

By Thasha Jayamanogaran, Jasmine Andria and Praven Suppayah • mmnews@mmail.com.my



1 The teenagers spent time at this stall to sketch their plan.



2 This is where they bought the petrol.

Six teen dropouts held for arson, murder



CITY police last night made chilling revelations in the Darul Quran Ittifaqiyah inferno that left 21 students and two teachers dead early Thursday.

- Shock 1**
• Seven dropouts, aged 11-18, held for arson and murder.
- Shock 2**
• Six of them had smoked ganja before executing premeditated plot.
- Shock 3**
• Devious plan over in two hours.
- Shock 4**
• **Motive:** Revenge against some Tahfiz students who teased and ridiculed them.

Police said the boys were detained after reviewing footage from 25 security cameras near the school in Datuk Keramat. A source said they had initially planned to break into the dormitory to steal mobile phones belonging to the students who

ridiculed them. The source said the plan changed when they met at a food stall at 2.30am near the school. They decided to burn the school. All this happened while six of them were high on drugs. At 4am two of the suspects filled up their motorcycles at a nearby kiosk and later drew the petrol using a hose to fill a big mineral water bottle. All of them gathered at a lake behind the school 30 minutes later, probably to go through the plan one final time. The 11-year-old quit after seeing one of them holding the petrol, saying he was sleepy and went to a surau. At 4.40am while three students stood guard, three others climbed over the adjoining Muslim Consumers Association of Malaysia building and entered the school. Once inside, they took two gas tanks from the kitchen and went up to the second floor.

There, the tanks were placed at the doors to the dormitory. They then poured the petrol on the gas tanks and a mattress. A trail of petrol was laid all the way to the ground floor before a cigarette lighter was used to start the fire. All six then fled in three motorcycles. In a hurriedly called press conference last night, police chief Datuk Amar Singh said the suspects were arrested in stages since Friday. He said police seized the suspects' clothing and motorcycles. "We are looking for traces of petrol and hydro carbon on their clothes and the bikes." He said the case has been classified as mischief by fire and murder. Asked if their intention was to kill, Amar said: "The motive was to burn down the school as revenge. "Perhaps due to their age they were not mature enough to know the extent of the

damage they could cause." He said two of the suspects had previous records for rioting and vehicle theft. Amar said the case has been solved with the arrest of the boys, but warned police were hunting for the drug pusher who supplied the drugs. On the question of whether the teenagers would face trial as adults, Amar said police would leave that to the Attorney-General's Chambers. City Hall, he added, will investigate the school for operating illegally without approval from the Fire and Rescue Department. Amar expressed disappointment over the leaking of the police fact file and the suspects' photographs that have gone viral. He said an internal investigation was underway to trace the source. "This is frustrating. It will tamper with our investigations and the trial." He asked the public to stop sharing photographs and the fact file.

Devious plot

Thursday, Sept 14 2.30am:

- > Seven teenagers gather at Cek Mek Molek food stall.
- > From initial plan to steal mobile phones, they decide to burn down the school instead.
- > Leave an hour later.

4am:

- > Two of them, ages 16 and 18,

go to nearby petrol station to buy petrol.
> Filled up their motorcycles and later drew the petrol using a hose to fill a big mineral water.

4.30am:

- > The seven dropouts gather at field behind school.
- > Youngest, aged 11, sees one holding the petrol, tells friends

he is sleepy and leaves.
> Six others go ahead with devious plan.

4.40am:

- > Six arrive at school.
- > Three stand guard, three others climb over gate at back entrance of building.
- > They gain access but once inside find door is locked.

- > They climb back out and enter the first floor another way.
- > Once in they take mattress and place it at the door of one of the rooms where students and teachers are sleeping.
- > They take two gas tanks and place them at doors to the dormitory.
- > They pour petrol on the

mattress and gas tanks.
> Petrol is poured until the ground floor.
> One of them uses lighter to start fire.
> They flee blazing building on three motorcycles.

5.10am:

- > Fire and Rescue Department receives first call.



3 Final stop before attack.



4 Sneaking into school.