



ANGUISH

SG BULOH DROWNING VICTIMS FOUND

Last of 5 recovered nearly 24 hours after they were swept away

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AFTER an exhaustive round-the-clock search, the last of the bodies of the five anglers swept away by strong currents in Sungai Gasi was recovered yesterday.

The body of Rapawi Jum'ada, 37, was found at 4.35pm, nearly 24 hours after he and four others were swept away by raging currents.

Rapawi's body was found 24km from where the victims had been swept away.

District police chief Superintendent S. Somu said Rapawi's body was found floating in the river near a bridge at Desa Coalfields leading to Puncak Alam.

"The fourth body to be recovered was that of Jeleha Hashim, 48, which was found at 3.45pm."

Jeleha's remains were found at bushes near Desa Coalfields, 19km downriver from where the incident happened.

The body of Silawati Zailan, 31, had been found at 12.30pm,

SUNGAI BULOH DROWNING INCIDENT



about 10.6km away.

Nearly 12 hours earlier, at 1.25am, the body of Jamaluddin Rapawi, 14, was recovered.

The first victim found was a 38-year-old Indonesian man known only as Hashir, at 9.50pm on Monday, a little more than four hours after the incident.

It was reported that the five were among several people fishing in the river at 5.40pm when the water levels began to rise rapidly due to what was believed to be a downpour upriver.

At least three people made it to safety.

Somu said the bodies were sent to Sungai Buloh Hospital for a post-mortem.

"After the post-mortem and identification, the remains will be released for burial."

Fire and Rescue Department site operations chief Yusri Basri said the bodies were found in good condition and fully clothed.

About 200 people from various government agencies were in-

involved in the operation.

Paya Jaras assemblyman Khairuddin Othman urged the public to be careful when taking part in water activities.

"We have asked the state Drainage and Irrigation Department to fence off locations considered dangerous."

Page 1 pic: The husband of Silawati Zailan being consoled as her body is recovered by Fire and Rescue personnel in Sungai Buloh yesterday.

'Victim an avid angler'

SUNGAI BULOH: Silawati Zailan, one of five who drowned after being swept away by swift currents in a river here, was an avid angler.

Her sister-in-law, Suryani Abdur Rahman, said Silawati would often broadcast her fishing activities live on social media.

However, the 31-year-old's demeanour suddenly changed of late, said Suryani.

"She would usually call me *kak su*, but the day before the incident, she started calling me *kak long*."

Suryani said when she heard that some people were feared drowned here, she did not think anything of it.

"Silawati usually fished in Port Klang, so I didn't think she would be involved," she said at the Sungai Buloh Hospital mortuary.



Selangor Fire and Rescue Department director Azmi Osman (right) and his personnel combing Sungai Gasi in Sungai Buloh yesterday. PIX BY SYARAFIQ ABD SAMAD



Inconsolable relatives of Silawati Zailan in Sungai Buloh yesterday.

Husband: Why did she die and not me?

SUNGAI BULOH: Above the sound of wailing at Sungai Buloh Hospital, one voice could be heard clearly.

There was no mistaking the despair in Syamsul Azhar Maula, 33, when he saw the body of his 48-year-old wife, Jeleha Hashim.

"Ya Allah berat sungguh ujian-Mu (Allah, Your test is too difficult)," was all he could manage before he broke down.

Nearby, Jeleha's three children

wept and were comforted by relatives.

Syamsul Azhar said he was sad that he could do nothing to save Jeleha.

"Why did she die and not me? I am beside myself that I could not save her."

Syamsul Azhar was also swept away by raging currents of Sungai Gasi, but managed to swim to the riverbank.

Jeleha's only son, Muhd Badrul

Baharin, 21, was heard making a promise to his late mother.

"I promise to look after my two younger sisters."

Badrul, who works at an electronics store, said Jeleha had asked him to join them on Monday, but he had to decline as he had chores to attend to.

Besides Syamsul Azhar and Badrul, Jeleha leaves behind daughters Umie Juliana, 19, and Siti Nur Jannah Baharin, 14.