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Silat chief goes down for the count

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Silat chief goes down for the count

LOW LIN FHOONG TODAY EXCLUSIVE

After just 3 months, Johari and federation's secretary general told to 'take a break'

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SINGAPORE Silat Federation (SSF) president Johari Mokti has been in office for a little more than three months, and already the silat chief is sitting on the sidelines.

Johari was appointed SSF president at the national sports association's (NSA) annual general meeting (AGM) on June 29.

Subsequently, Johari and 18 members from the sport's 22 affiliate clubs formed the new management committee.

According to sources, Johari and secretary general Saiful Nizam Subari were told three weeks ago to take a break from their respective duties.

The sources claim silat chief Johari and Saiful have come unstuck after failing to carry out two tasks: arranging accommodation for two Indonesian coaches here, and get-

ting new computers for the SSF's office in Bedok.

When contacted by TODAY, secretary general Saiful would only say: "There are some issues that need to be sorted out."

The Singapore Sports Council (SSC) are hoping to resolve the matter with the committee.

Said Ng Eng Soon, SSC's director of NSA management: "We are aware of the matter and are currently in discussion with Singapore Silat Federation's management committee to determine the steps they will be taking to best resolve the issue."

It is believed former president Abdullah Shafiie Sidik has been appointed acting president of the NSA by some members of the committee. Shafiie had lost the presidency to Johari by a slim 11-10 margin after a vote by the NSA's 22 affiliate clubs at the AGM in June.

Shafiie, 50, headed the SSF from 2001 to 2008 and will officiate tonight's flag-raising ceremony for the 10-strong silat contingent selected for the first Asian Beach Games, which will be held in Bali from Oct 18-26.

It has been a messy year for the

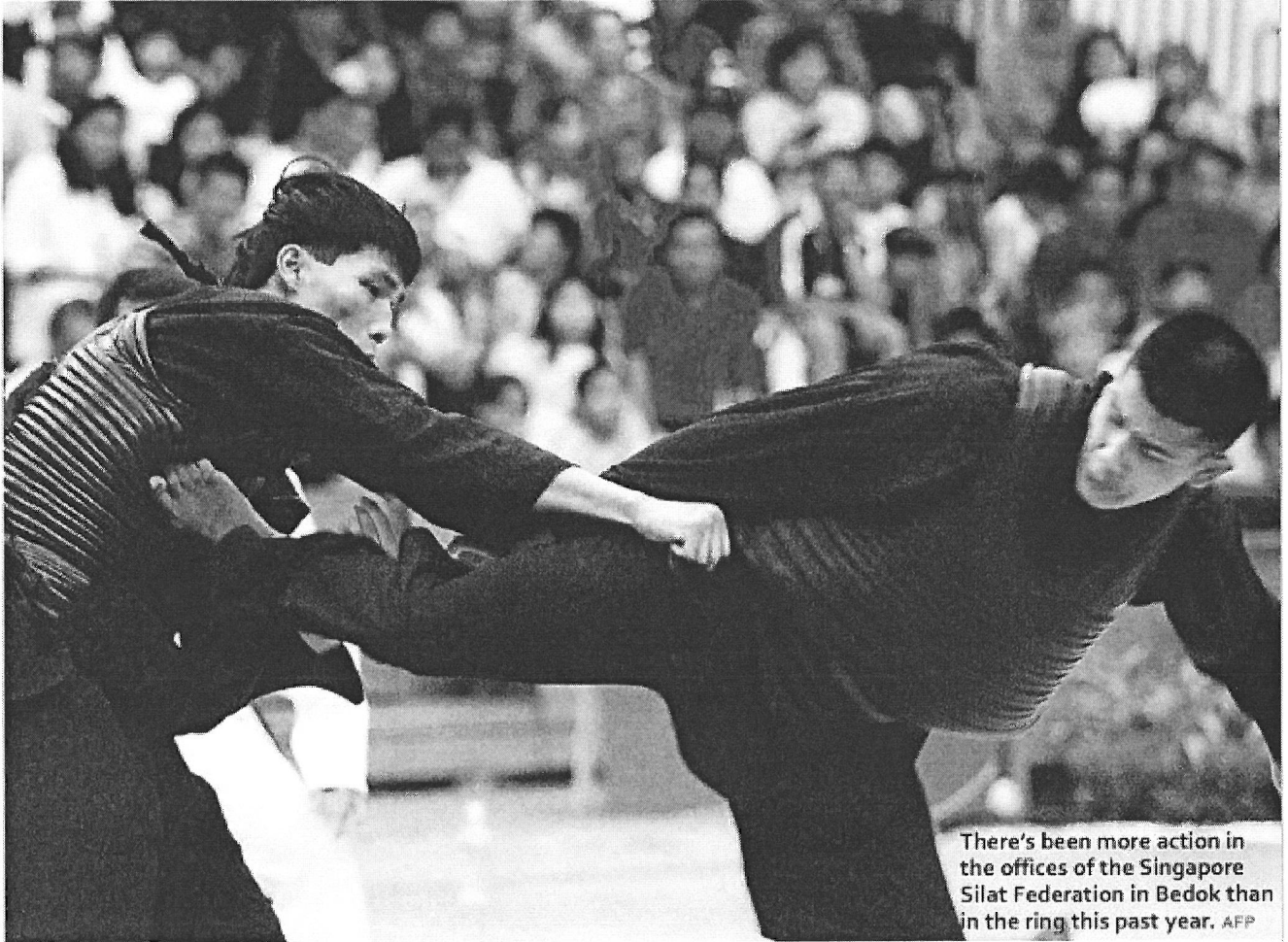
SSF, with the NSA still embroiled in a legal dispute with former world champion (2004, 2007) Muhammad Imran Abdul Rahman.

Imran, the 2005 SEA Games gold medallist, had issued letters of demand to the SSF through his lawyer in March, demanding an apology and compensation for negative comments about his Sports Silat Academy (SSA) made by SSF chief executive director Sheik Alau'ddin Yacoob Marican. The matter has yet to be resolved.

A team of 12 returned from last year's SEA Games in Korat, Thailand with one gold and one bronze medal.

In June, the NSA received between \$1 to \$2 million for FY2008 from the SSC, a cut of around \$60,000 from what it received the previous year.

Now, TODAY has learnt that an extraordinary general meeting (EOGM) will be held at SSF's Bedok headquarters next Thursday, with all 18 positions – including the presidency – in the management committee up for election once again, as the NSA tries to prepare for 2009.



There's been more action in the offices of the Singapore Silat Federation in Bedok than in the ring this past year. AFP

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