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Painful news for Azhar planning solo adventure

LANGKAWI, Mon. - Azhar Mansor's attempt to circumnavigate the world alone took a painful turn today - his 60-year-old mother passed away of diabetic and asthma complications.

Azhar was on his way to Langkawi to participate in LIMA '97 when he was informed of his mother's death. His mother, Fatimah Ayob, died at the Kangar Hospital at 1.15pm today.

"I was in a ferry with several friends to put up my display at the New Straits Times-Huswah Gallery at Tanjung Malai, when I received a telephone call telling me of my mother's death," Azhar said when he met Tan Sri Wahab Nawi, executive chairman of Huswah Exhibition Sdn Bhd.

Huswah has provided Azhar with a small area to display his posters and charts for the solo attempt. Pictures and newspaper clippings of his attempt are on display with banners announcing the endeavour.

Azhar hoped to meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is scheduled to visit the maritime exhibition on Wednesday.

"I'm sad that my mother will not be around when I embark on my journey, hopefully in February next year."

(END)