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Alauddin gives silat golden gleam

The Straits Times, 27 December 1994, Page 26

 Article also available on Microfilm Reel NL19727

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55-60kg category. The Republic also won eight bronzes.

While the success-starved Singapore sports community may have rejoiced in the triumph, one shudders to think that the Thailand-trip would have been missed if not for a silat official advancing money from his own pocket.

Twenty-five fighters have started centralised training for next year's South-east Asia Games in Chiangmai. About 15 will make the trip.

Silat, which is not even a merit sport under the Spex 2000 scheme, looks certain to deliver a couple of golds.

The sport is looking for support from the Singapore Sports Council and Singapore Pools. A world gold medal certifies that it deserves help.

SILAT

IT HAS been a quiet year for silat olahraga in Singapore, lack of finances forcing its exponents to stay at home. International tournaments, such as the Vietnam Invitation, were given a miss.

At home, the only highlight was the national championship.

But silat ended the season with a bang, with Sheik Alauddin winning the men's Open category at the World Championships in Haadyai this month.

The 27-year-old beat competitors from 27 countries for the honour.

Singapore received an added bonus when Hidayat Hosni struck gold in the men's