

UUM/5548 / NST (27.06.2005 / p. 17 (c))

UUM hostel adviser dies while trekking

NST 27/6/05 17:1

ALOR STAR, Sun. — Hostel adviser Mohd Shahril Othman (picture) will be remembered by his family as an avid sportsman who was ever willing to take up a challenge.

They never expected that his trekking expedition on Thursday would be his last.

His mother, Bondan Kassim, 58, said her son had been active in sports since he was young.

"All his brothers are sportsmen as well. As a mother, I have never objected to his interests," she said when met at her home in Kampung Seberang Terus here.

Shahril, 28, died at 3.45am on Friday after having difficulty breathing while on an expedition to Gunung Chamah in Grik, Perak.

The expedition was part of a programme organised by Universiti Utara Malaysia students to break a record by conquering seven peaks.

Shahril who was attached to UUM's Kolej Muamalat in Sintok, had been with the university for the past five years.

Bondan said Shahril did not inform her about the expedition. "Maybe he thought I wouldn't let him go," she said.

The last time she had seen Shahril was on June 17.

"He wanted to move house and told me to visit him once he had moved in," she said between sobs.

Zafrie Othman, 38, said his brother had no history of sickness.

"It was a shock when we heard the news. He seemed healthy and we are all active in sports."

The family is awaiting news of when they will receive Shahril's body in order to make the funeral arrangements.

Zafrie said Shahril's body would be buried at the Kampung Seberang Terus Muslim cemetery.

