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Sheik turns down German offer to turn pro

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Sheik turns down German offer to turn pro

By CALVIN LOW

ONE person is relieved that world heavyweight silat champion, Sheik Alauddin, is not going to fight professionally.

She is his wife, Saadiah Sanuse.

Said Saadiah, 31, a senior draughtswoman: "It's very dangerous and I've never supported the idea but I've left the decision to him.

"After all, we've got a family now. And as a pro-fighter, he won't be practicing silat at all."

Sheik, who returned home last Friday after completing a month's training in Germany, had turned down

an offer to fight professionally.

Recalling the offer, he said: "It was good. I would've been paid a monthly salary of about S\$3,225 plus a car and an apartment.

"But I had first to sign a three-year contract and I had to remain in Germany. I didn't want to do that as my family is here."

There was yet another factor. "While there, I realised that with all the bashing pro fighters have to take, you can't continue beyond 35 years of age.

"Most fighters are in their early 20s," said the

29-year-old gym coordinator.

However, Sheik was still coerced into fighting in a professional bout — the German Championships.

"I had no intention of fighting at all, but I played along for the training part.

"Then at the last minute I pulled out."

Sheik had good reasons for not fighting.

KARATE CONTEST

"Firstly, that was not what the Singapore Sports Council sent me there for. I was there to train.

"Secondly, it was a karate championship, with the

fighters using lots of kicks to the head."

Although he's decided against going professional, the trip opened Sheik's eyes on how fighters train.

"There's a very big gap between the intensity of training here and there. There're three sessions a day. You can't say you're tired and there's no fooling around."

And that's how he plans to continue on his march to defending his world title in December.

Sheik's next overseas stint in May, will be to the heartland of silat — Indonesia.

It's very dangerous and I've never supported the idea but I've left the decision to him. Also, we've got a family now.

— Saadiah Sanuse, Sheik's wife



Sheik: Will remain an amateur for the time being.