

Accused in drug case dies in court

A 28-year-old man accused of drug possession collapsed and died in the magistrate's court here yesterday today after the charge was read out to him.

Fazlie Khamis, who was seated by the dock, fell onto his knees and then collapsed onto the floor at about 3pm in magistrate's court one at the Melaka Courts Complex here, said an eye-witness who declined to be named.

Fazlie, who had been brought to court from the Melaka Tengah police headquarters lockup, looked weak and was seen to be salivating as the court interpreter read out the charge — possession of 2.5gm of heroin — the eyewitness said.

When the accused did not react, the interpreter read out the charge a second time. he added.

That was when Fazlie collapsed, said the eyewitness. A medical officer personnel present in court confirmed the death.

Meanwhile, Melaka Tengah Police chief ACP Salehuddin Abd Rahman confirmed the incident and said the body had been sent to Malacca Hospital.

He said the case had been classified as sudden death pending a the post-mortem report.

Fazlie's mother, who identified herself as Sapiah, said: she only came to know what had happened after seeing medical staff entering the court. "I entered the court and was shocked to see Fazlie on the floor and quickly held him in my lap, but he had died." said Sapiah who lives in Bachang near here.