

HOUSE DESTROYED

FAMILY OF 3 KILLED IN FIRE

Neighbours watch helplessly as victims scream for help

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SCREAMS and pleas for help were heard from a semi-wooden house in Kampung Alah Batu here, which was razed in a fire early yesterday, killing a family of three.

The dead were identified as Mohd Sharidan Abdul Aziz, 29, his wife, Siti Rafini Mohd Rafie, 27, and their 14-month-old son Rafiq.

Neighbour Robaayah Yunus, 58, said she heard a loud noise about 3.30am.

"(There was) a loud explosion coming from my neighbour's home and I ran out.

"I saw fire engulfing the house, and rushed to wake my husband and children up.

"I was upset as we could not help them since the blaze was raging.

"I heard the wife screaming for help but we could not do any-



The remains of a razed house in Kampung Alah Batu, Slim River, yesterday.
PIC BY ROSMAN SHAMSUDIN

thing to save them," she said, adding that she had met Siti Rafini during her cousin's engagement on Sunday.

Sharidan's brother, Sharizal Abdul Aziz, 35, said that the couple were close and loving, and went everywhere together.

"I last saw them at their cousin's engagement ceremony, yesterday (Sunday). They looked

so happy. I never thought that it would be the last time that I would see them," he said.

Sharizal, who lived near his brother's house, rushed to the scene when told about the fire.

"Neighbours told me that they had heard my brother and sister-in-law screaming for help."

The victims' bodies were buried at the Kuala Slim Muslim

cemetery here after the Zohor prayers yesterday.

Hulu Selangor district police chief Superintendent Azman Ab Rahman said they received a distress call from the Muallim police station at 4.50am.

"A team of firemen from Slim River and Kuala Kubu Baru rushed to the scene and brought the fire under control. The team

discovered three charred remains in one of the rooms.

"The remains were taken to Slim River Hospital for a post-mortem.

"We have yet to determine the cause of the fire and are awaiting the Fire and Rescue Department's forensic unit report." **Additional reporting by Rosman Shamsudin**