

When the world came crashing

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Woman tells of horror when her husband and children fell to their deaths

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KUALA LUMPUR: She had promised to buy her son a bicycle for his ninth birthday. But it's a promise she will never be able to fulfil.

Sorrow and regret are the only things felt by 31-year-old Shari Zuraidah Ridzuan who lost everything when her husband killed their two children before committing suicide.

"I only got him a cake for his birthday on June 20, and told him I would buy him a bicycle at the end of the month. Now I have nothing left," the grief-stricken mother said when met at the Serdang Hospital morgue yesterday.

Shari Zuraidah said she would never forget the moment her world came crashing down on her.

"I drove to our family condominium to see my children on Tuesday night," said Shari Zuraidah, who was in the process of divorcing her husband.

She said a security guard stopped her car as she drove into the compound.

"He told me to stay calm but did not tell me what had happened. I saw them lying on the ground in front of me as soon as I walked past him," she said while fighting to hold back tears.

It is learnt that Shari's husband, Ismail Khan, a Pakistani, took their children, Mohd Faizal, nine, and Aqsa, six, to the top floor of the Langat Jaya condominium and pushed them off the building last night.

He then jumped off himself.

Security guards who discovered the bodies in a pool of blood called their unit and informed the maid, who came and identified the bodies.

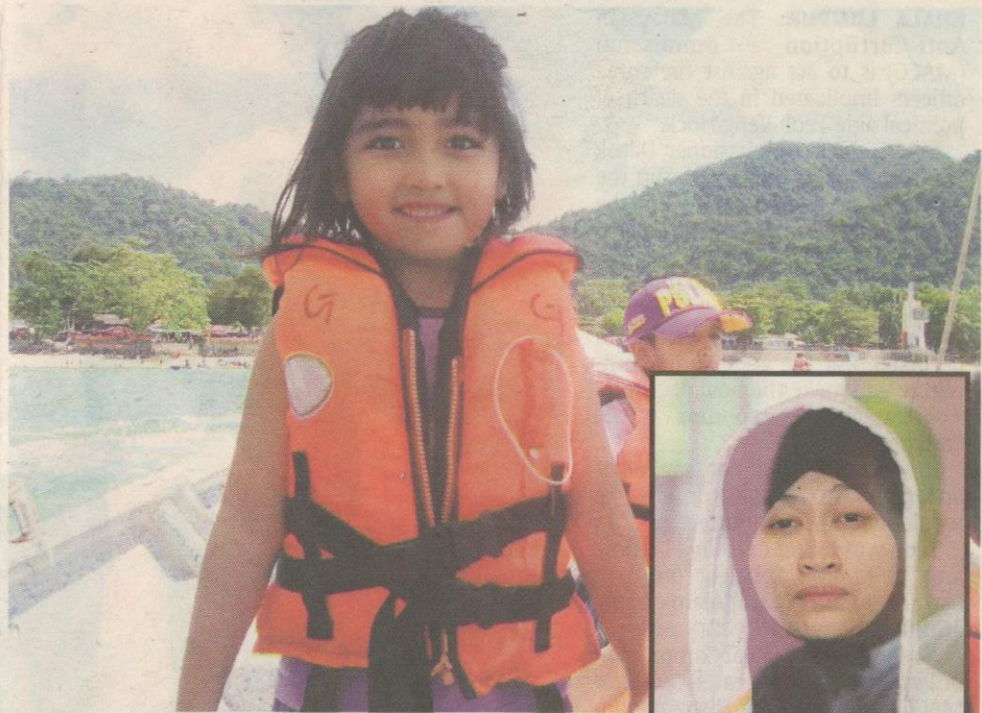
The children were clad in their school uniform. Shari Zuraidah said she believes that Ismail had been planning this for some time.

"He had threatened to kill all of us before as he was desperate. He was jobless and worried about his visa running out at the end of July because I was divorcing him," she said, adding that the divorce was due to be finalised in August.

It is learnt that Ismail had been growing more desperate of his situation and had stopped contact with his family and friends for the past two weeks.

Shari Zuraidah, a senior executive at a finance firm, who had been the family's breadwinner, however, never expected him to do such a thing.

"We had been married for 10 years but I never thought that he would resort to this," she said.



Sudden loss: Aqsa's life was cut short after she was pushed off a condominium by her father. (Inset) Shari Zuraidah believes her husband had been planning the murder-suicide for some time.