Headline	A pain to beat the heat		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	04 Jun 2021	Language	English
Circulation	175,986	Readership	527,958
Section	Nation	Page No	1,12
ArticleSize	399 cm²	Journalist	XIAO TONG
PR Value	RM 60,240		

Nation

The heat is on

With the weather being so hot now, most are relying on air conditioners or taking more showers to cool down. >12

A pain to beat the heat

Staying cool while WFH a challenge now as temperatures rise

By XIAO TONG
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PETALING JAYA: With the national lockdown well under way, Malaysians are also having to battle the blistering heat as they stay indoors in the war against Covid-19.

Media executive Ahmad Syarafi, 24, who is currently working from his home in Kota Damansara, said he had no choice but to turn on the air-conditioner.

"My room faces the setting sun and it feels like a sauna room past noon. The leather chair makes the situation worse, so I cope by having the air-conditioner on," he added.

Gwee Chee Seng, 55, who lives in Subang Jaya, said electricity consumption and cost were a concern.

"I need to turn on the air-conditioner with the weather being so hot, so the power bill is going to spike!

"I hope the government will help ease our burden by subsiding at least 20% of the electricity bill," he said.

The father of three said his family was trying to reduce electricity consumption by spending time in the same room.

"We sleep together in one room at night," he added.

Student Priscilla Subramaniam, 21, said she was "suffering" in her hostel in Subang Jaya, which does not have air-conditioning.

"I play my part by staying home but the recent hot weather is making me sweat a lot.

"I can't install an air-conditioner in my rented room even though I am willing to pay for it, because I am not allowed to drill any holes in the wall," she lamented.

Priscilla said she tried getting an air cooler but the lockdown was an obstacle.

Worrying sight: Cracked soil caused by the hot weather is seen at a community park in Petaling Jaya. — ART CHEN/The Star

"Retail shops are closed and I can only get one online, and I need to wait for it to be shipped," she said, adding that she showered frequently to keep herself cool.

Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia) director-general Jailan Simon said the country was in the midst of the southwest monsoon season, which will continue until mid-September.

"During this period, there will be a lack of rain cloud formation. Most places across the country will have less rainfall," he said

"For the next two weeks, the daily maximum temperature might reach up to 36°C."

Jailan advised people to take steps to conserve water, and advised against open burning.

"The public is advised to keep alert on weather changes and obtain the latest information and weather warnings through our official website, the myCuaca app, and MetMalaysia social media channels," he said.

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