

### Police task force to look into arson cases



Firefighters examining the scene of the Tanjung Sepat fire. — Fire department picture.

**PETALING JAYA** — A police task force will look into cases of arson following the recent fire in Tanjung Sepat that claimed four lives, including those of two children.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Noor Rashid Ibrahim said the task force would focus on three aspects — collection of evidence from the scene, a background check on victims, and making sure a strong investigation is carried out.

“Collecting evidence from the scene would be vital in a situation where we make an arrest and are able to tie down

the suspect to the evidence.

“It is also important investigators study the history of victims,” he said.

Noor Rashid said investigators would also be tasked to speak to neighbours in such cases, to find out more about persons of interest in the cases and also identify potential witnesses.

“Of course, there has to be a strong and thorough investigation into each case.

“This is a serious offence, we cannot allow such crimes to be committed or to take place here,” he said yesterday.

This comes as Selangor police chief Commissioner Datuk Mazlan Mansor said

on Friday the Tanjung Sepat murder cum arson case was considered solved with the arrest of a suspect.

In the fire, Chia Tee Nang, 73, and Lim Mai Shak, 68, along with their two grandchildren Ryan Chia Zeng Xi, nine, and Chia Yuan Bin, three, were killed.

Mazlan had said a 38-year-old hearing and speech-impaired suspect, who worked as a furniture factory worker, was arrested in Taman Pusat Kepong early Friday morning.

The suspect, said to be the boyfriend of dead couple’s daughter, allegedly entered the wooden home on Tuesday night armed

with a sharp object.

An argument erupted between the suspect and the couple, supposedly over money, before he allegedly killed them and their grandchildren before torching the house.

Police found slash and stab wounds on the victims who were burned beyond recognition.

Police located the suspect after he sought treatment at a private clinic.

The sole survivor of the incident, a 12-year-old boy, still remains traumatised from the incident and is under police protection.