

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN**  
**TARIKH: 27 JANUARI 2014 (ISNIN)**

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## Cold weather may not cause rain

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The ongoing cold weather that has caused shivers among Malaysians in some parts of the country may not result in heavy rains.

Malaysian Meteorological Department director-general Che Gayah Ismail said there was no indication of heavy rain in the next few days.

"The department is closely monitoring the weather changes and if there is an indicator, we will issue an advisory," she told *The New Straits Times*.

She said the standard operating procedure was to issue an advisory between 24 and 48 hours before such an event.

"We are still in the northeast monsoon period and it is normal to experience a few episodes of heavy rain."

On the possibility of heavy rains causing floods, she said it depended on the monsoon surge.

On the changes in temperature, she said Kuala Krai in Kelantan broke the record with its temperature dropping significantly from the 32°C on Jan 7 to 17.2°C on Jan 22.

Several countries in the region were also experiencing colder weather, with northern Vietnam snowing last month and Thailand's capital, Bangkok, hitting 15°C.

A local daily reported an oceanographer had advised Malaysians to watch out for heavy rain that could cause floods in the next few days following the cooler weather.

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia's Institute of Geospatial Science and Technology Associate Professor Dr Maged Mahmoud Marghany said the cold monsoon wind could get trapped in the warm atmospheric front once it hit the land mass in the east coast, Sabah and Sarawak.

He said in June 2006 forest fires in Indonesia resulted in increased humidity and heat in the atmosphere and due to the slow, weak wind above Johor, the heat hovered in the area during the monsoon season.

When the cold northeast monsoon wind converged with the heat, it resulted in heavy rain and floods in Johor, the state nearest to the forest fire, he said.

According to a statement in the Meteorological Department's website, January and February are when the minimum temperatures are relatively low compared with that of the other months.

The cooler than normal temperature in most areas, especially in the eastern and northern areas of the peninsula, was due to the strong north-easterly winds from mainland China, which was currently experiencing winter.

In addition, less cloud coverage throughout the peninsula this week also helped to lower the temperature at night and in the early morning.

Based on the weather conditions and wind direction for the next few days, the cooler weather was expected to continue until early this week.

**KERATAN AKHBAR**  
**UTUSAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI) : MUKA SURAT 03**  
**TARIKH: 27 JANUARI 2014 (ISNIN)**

## Angin kencang, laut bergelora

KUALA LUMPUR 26 Jan. - Angin kencang dan laut bergelora diramalkan berterusan sehingga Khamis ini di perairan Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang dan Johor Timur.

Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia turut mengeluarkan amaran kategori pertama itu bagi kawasan di Sarawak (Mukah, Bintulu dan Miri), Labuan, Sabah (Pedalaman, Pantai Barat dan Kudat), Samui, Tioman, Bunguran, Reef South dan Palawan.

Sepanjang tempoh itu, angin kencang timur laut dengan kelajuan 40 hingga 50 kilometer (km) sejam dan ombak mencapai ketinggian 3.5 meter dijangka berlaku di kesemua kawasan berkenaan.

"Keadaan angin kencang dan laut bergelora itu adalah berbahaya kepada bot-bot kecil, aktiviti rekreasi dan sukan laut," kata jabatan itu dalam kenyataan di sini, hari ini.

Jabatan itu juga menyatakan keadaan angin kencang dan laut bergelora kategori kedua diramal melanda kawasan perairan Condore, Reef North dan Layang-Layang sehingga Khamis ini.

Keadaan itu menyebabkan angin kencang bertiup antara 50 dan 60 km sejam dan ombak setinggi 4.5 meter, yang berbahaya kepada semua aktiviti perkapalan dan pantai termasuk menangkap ikan serta perkhidmatan feri. - BERNAMA



## Visibility levels drop in west coast

### Hotspots in neighbouring countries a possible cause

**Hazy weather:**  
The Petronas Twin Towers and KL Tower can barely be seen from the balcony of this condominium in Taman Tun Dr Ismail. — Picture courtesy of Sara Sukor



**By ISABELLE LAI**  
isabellelai@thestar.com.my

**PETALING JAYA:** Visibility levels in the west coast took a dive over the weekend although the weather remained on the cooler side.

The reason for the reduced visibility levels is not conclusive as air quality in the country is recorded at either "good" or "moderate" on the Air Pollutant Index.

Some Malaysians speculated it might be haze as they felt ill, listing symptoms such as fever, sore throat and sinus problems.

Homemaker Sara Sukor, 33, said she had observed her baby son's eczema flare up after the "haze" appeared on Friday afternoon.

She said she could barely make out the skyline of the Petronas Twin

Towers and KL Tower from her 19th floor apartment in Taman Tun Dr Ismail.

"Even though there is no smoky smell, I feel the haze is getting worse by the day," she said.

IT support executive, Martin Arulappa, 26, said he had not noticed lower visibility levels in Klang but he and his sister had been suffering from flu and fever since Friday.

"It could be the indecisive climate," he said.

The Meteorological Department (MET) said Petaling Jaya and Kuala Pilah in Negri Sembilan had visibility readings of up to 4km as of 5pm yesterday.

Visibility was up to 6km in Subang and Ipoh, 7km in Butterworth, 8km in Sepang and Malacca and 9km in Batu Pahat, Johor.

Normal visibility levels are from a range of 10km and further.

However, air quality remained at good and moderate levels, with Ipoh recording the poorest reading of 82 as of 5pm yesterday.

According to the Department of Environment's Air Pollutant Index (API), unhealthy, very unhealthy and hazardous air quality readings are from 100 to 200, 200 to 300, and more than 300 respectively.

The reduced visibility could be due to the 500 hotspots detected by the NOAA-18 Satellite on the Meteorological Service Singapore's website, for the areas of Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and Laos.

The hotspot map for that region showed most of the hotspots were concentrated in Cambodia and spread out into Thailand and Laos.

## Expect strong winds, rough seas

THE shores of Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Johor, Sarawak (Mukah, Bintulu and Miri), Labuan, Sabah (interior, west coast and Kudat), Samui, Tioman, Bunguran, Reef South and Palawan witnessed strong winds and rough seas which were expected to persist until Thursday.

The Meteorological Depart-

ment said, in a statement yesterday, that strong north-easterly winds with speed of 40 to 50kph and waves of up to 3.5m are expected to occur during that period.

This condition of strong winds and rough seas is dangerous to small boats, recreational activities and sea sports.

Second category high winds and rough seas would hit the waters of Condore, Reef North and Layang-Layang.

The strong winds blowing between 50 and 60kph and waves up to 4.5m were also expected to continue until Thursday.

The situation is dangerous to all shipping and coastal ac-

tivities, including fishing and ferry services.

Meanwhile, thunderstorms that can cause strong winds of up to 50kph and rough seas with waves up to 3.5m in the coastal waters of Sarawak (Bintulu and Miri) were expected to persist until late this afternoon.

— Bernama



# Coal burning brings haze in cold M'sia

Extreme winter in China sees winds blowing coal soot to Malaysia, says expert

By HARESH DEOL  
and FAIZAL NOR IZHAM  
mmnews@mmail.com.my

THE cold winter conditions in China that is forcing its citizens to rely heavily on burning coal to keep warm could be the contributing factor of the hazy situation in the country.

Pollution scientist Prof Dr K. Narayanan observed that the winds may have carried fine soot to the Southeast Asian region.

"There are many factors that contribute to such instances. As coal is heavily used in China, the winds could carry the soot to this part of the world resulting in the current hazy conditions in Kuala Lumpur and elsewhere," said Narayanan.

"The winds from China are known to carry dust particles from the Gobi desert to as far as Japan, Korea and even California."

He said Malaysia was experiencing a strange phenomena as hazy conditions in the country were usually seen later in the year.

Narayanan, who was with University of Keil in Germany and had been with Universiti Putra Malaysia faculty of environmental studies for the past 10 months, said the automobile pollution in the country further aggravated the situation.

"The pollution level is very unhealthy. I call this local cooling, global warming."

Narayanan said tropical countries would experience more rainfall resulting in landslides due to the drastic changes in global weather.

"I was in Germany for Christmas last month and it was 12° Celsius. It was the hottest Christmas I have ever experienced."

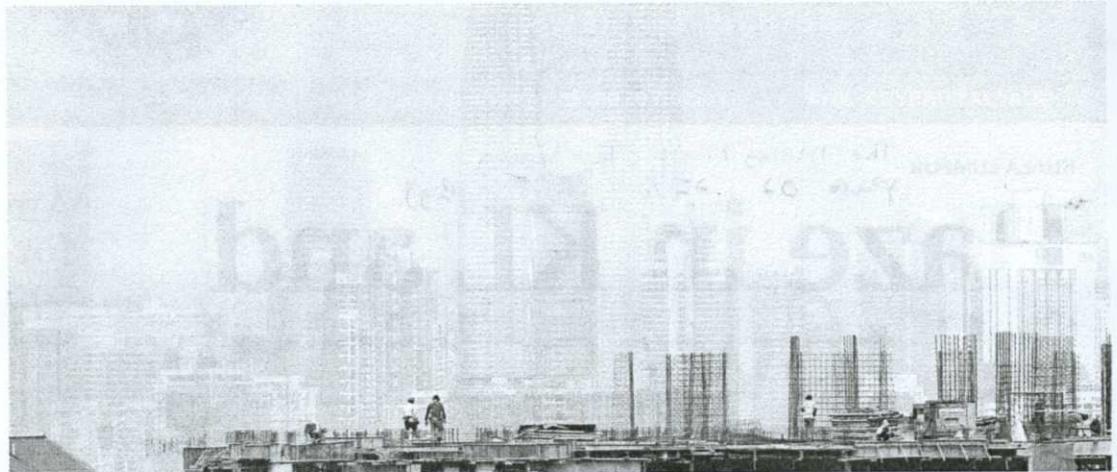
"Now we are experiencing chilly weather in some parts of Malaysia. This is all the result of climate change which is driven by human activity."

He was also in Korea for eight months and was told by the locals that Korea no longer experienced four seasons but only a long summer and a short winter.

He stressed the need for people to change their lifestyle.

"Why are there four vehicles in a single household? There needs to be a proper public transportation system and we must encourage car pooling."

The Malaysian Meteorological Department said yesterday's Air Pollution Index (API) reading



HAZE TOO SOON: Malaysians have been taken aback by the early arrival of haze as the city's landmarks like the Petronas Twin Towers were blanketed by smog over the weekend — Pic: FIRDAUS LATIF

was moderate in several locations. SK Jalan Pegoh was 82 (at 3pm), 80 in Cheras (3pm) and 77 in Banting (3pm). Good API readings are between 0-50, moderate (51-100), unhealthy (100-200), very unhealthy (200-300) and hazardous is a reading of 300 and above.

Last June, the API in Muar, Johor, hit 746. The worst API reading in the country was 860, recorded in Sarawak in 1997.

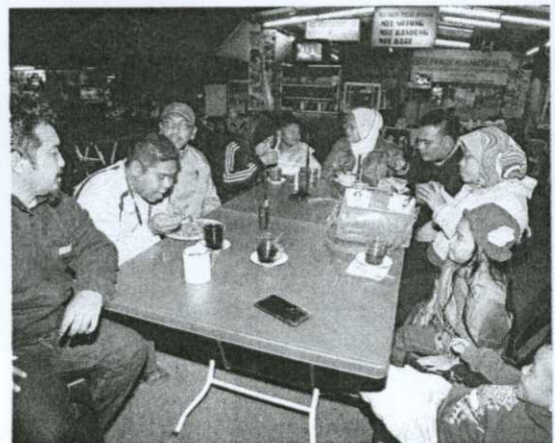
"While the peninsula can generally expect a decrease in rainfall for the next few days, rain and thunderstorms are expected to occur during Chinese New Year in West Coast states such as Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Johor, especially in the afternoons," read a state-

ment from the Meteorological Department.

A press statement from the department on Jan 23 explained temperatures in January and February were relatively low compared to other months.

"The cooler-than-normal air temperature in most areas this week, especially those in the eastern and northern areas of the peninsula, is due to strong north easterly winds from mainland China, which is currently experiencing winter," it said.

Areas that recorded low temperatures on Saturday were Batu Embun (22°C), Chuping (22°C), Kuantan (21°C), Kota Baru (20°C) and Kuala Krai (19°C)



CHILLY SUPPER: Several patrons at the Jalan Sekolah Derma food court in Kangar wear thick jackets while dining out — BERNAMAPic

## WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK

	Monday (Jan 27)	Tuesday (Jan 28)	Wednesday (Jan 29)	Thursday (Jan 30)	Friday (Jan 31)	Saturday (Feb 1)
Perlis	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Kedah	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Penang	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Kelantan	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon
Terengganu	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Cloudy in the afternoon
Pahang	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon
Perak	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Cloudy in the afternoon	Cloudy in the afternoon	Cloudy in the afternoon
Selangor	Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon	Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon	Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon	Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon	Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon	Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon
FT Kuala Lumpur	Cloudy in the afternoon	Cloudy in the afternoon	Cloudy in the afternoon	Cloudy in the afternoon	Cloudy in the afternoon	Cloudy in the afternoon
Putrajaya	Cloudy in the afternoon	Cloudy in the afternoon	Cloudy in the afternoon	Cloudy in the afternoon	Cloudy in the afternoon	Cloudy in the afternoon
Negri Sembilan	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon
Malacca	Fair	Fair	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Fair	Cloudy in the afternoon
Johor	Cloudy in the afternoon	Fair	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Fair	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Fair
Sarawak	Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon	Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon	Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon	Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon	Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon	Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon
Sabah	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon	Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon	Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon	Isolated showers in the afternoon
FT Labuan	Rain in the morning	Rain at night	Rain at night	Rain at night	Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon	Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon



KANGAR

# Chuping too cold for many

Hottest Malaysian state records lowest temperature at 22 Celcius

MISTY HILL: The cold weather in Chuping, Perlis has turned the morning misty, impeding what would normally be a clear view of the distant hills — Pix: SAYUTI ZAINUDIN

By HAN KAR KAY  
karkay@mmail.com.my

THE northern region, especially Perlis, has been experiencing the coldest temperatures in recent years due to cold winds from the northeast monsoon.

A check by *The Malay Mail* yesterday found the situation in Chuping was a far cry from its reputation for being the hottest Malaysian state with a temperature of 40.1°C recorded in 1998.

Despite the lowest temperature recorded yesterday at 22°C, the locals were undeterred by the biting cold and continued with their daily routine. However, many were clad in heavy warm clothings such as windbreakers.

According to locals, it was the coldest January in the last decade.

Food stall operator-cum-farmer Rustum Talib, 42, described the biting cold as the worst in the last 20 years.

"Although there was no rain, the pool of cold air swept across Chuping daily in the morning until 10am and between 5pm and 7pm.

"This phenomenon is rare because from December until March, the rainy season is supposed to be subsiding to a hotter climate.

"Due to the strong winds with the lowest temperature at 25°C, we had to bring extra clothing outdoors," he said, adding that the temperature shot up to 35°C in the afternoon.

Rustum also complained that the unusually cool weather had an impact on rice crop.

"The rice harvest produced is

not of good quality compared to previous years.

"This is because it flowered early because of lower temperatures that had affected the fertilisation, thus causing the empty rice husks," he said.

Postgraduate student Nurul Shuhaida Abdul Rahim, 28, said it was her first time experiencing a cold January in the past seven years.

"The unusually cold weather began some two weeks back and the wind is especially strong in the evening," said Nurul, from Kelantan.

*The Malay Mail* observed that strong winds lasted few hours until 11am before the heat sinks in.

In Kangar and Arau, many were seen using umbrellas or resorting to hats to shield them from



the extreme weather changes, particularly the scorching hot sun at noon.

Forecast by the Meteorological Department is that Chuping will experience temperatures of between 22°C and 32°C with no rain.

In other northern regions, the temperature in Alor Star is forecast to be between 21°C and 32°C, while in George Town, the temperature will be between 24°C and 32°C.

CHILLY DAYS: Rustum wears a windbreaker as he tends to his food stall with his wife Zarina Yaacob, 42, in Chuping, Perlis yesterday.

## Cuaca sejuk sudah kembali normal

**Kuala Lumpur:** Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (JMM) mengesahkan cuaca sejuk yang melanda beberapa kawasan pantai timur dan utara Semenanjung sejak beberapa hari lalu kembali normal apabila purata suhu minimum jangka panjang yang direkodkan di 44 stesen menunjukkan peningkatan sejak Khamis lalu.

Ketua Pengarah JMM Che Gayah Ismail berkata, secara amnya di Malaysia, suhu harian adalah antara 22 hingga 35 darjah Celsius dan menjadi normal jika ia antara kurang atau lebih tiga darjah Celsius.

"Suhu minimum selalunya direkodkan antara jam 4 hingga 7 pagi. Berdasarkan rekod, kini semua stesen mencatatkan suhu pada paras normal dengan suhu terendah adalah 19.3 darjah Celsius di Muadzam Shah semalam.

"Berdasarkan rekod di stesen utama di seluruh negara, hanya Kuala Krai dan Batu Embun didapati merekodkan suhu minimum di bawah normal, iaitu Kuala Krai 1.8 darjah Celsius dan Batu Embun 0.1 darjah Celsius pada 22 Januari lalu (Rabu lalu)," katanya ketika dihu-

bungi, semalam.

Menurutnya, selepas tarikh itu didapati suhu di semua stesen berada dalam lingkungan normal sehingga semalam.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, cuaca dingin ini dijangka terus dirasai sehingga tiba musim peralihan dengan angin bertiup dari arah Lautan Pasifik susulan perubahan monsun menjelang Mac ini.

"Meskipun cuaca sejuk ini

berterusan, kesannya akan beransur kurang apabila memasuki bulan Februari," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, rekod jabatan berkenaan sehingga jam 6 petang semalam mencatatkan suhu terendah di kawasan tanah rendah negara ini adalah 19.3 darjah Celsius di Muadzam Shah.

Antara kawasan yang masih merekodkan bacaan suhu minimum 21 darjah Celsius ke bawah adalah Alor Setar (20.3), Batu Pahat (20.4), Keningau (20.2), Kota Bharu (20.8) Kuala Krai (19.6), Kuching dan Mersing (21.2), Batu Embun (21.5), Butterworth (21.6), Kluang (21.8), Kuala Terengganu (21.3), Kuantan (21.4) dan Lubuk Merbau (21.1).

### FAKTA

Cuaca sejuk akan beransur kurang apabila memasuki Februari



## Amaran angin kencang, laut gelora

**KUALA LUMPUR** - Angin kencang dan laut bergelora diramalkan berterusan sehingga Khamis ini di perairan Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang dan Johor Timur.

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Sepanjang tempoh itu, angin kencang timur laut dengan kelajuan 40 hingga 50 kilometer sejam dan ombak mencapai ketinggian 3.5 meter dijangka berlaku di kesemua kawasan berkenaan.

"Keadaan angin kencang dan laut bergelora itu adalah berbahaya kepada bot-bot kecil, aktiviti rekreasi dan sukan laut," kata jabatan itu dalam kenyataan di sini, semalam.

Jabatan itu juga menyatakan keadaan angin kencang dan laut bergelora kategori kedua diramal melanda kawasan perairan Condore, Reef North dan Layang-Layang sehingga Khamis ini.

Keadaan itu menyebabkan angin kencang bertiup antara 50 dan 60 kilometer sejam dan ombak setinggi 4.5 meter, yang berbahaya kepada semua aktiviti perkapalan dan pantai termasuk menangkap ikan serta perkhidmatan feri.

Sementara itu, ribut petir yang menyebabkan angin kencang sehingga 50 kilometer sejam dan laut bergelora dengan ombak setinggi 3.5 meter di kawasan perairan Sarawak (Bintulu dan Miri) dijangka berterusan sehingga lewat petang ini. - Bernama