

## PRIME NEWS

# Yellow alert in Pahang, Terengganu and Johor

**'COLD SURGE':** Met Dept also warns of heavy rain in the western regions of Sarawak

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two other colour-coded alerts — orange and red.

An orange alert denotes existing rainfall, which can cause flooding in low-lying areas. A red alert is issued when heavy rains and widespread monsoon rains are expected to persist for several hours.

The district's Social Welfare Department has completed the distribution of food and basic necessities to 15 forward bases here and report readiness to face any eventuality.

A visit to Penor Prison here, one

Octogenarian **Lipot Yunus** (right) and her neighbour, **Misnah Jaya**, waiting for the floods to subside in Kampung Seri Sentosa, Bestari Jaya, yesterday. Pic by Muhammad Sulaiman

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**H**EAVY rain is expected to occur in Pahang and Terengganu from tomorrow until Friday following a cold surge.

The Malaysian Meteorological Department yesterday issued a yellow alert to the two states, which signifies imminent rain in one to three days. Also on yellow alert were Johor and a few areas in Sarawak's western region.

"The cold surge will cause strong northeast winds. Heavy rain will occur in the east coast states and western region of Sarawak.

"Heavy rain and thunderstorms are expected in the west coast states, the interior of Sarawak and the western region of Sabah in the evening and night," read the statement.

Besides the yellow alert, there are

of the 15 forward bases in the district, recently saw items, such as rice, cooking oil, sugar, biscuits, sardine, mats, blankets, mattresses and basic hygiene kits, have already been put in place.

There are 105 forward bases in the state, compared with 84 last year.

In preparing for the floods, the state government has identified 657 evacuation centres that can accommodate 140,000 evacuees.

This year, residents in flood-prone areas in the state will be able to receive alerts on the possibility of floods three days earlier, following cooperation between the state Meteorological Department and state Department of Drainage and Irrigation, thus giving them ample time to prepare.



## Toddler drowns after falling into overflowing drain

**NILAI:** A three-year-old boy drowned when he fell into a drain near the Desa Cempaka flat here following a downpour on Sunday.

Victim G. Sugumaran was found yesterday entangled in the waste net in Sungai Salak Lama, about 2km from where he fell.

One of the flat's occupants, who only wanted to be known as Aminah, 45, said the victim was playing with his 11-year-old sister near the 3m deep drain at noon, just before the incident occurred.

"The two siblings were seen entering a sundry shop before they played in front of the shop.

"They then moved to the drain before the sister shouted for help and attempted to save her brother, but he was swept away by a strong current," she said at the scene yesterday.

Aminah said normally there was not much water in the drain, but after the downpour on Sunday, it was overflowing. She said a resident, who witnessed the incident, then contacted the Fire and Rescue Department.

Nilai Fire and Rescue Department chief Ahmad Ridwan Yahya said a 12-man team was dispatched to the scene after receiving a distress call at 12.46pm.

Ridwan said a search operation was jointly conducted with the police after the team arrived at the scene.

"It took us about two hours to search for the boy, before the operation was halted at 2.20pm upon discovery of the victim's body."

Nilai district police chief Superintendent Zaldino Zaludin confirmed the facts of the case and said investigations were still ongoing.



Civil Defence Department personnel helping to evacuate an elderly woman in Alor Gajah, Malacca yesterday.  
Pic by Zairee Mohd Yasak