

Residents distressed over ailing Angsana tree

■ BY JOSHUA PURUSHOTMAN
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: Residents of Lucky Garden in Bangsar are upset that an Angsana (*Pterocarpus indicus*) tree, native to Malaysia, has been damaged due to indiscriminate burning.

Resident S.N. Rajan said a row of Angsana trees fronting the CIMB Bank branch is a sight to behold.

"The trees were planted when the area was developed about 60 years ago. The trunks are huge and the branches spread widely and offer extensive shade.

"But one tree is dying. All its leaves are missing and its branches are (dried out). It is a ghastly sight."

Rajan said posters have been placed on its trunk, asking residents to look out for the culprit.

"All signs point to the tree having been burnt as its trunk has numerous scorch marks all over. It is a sad sight indeed. The tree will have to be uprooted or felled at some point."

He said residents believe the culprit is an individual who has been sweeping fallen leaves in the area and setting fire to them at the base of the tree, adding that the trees shed leaves during the dry season but City Hall workers only clean the area periodically.

The man also has been undertaking a similar task near the TMC supermarket, where large Madras Thorn trees line the street.

"He kept the area clean with his daily sweeping and burning, but we are still on the lookout for him. Unfortunately, he is nowhere to be found."

Rajan said residents have been alerted to the dangers of open burning and the need to conserve trees.

He also said the length of Jalan Ara, that loops around the residential area, was once planted with Angsana trees.

However, owing to their huge trunks and damaging effects of the roots on walkways, pavements and main roads, most have been removed in favour of more manageable alternatives.



The tree is believed to have been damaged due to an individual leaving leaves at its base.