

# Chaos as flash floods hit city

■ **By Fadhal A. Ghani  
and Alang Bendahara**  
*news@nst.com.my*

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Sungai Gombak overflowed its banks causing chaos that had not been seen in more than three decades in the heart of the city yesterday evening.

Areas which were hit for the first time included the basement car park of the Putra World Trade Centre and large stretches of Jalan Ipoh where vehicles were completely submerged.

The other areas affected by the flash floods included Buletan Dato Onn, Pudu Raya, Pantai Dalam, Bangsar, Segambut, Jalan Raja Laut, Jalan Kuching, Jalan Ipoh, Jalan Pekeliling, Jalan Kinabalu, and Jalan Duta.

A Kuala Lumpur City Hall emergency unit spokesman said water levels started rising during a two-hour downpour which began just after 4pm.

Thousands of office workers were stranded in their buildings when power supply was cut off and thousands more endured more than three-hour jams for journeys which normally took 30 minutes.

At PWTC, more than 1,000 visitors and staff were trapped in darkness after a power outage. When they made it to the basement, they were shocked to find their vehicles submerged.

City Fire and Rescue Department assistant director (operations) Azizan Ismail said they sent divers to the basement car park to look for victims, but fortunately there were none.

He said the basement car parks in surrounding build-

ings were also affected by flash floods.

Azizan added that the Sentul Fire and Rescue Department station which is situated just across PWTC was also hit by floods.

At Jalan Ipoh, which rarely sees flash floods, water levels were recorded at between one and two metres high, completely submerging vehicles.

To add to the city folks' woes, RapidKL's Kelana Jaya line LRT service, was also hit by a power failure which disrupted train operations for more than an hour beginning 5.58pm.

Power was restored gradually from 7.15pm and the train service resumed in stages. Normal service was restored at 7.47 this evening.

RapidKL chief executive officer Sullian Baharuddin said due to the power failure, massive passenger congestion was experienced at the LRT stations along the Kelana Jaya line. It took RapidKL several hours to clear the congestion.