

Silat star's death a 'tragic misadventure'



The Singapore Silat Federation had regarded Muhammad Nurshahrin Shahrudin (left) as a bright prospect and wanted him to train full-time.

State coroner: He died after taking cocktail of eight drugs, no evidence of foul play

Amir Hussain

By the time he was 21, national martial arts expert Muhammad Nurshahrin Shahrudin had won a gold medal at the Asian Pencak Silat Championship and a bronze at the 2013 SEA Games.

But in March this year, the silat community was shocked to hear

that the rising star was dead. He was found by his father lying unconscious in his bedroom – close to a drawer full of medals and trophies and a wall covered in newspaper reports of his sporting exploits.

On Tuesday, State Coroner Marvin Bay found Nurshahrin's death to be a "tragic misadventure" resulting from a cocktail of eight drugs.

The chief executive officer of the

Singapore Silat Federation (Persisi), Mr Sheik Alau'ddin, had earlier told The Straits Times the federation had regarded Nurshahrin as a bright prospect and wanted him to train full-time.

"We had plans to work with him, to see how he could support Persisi," said Mr Sheik. "He was so talented; he could do (artistic) singles, doubles, team as well as fight."

His cousin and national team colleague, Mr Shakir Juanda, a former world champion, said: "He was fit and a very talented silat exponent."

Calling Nurshahrin's bedroom a

"shrine to his many achievements", the state coroner said his death was "a sad cautionary tale of the hazards of combining medications to achieve a narcotic effect".

A month before he died, Nurshahrin, who had signed on with the army, was arrested for shop theft. He was found with a suspicious-looking tablet and his urine sample tested positive for the sedative nitrazepam as well as morphine and codeine, both painkillers.

He was investigated by the Central Narcotics Bureau.

That month, Nurshahrin told a

bunkmate in Nee Soon Camp that he started taking drugs while studying at the Institute of Technical Education, and that he had also acted as a runner to distribute them.

Another bunkmate said he would sometimes look "stoned". Meanwhile, his camp superior noted he was drowsy and slow in his speech.

A day before Nurshahrin died, two bunkmates saw him with some tablets and a bottle of medication.

He had been unusually exuberant and went around asking everyone to take pictures with him in his bunk before booking out for the weekend that Friday. Later that night, during supper, his family noticed that he was tired and listless.

On March 14, Nurshahrin's father found him unresponsive on his bed and called for an ambulance.

A forensic pathologist found his death to be from "mixed drug intoxication". There was no evidence of foul play or of Nurshahrin having suicidal thoughts, the coroner said.

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Silat athlete's death ruled a misadventure

A combination of drugs killed national silat exponent Muhammad Nurshahrin Shahrudin, a coroner's inquiry found yesterday.

Nurshahrin, 21, an army regular with the Singapore Armed Forces, was found unresponsive by his father in their Pasir Ris Street 12 flat on March 14 this year.

He had admitted to taking drugs occasionally. A month before, he had been arrested and investigated.

In camp, he had appeared to be drowsy and slow in his speech. The day before his death, he was seen holding onto unknown medication.

Non-lethal doses of eight substances, including morphine and codeine, were found in his body.

State Coroner Marvin Bay ruled the death a "tragic misadventure".