesman.

Two boats from the Red Crescent were used in the rescue operation.

Three truckloads of army personnel were sent from the Sungai Besi camp at about 9am to help in the evacuation as the number of victims grew.

Traffic police had a difficult time trying to control traffic in the city as seven stretches of roads became impassable to light vehicles until about noon.

The roads completely cut off by floods were Jalan Tun Razak between Jalan Pahang roundabout and Jalan Raja Mudo traffic lights and at the Jalan Yap Kuan Seng traffic light, Jalan Cheras Batu 2, 4½ mile Old Klang Road and Jalan Sungai Besi.

Several areas in Campbell and Pudu experienced a power blackout.

The floods began to recede at about 11.30am but a downpour at 3pm prevented many of the victims from returning home. By evening, the water level in most areas had receded.

However, about 1,200 people will spend the night at five relief centres.

Federal Territory Welfare Department Director Wan Azmi Ramli said many returned home when the water receded.

One of the six centres was closed after the 184 evacuees returned home.

Welfare Minister Dairik Abu Hassan Omar visited two relief centres tonight.

Slight rain is expected in Selangor and Federal Territory in the next few days.



Reduced to rubble... all that's left of the two hillside houses, similar to the ones in the row.

# TWO HILLSIDE HOUSES COLLAPSE

**KUALA LUMPUR, Tues.** — Two semi-detached houses built on a hillside collapsed during heavy rain at Taman Melawati, Ulu Klang, here today.

The unoccupied houses, which are still unsold, cost \$150,000 each. According to residents in the area, there was a crash and the ground trembled at about 9am.

A businessman, who wished to be identified only as Encik Maidin, woke when he felt the tremble and heard the crash.

He went out to check and found that two houses near his had been reduced to rubble.

"It was like an earthquake," said Encik Maidin, 36, who has lived in Taman Melawati for seven years. Another resident said many of those living below the two houses rushed out of their homes when they heard the crash.

The management of Negara Properties, which built the two houses, is investigating the collapse.

In a Press statement, the manage-

ment said that according to preliminary findings, there was a landslide caused by the exceptionally heavy rain and the peculiar nature of the site on which the houses were built.

It said that remedial action would be taken immediately.

"Measures are being taken to ensure the safety of the structural groundwork of houses and also the safety of residents in the area."

"A full report will be made available on completion of investigations by consultants," it added.

## Ministry on alert for outbreak of diseases

THE Health Ministry has declared an alert in all flood-affected areas in the city to prevent the outbreak of diseases.

The Director of Health Services, Datuk Dr Abdullah Abdul Rahman, said teams of health personnel would visit all relief centres and flood-hit areas to advise the people on the precautions to be taken.

If necessary those in the affected areas would be given immunisation against cholera and typhoid, he said.

The Kuala Lumpur General Hospital and hospitals in other parts of the country have already been placed on the alert even before the

floods occurred and had been directed to store adequate supplies of medicines and food.

Datuk Dr Abdullah said contingency plans had also been made to respond to SOS calls if ambulances carrying the sick were stranded by floods or traffic jams.

The Ministry had made arrangements to use Air Force helicopters if necessary, he said.

He advised people in flood affected areas to boil their water before drinking.

He also said all dead animals should be either buried or burnt to prevent the outbreak of diseases. — Bernama.

## Rain expected mostly in the south

RAIN will be concentrated in the southern part of the peninsula for the next two days, says the Meteorological Services Department.

A spokesman said the wet areas are Selangor, the Federal Territory, Malacca, Negri Sembilan, Johore and southern Pahang.

There will also be rain in other States but it would not be widespread, he added.

The weather in the Federal Territory today is expected to be cloudy with slight rain.

It will be also cloudy with

intermittent rain in Selangor, Malacca and Negri Sembilan in the morning and cloudy with moderate rain in the afternoon and evening.

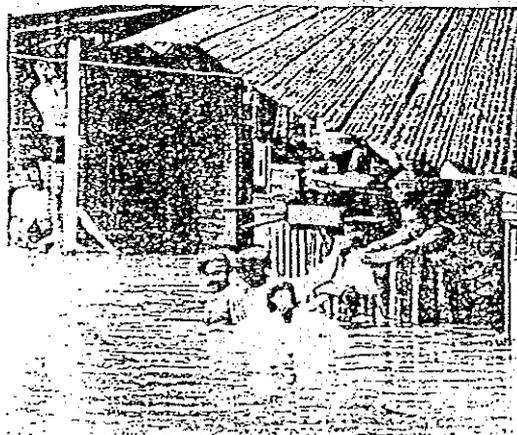
South Terengganu, Pahang and Johore will have fairly widespread intermittent rain throughout the day.

For Kelantan and north Terengganu, there will be fairly widespread intermittent rain throughout the day.

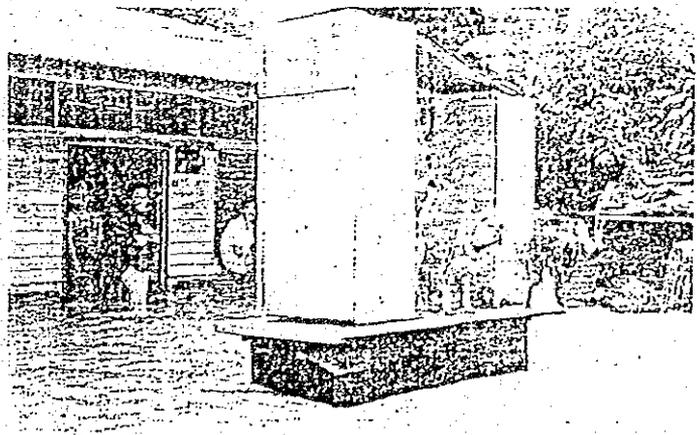
Elsewhere, the weather will be fair.



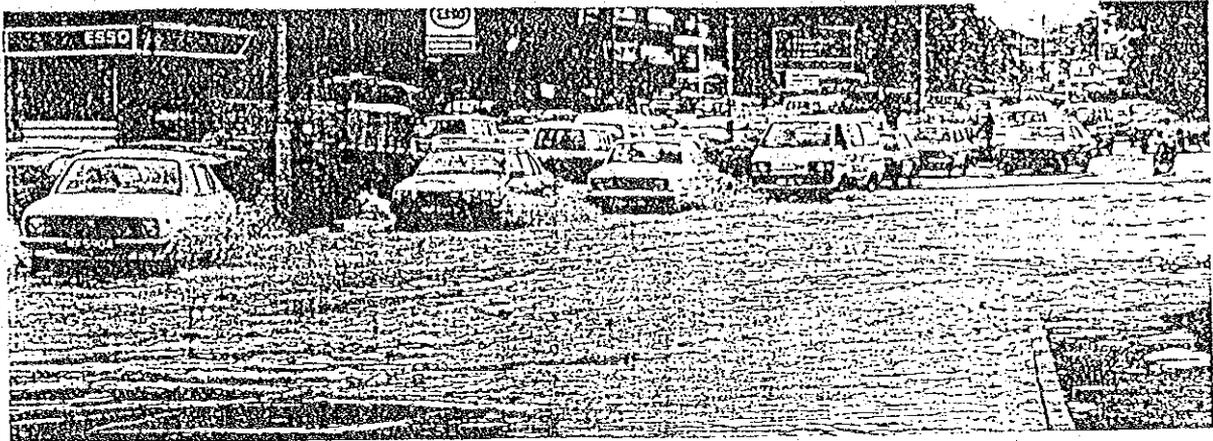
Not a place for poliocking... the Kampung Santosa MCA headquarters being used as a flood relief centre.



A friend in need... residents of Kampung Limau helping one another.



Canine caper... these two dogs find dry ground on a platform, together with refrigerators.



Splashing along... motorists keeping to shallow waters in Jalan Tun Razak yesterday morning.

# IT'S A WAY OF LIFE FOR OLD KLANG ROAD FOLK

Culverts to be added: Shahrir

MORE culverts will be built along the river in Kampung Baru to avert flash floods, said Federal Territory Minister Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad.

He also said broken bunds and culverts would be repaired.

He said there was not much more that his Ministry could do.

It must have rained very heavily for the river to have broken its bunds, he said after visiting flood hit areas with City Hall and Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) officials.

He noted that Sungai Buntar also overflowed its banks today although the river had been deepened.

Kampung Baru was the worst hit with waters rising to three metres.

MP for Kuala Lumpur Bandar, Mr Lee Lam, have called on the Government to review flood alleviation measures in the city.

He said that although floods were caused by heavy rain, there were other problems that needed to be looked into, such as the silting of rivers.

He also urged the Federal Territory Ministry and the DID to conduct a study to identify the causes of floods so that the problem could be overcome.

Mr Lee said the Government should also look into the problem of soil erosion caused by indiscriminate land development. — Bernama

Reports: ZULKIFLI TAUB, HELLEN TAN, WONG SAI WAN, ROHIMAN HAROON, NG WAIHONG and KARMINDER SINGH

Pictures: VICTOR NG, TAJUL ARAF and GARY LEONG

FLOODS are a way of life for residents of Old Klang Road. Yesterday, they had to put up with rising waters again — the third time in 10 days.

They say they have all but given up hope on help from the authorities to ease the problem.

Mr Teoh Leong Toon, 63, from Kampung Tepi Sungai, said the more than 50 families in his village had repeatedly asked the authorities for help.

"We have come to accept that help is not coming. So each time it floods, we do our best to save live and property," he said.

The flooding in Old Klang Road is caused by the overflowing of the Klang River, which runs through the area.

Six villages were affected when the river overflowed yesterday. They are Kampung Pasir Lama, Kampung Sentosa, Kampung Senias, B, Kampung Pinang, Kampung Manggis and Kampung Tepi Sungai.

About 2,000 people were evacuated from the affected villages to relief centres nearby. The water level was reported to have reached 0.5m at one stage. There were no report of casualties.

Contractor Richard Yong said that each time the floods came, poultry farmers in the area lost "hundreds of dollars because hens and ducks were shed away or drowned."

Vehicles, electrical goods, furniture and other household items would be damaged by floodwaters.

At Kampung Baru, the Sungai Buntar overflowed its banks at dawn.

Mr K. Sitarasu, a resident of Kampung Limau, near Kampung Baru, said: "We applied to City Hall five years ago to be moved out from here because it is a flood-prone area."

He claimed that City Hall had promised the 20 families in the area that they would be moved to Gombak or Setapak.

He said the authorities should have provided a proper drainage system if they could not find an alternative site for them.

Another resident, Encik Mohamed Nazir Haji Yahya, criticised the various agencies for providing aid late.

"I called City Hall, the army, police, fire department and even the National Unity Department for help."

The only help they received was from City Hall and 40 men from the Kinrara air base in Puchong.



Encik Mohamed Nazir... 'help came late'

"It was not until 2pm that help arrived," added Encik Nazir.

Carpenter Chong Ah Wah, 31, who had returned from Singapore for a holiday and family reunion just a few days ago, was one of the several hundred people affected when floods hit Kampung Limau.

He said most of his belongings, including important documents, were damaged.

He said that five years ago, City Hall had promised the families that they would be moved out.

The authorities were caught unawares by the floods, causing many citizens to go without food for more than 10 hours.

A Welfare Department spokesman said they were told of the floods only at 3pm and did their best to send out supplies.

About 700 people from Kampung Sentosa taking refuge at a relief centre nearby went without food until 4.30pm when Welfare and Red Crescent personnel distributed hot drinks to them.



Wading in chest-high water... residents of Kampung Pasir Lama moving out of their homes.



Safe at last... soldiers from the Kinrara base to the rescue at Kampung Pasir Lama.

## Only one boat to rescue 200 victims

There was only one boat to rescue about 200 women and children trapped by rising floodwaters in a surau in Kampung Pasir Lama, Old Klang Road.

City Hall and 40 army personnel from Kinrara army base in Puchong borrowed the speed-boat from an enthusiast staying nearby.

The authorities had earlier told the residents that they would bring several boats but none was available.

"We thought that the authorities would bring about boats. The rescue team only brought three trucks to help us to send victims the relief centres," said Encik Mohamed Nazir Haji Yahya, the Bukit Telok secretary of the kampung.

The flash flood which hit several villages near the Old Klang Road reached 0.5 metres at its peak.

The rescue mission arrived at 11pm but work only started at 12pm because there was no boat to go to the surau where the villagers were trapped.

They used spare tyres, tubes and even toy floats to get to another ground.

# 1971 — YEAR OF THE GREAT FLOODS IN KL

## NEB on the alert

NATIONAL Electricity Board workers have been told to be ready to face the possibility of the flood situation occurring.

NEB Public Relations Officer Ibrahim Hassan said the directive was issued by NEB General Manager Datuk Abu Bakar Abdul Kadir. He said the occurrence of more floods.

All NEB offices in the country have been directed to be ready to provide immediate service during a power breakdown, he added. — Bernama.

## Danger mark reached

THE water level of Sungai Gombak reached the danger mark yesterday at Pekan. Yesterday at Pekan, the water level rose by 1.5 metres to 26.5 metres. It is reported to be still rising.

A Drainage and Irrigation Department spokesman said the water level previously was 25.4 metres. Sungai Klang, he said, rose by 1.5 metres to 26.5 metres. The Sultan's Bridge in Jalan Syed Putra. The Sultan's Bridge is one of the points used to assess the flood situation in the city. — Bernama.

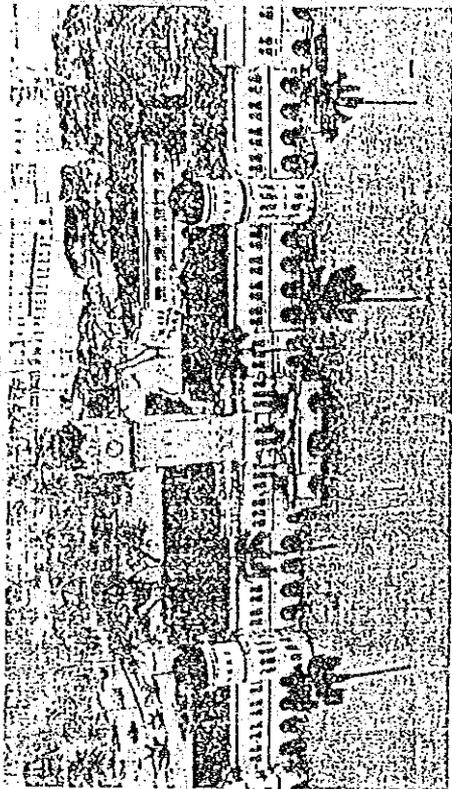
## Ambulance in a jam

AN ambulance from the Kuala Lumpur District Hospital, Kuala Lumpur General Hospital, was caught in a traffic jam in Jalan Tun Razak yesterday following the occurrence of the flood.

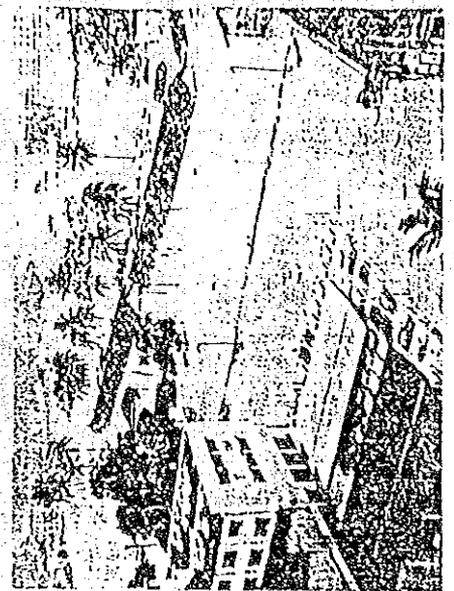
A spokesman of the general hospital said the ambulance was stalled in Jalan Curmei at about 11.30am. He said the hospital staff agreed to contact the hospital to send another ambulance. — Bernama.

## Karak patrols

THE Malaysian Highway Patrols began their hourly patrols along the Karak Highway to check for landslides. Its Deputy Director-General, (Technical Division), Mr. Mohd. Yusoff, said patrol cars will be on the road each time they stopped at the authority's offices at the Karak and Kuala Lumpur sides. — Bernama.



The Sultan Abdul Samad building at the height of the floods in 1971. Below: Some buildings were flooded almost up to their roofs.



THE last time major floods hit Kuala Lumpur and its surrounding areas was in 1971. At that time, thousands of people were evacuated and most of them were housed at Stadium Negara.

A total of 792 houses were destroyed during the four days when many areas in the city were under water. The main areas affected were Kampung Baru, Jalan Barat, Kampung Melayu, Labuh Ampang, Sentul, Teong Nam Saittember, and down as Jalan Raja Laut) and Kampung Datuk Keramat.

The floods brought the city to a standstill and resulted even in the postponement of the University of Malaya examinations.

Kuala Lumpur was again hit by floods in September of the same year when six wooden houses were swept away and thousands of people were evacuated from their homes.

First signs of floods then were detected by the Malaysian Flood Control Centre in Jalan Pahang, Jln. Gombak and Jalan Ipoh when several wooden logs clogged a mini dam at 16km Ulu Gombak.

Areas affected were Jalan Pahang, 16km Jalan Gombak, Jalan Tanjong Pagar (now Jalan Tun Ismail), Jalan Pekeliling (Jalan Tun Razak), Kampung Baru and Jalan Bangsar.

Five houses and a shophouse in Kampung Sungai Cina, Jalan Gombak were swept away.

A total of 122 people from 32 families in Kampung Pantan, Dalam, Brickfields and Jalan Bangsar were evacuated to Stadium Negara. Four hundred were taken to Sekolah Methodist Sentul. — Bernama.

## \$120,000 worth of greens destroyed

MALACCA, Tues — Floods destroyed more than 40 hectares of vegetable crops in the Air Nipah New Village near here today.

About 80 families, whose sole livelihood is vegetable farming, estimate their total loss at about \$120,000.

Heavy rain last night and early this morning caused floodwaters to rise from 0.5 metres to one metre.

The new village is Malacca's main vegetable growing area.

Among the vegetables damaged were sawi, pak choy, and kangkong. The Malacca Vegetable Farmers' Association chairman Mr. Pang Choon Hui said the damage to the crops was likely to affect vegetable prices in the market.

He blamed the floods on "hectic development and poor drainage in the area."



Children from Kampung Pasir Lama in Kuala Lumpur being rescued by RMAF personnel who came in a speedboat.

## Floods force 6,000 to flee their homes

By LEE AH CHAI, S. JAYAKRISHNAN and RASLAN BAHAROM

**KUALA LUMPUR, Tues.** — Several parts of the city and nearby low-lying areas were flooded today when three rivers overflowed their banks following intermittent rain over the past four days.

The flood waters from Sungai Klang, Sungai Gombak and Sungai Lumpur forced more than 6,000 people to flee their homes this morning in what has been described as the worst since the "Great Floods of 1971" — virtually paralysing the entire city for more than six hours.

In their task of evacuating the flood victims, police, Red Crescent, City Hall and Welfare Department officials were hampered as they were caught in massive

traffic jams in the city centre while on their way to the affected areas.

Among the worst-hit areas were Kampung Baru, Lembah Pantai, Kampung Pasir Lama, Kampung Sentosa off the 12km Jalan Kelang Lama, Kampung Abdulah Hukum, off Jalan

three metres of water while Kampung Limau and Kampung Chendana were in about two metres of water.

Officers from the City Police Control Centre have been monitoring the flood situation throughout the city since 4 am following a heavy

Raja Bot. Most of these areas were waist deep in water.

Two semi-detached bungalows on the hill slope in Taman Melawati collapsed following a landslide in the area about 8 am. Both houses were not occupied. They were part of 22 units which were recently completed by Negara Properties.

A few squatter houses in Kampung Baru and a bridge in Kampung Datuk Keramat were swept away by the raging flood waters.

There was traffic chaos in the city centre and several roads leading to some of the kampungs were cut off as the rising waters made them impassable to traffic.

It also hampered rescue workers, mostly police and Red Crescent members and volunteers, from evacuating the victims who were trapped in their flooded homes.

Thousands of commuters, including office workers were caught in a massive traffic jam in the city centre. Traffic practically came to a standstill for several hours this morning.

Those leaving the city were also left stranded at the Pudu Hwy bus terminal as bus schedules could not be kept.

Kampung Baru residents were lucky as the police were able to use boats to rescue them from their homes.

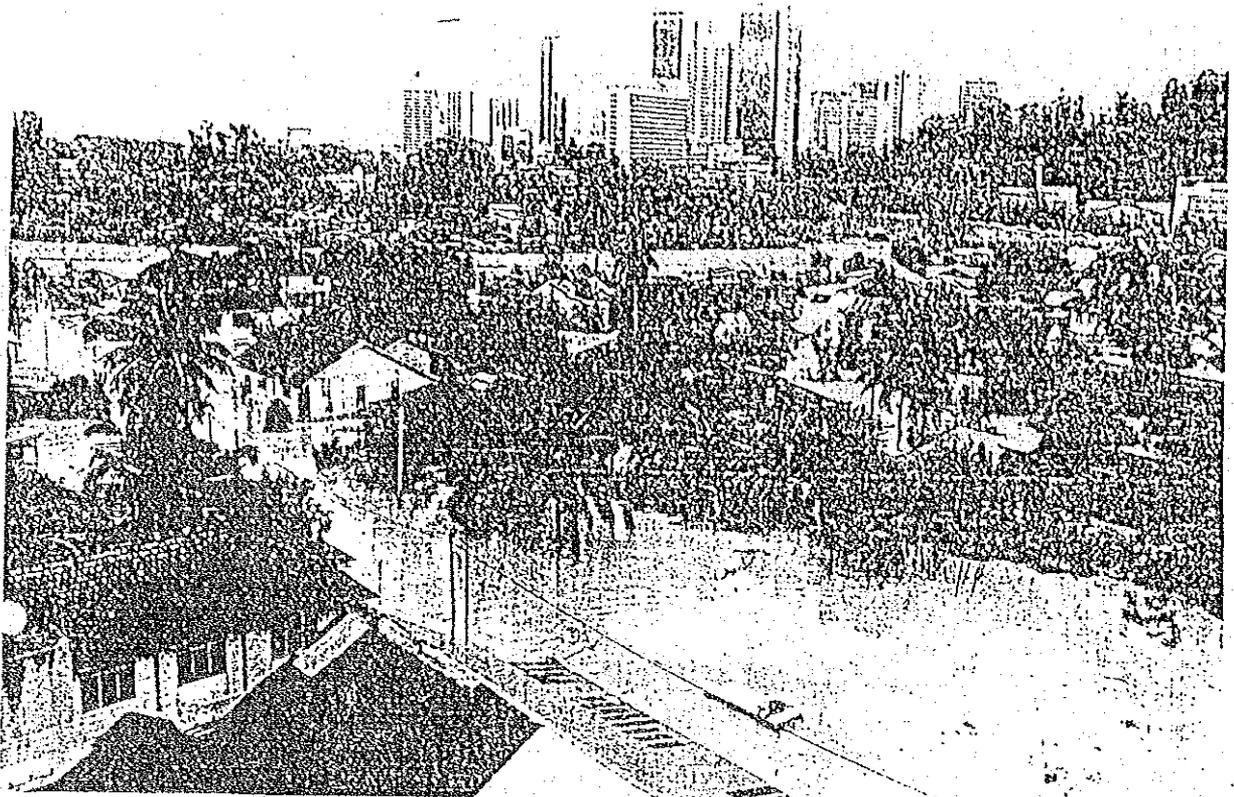
□ MORE REPORTS AND PICTURES ON P12 & P13

Bangsar; Kampung Perlok, off Jalan Choe Kik, Sentul Pasar Dalam, the squatter area, off 5.6km Jalan Cheras, Kampung Datar Keramat, Kampung Pandan, Segambut, Bamboo Garden, off 5.6km Jalan Ipoh and the 5.6km Jalan Sungai Besi.

Some parts of Kampung Baru were in about

downpour.

The other areas affected were the 5.6km Jalan Kelang Lama, Kampung Customs in Brickfields, Kampung Melaya in Ampang, Jalan Damak, off Jalan Tun Razak, Kampung Simpang Empat in Jalan Chan Sow Lin, Kampung Boyan, off Jalan Gurney and Jalan



A bird's eye view of part of the flooded Kampung Baru yesterday.

## Health Ministry declares alert in flood-hit areas

**KUALA LUMPUR, Tues.** — The Health Ministry has declared an alert on all flood affected areas in the city to prevent the outbreak of diseases.

Its director of Health services, Datuk Dr Abdullah Abdul Rahman, said teams of health personnel would visit all relief centres and flood-hit areas to advise the people on the precautions to be taken.

If necessary, those in affected areas would be given immunisation

against cholera and typhoid, he said.

The General Hospital and hospitals in other parts of the nation have been placed on the alert even before the floods occurred and were directed to store adequate supplies of medicine and food.

Datuk Dr Abdullah said contingency plans had also been made to respond to S.O.S. calls by ambulances carrying the sick which are stranded due to floods or traffic jams.

The Health Ministry

had already made arrangements to use Air Force helicopters if necessary, he said.

Datuk Dr Abdullah advised people in flood affected areas to boil their water before consumption.

He also said all dead animals and dead livestock should be either buried or burnt to prevent an outbreak of diseases.

The National Electricity Board (NEB) workers have also been placed in a state of readiness to face the possibility of the flood situa-

tion worsening.

NEB public relations officer Ibrahim Hassan said the directive was issued by the general manager, Datuk Mohamed Jalaluddin Zainuddin, as weather conditions indicated possible occurrence of more floods.

All NEB offices throughout the country have been directed to set up a special task force, *Tunggu sedia*, to provide immediate service during a power breakdown, he added.

Encik Ibrahim said those in flooded areas should contact the NEB to cut off electricity supply to prevent any incidence of electrocution and electric shocks.

All electricity consumers who are forced to evacuate should turn off the main switch before leaving.

He said electrical appliances which had been submerged in water should be inspected first by a certified electrician to ensure they were safe for use. — Bernama

could not be kept.

Kampung Baru residents were lucky as the police were able to use boats to rescue them from their homes.

## More culverts to be built in Kampung Baru

**KUALA LUMPUR, Tues.** — More culverts will be built along the river in Kampung Baru to avert flash floods like the one that hit the area this morning.

Federal Territory Minister Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad said broken bunds and culverts would be repaired.

He said there was not much more that his Ministry could do to prevent floods if it rained too heavily.

"It must have rained very heavily

this morning for the river to have broken its banks," he said.

He noted that Sungai Bunus also overflowed its banks today although the river had been deepened.

Datuk Shahrir is visiting the flood-hit areas accompanied by City Hall and Drainage and Irrigation Department officials to study the problems.

Kampung Baru was the worst hit area with waters rising to three metres. — Bernama.

# Situation could get worse if there is more rain: Police

© FROM PAGE ONE

About 1,000 people from the kampung and another 1,800 people from Kampung Seifosa were evacuated to nearby relief centres, between 150 and 500 people were evacuated from their homes in other areas.

Eighteen of the 23 relief centres set up in the city have been occupied.

This afternoon, Welfare officials provided food and hot drinks to the victims.

The heavy downpour started last Friday afternoon which lasted for about three hours — flooding certain parts of the city particularly the Seremban and Kepong areas.

The following day, there was intermittent rain in the late evening and at night. On Sunday, there was a heavy downpour in the afternoon.

Yesterday, the rain continued in the late afternoon and continued throughout the night and early this morning.

## Salvage

The headman of Kampung Seifosa, Enckh Khalil Hussain, said: "The Sungai Kelang overflowed its banks and flooded our kampung about 7 am."

"I was still asleep at that time. I was awakened by the neighbours who alerted us about the floods."

## 'Time to review control measures'

caused by indiscriminate development projects.

Mr Lee, who is also Minister for Kuala Lumpur Housing, said it was time for the Government to review the measures it had taken so far to cope with the flood situation in the city.

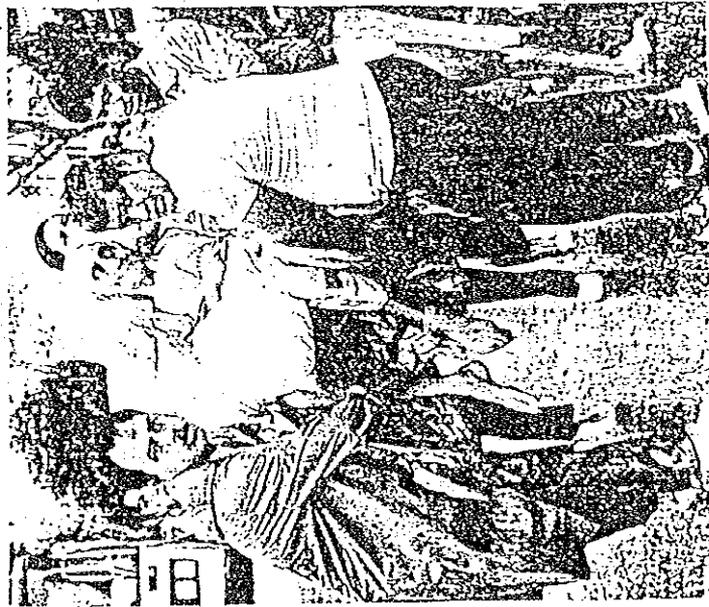
## Ambulance stalls in traffic jam

A spokesman for the department said heavy rainfall and intermittent downpours could be expected in the later part of the day.

He said heavy rain could continue until early tomorrow morning.

The current rainy spell is expected to last for at least a few more days and the public have been urged to take the necessary precautions.

Police carrying a bed-ridden old man to safety.







JICA