

28 FEB 1996

Fire - conductor

FORMER ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR INJURED IN FIRE

ALOR SETAR, Feb 28 (Bernama) -- Former conductor of the Wisma Darul Aman Orchestra Mohamad Arshad Ismail, 62, was injured when his house caught fire at 5am today in Lorong Kilang Ais here.

Also injured in the blaze which destroyed the house as well another unoccupied house was his younger sister Rahmah. Ten others in the house were not injured.

Arshad's house was situated opposite the house where Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was born some 70 years ago.

Arshad and Rahmah who suffered burns in the legs, hands and face while putting out the fire have been admitted to the Alor Setar Hospital.

Nor Nadia Zulkifli, 12, said he woke up to go to the toilet when he saw the fire spreading quickly and his grandfather and his grandaunty struggling to save some of their belongings.

A spokesman of the Alor Setar Fire Brigade said 21 firemen in three fire-engines took about 10 minutes to bring the fire under control.

In another fire at Simpang Kuala at about 2am today, three blocks of kongsis were destroyed.

The spokesman said 15 firemen and two fire-engines took about 15 minutes to put out the blaze. No one was reported injured.

The three kongsis had 24 rooms and were meant for 60 workers currently building the Bandar Baru Simpang Kuala.

At the time of the fire, only 20 workers were staying in the kongsi while the others were away on Hari Raya and Chinese New Year holidays.

The cause of the fire and total damage were being assessed by the relevant authorities. -- BERNAMA

BD MFJ AAM