


# NewspaperSG



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## Sheik faces busy overseas fight programm

The Straits Times, 27 February 1996, Page 29

 Article also available on Microfilm Reel NL20092

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### Sheik faces busy overseas fight programme

#### SILAT

THE Singapore Sports Council has approved an \$18,000 overseas training grant for the Republic's world silat champion Sheik Alauddin.

Sheik will train in Germany next month and Indonesia in May to prepare for December's biennial World Silat Championships where he will defend his Open class crown which he won in 1990 and 1994.

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The 29-year-old also retained his title in the same category at last December's South-east Asia Games despite having lost 10kg due to illness.

Said the 10-time national champion since 1985: "It is hard to find local sparring partners.

"I spar with a few of them sometimes but because we are of different weight categories I cannot use full force."

Sheik, whose wife Sa'a-

diah is expecting their third child, will leave for Germany once she gives birth early nex month.

In May, he will be training with the Tenaga Dasar — one of the more popular clubs in Jakarta — for two weeks.

During his one-month stint in Germany he will train under Uwe Uhlmann, who is the coach of Andre Mewis, a former world champion turned professional fighter.

The Singaporean will be getting his first taste of sparring against a professional.

Said the Housing Board fitness instructor: "I will train with Mewis and see if I can take the hardship.

"If I find that professional fighting is for me, maybe I'll turn pro."

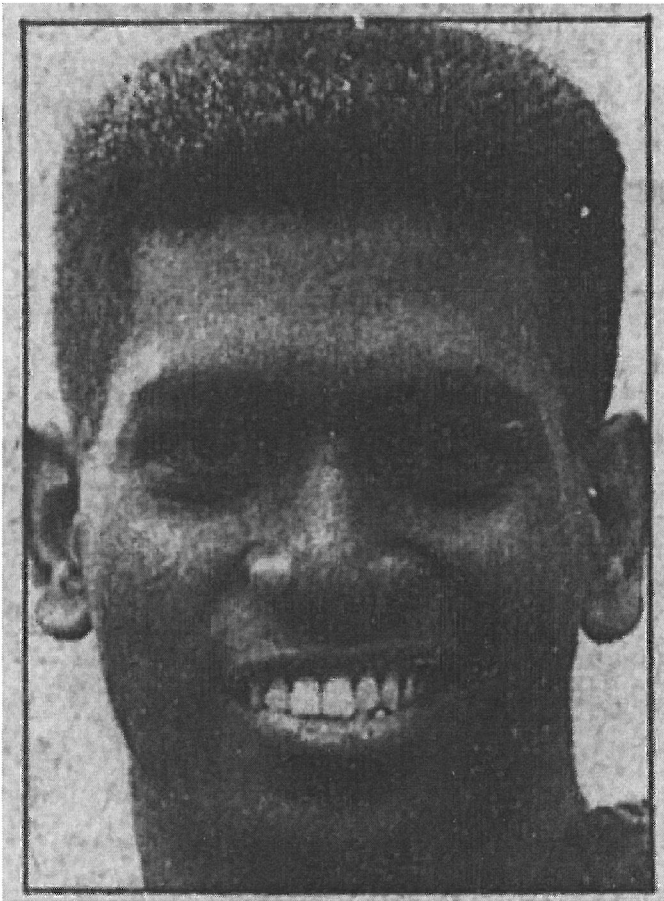
He would be in a position to turn professional by virtue of the world titles he has already won.

Competition on the professional circuit allows for

full-contact sparring and is open to all the top exponents of all forms of martial arts, be it silat, karate or Thai-boxing.

Last year Sheik was given the chance to fight at a \$14,000 professional event in Japan, but he declined the offer.

Other than tournaments, professionals also fight in exhibition matches where the prize money is dependent on how experienced the fighters are.



**Sheik: "It is hard to find local sparring partners."**

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