

# 4 sought over death of debt collector

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GEORGE TOWN: Police have identified four people who could assist in investigations into the murder of a man, believed to be a loan shark.

State police chief Datuk Ayub Yaakub said yesterday that two of the men could shed light on who had beaten to death Sin Chee Loon, 25, but they had left for Kuala Lumpur.

Police want to interview Harry Tan Cheng Yu, 23, and H'ng Thean Wei, 21. They were last staying in Permatang Damar Laut, Bayan Lepas.

They also want to get in touch with Teng Kok How, 18, also from Permatang Damar Laut, and a 15-year-old, whose identity has been withheld.

"We hope anyone with any information on the four will come forward to assist in our investigations. Alternatively, we hope the four will come voluntarily to the nearest police station.

Police have already detained five suspects.

Sin had gone to Batu Maung to collect a debt from a man at 10.30am on Monday. The amount borrowed was RM500 but with outstanding interest, the unpaid sum had skyrocketed to RM2,000. This was reduced to RM1,500 after negotiations.

However, the borrower had apparently got in touch with his friends, believed to be gangsters from Kuala Lumpur. When Sin and three of his friends went to collect the debt, they were confronted by 12 people.

In the fight that ensued Sin sustained severe head injuries. His assailants took him to Sungai Nibong and left him by the roadside.

Passers-by rushed him to Penang Hospital where he died.