

## Singapore good for five golds

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SINGAPORE is aiming for five gold medals when the first Asia Pacific Pencak Silat Championship gets underway at the Singapore Silat Centre of Excellence in Bedok on Sunday.

The three-day tournament has attracted eight Asean teams, including Vietnam, which won six individual gold medals at last year's South-east Asia Games.

It is the first international event to be staged at the new silat centre.

National coach and technical director Sheik Alaudin said his team can win four golds in the men's individual competition and one

### SILAT

in the men's artistic team event. His confidence stems from the Republic's good showing in recent international competitions.

In March, Singaporeans won 10 out of 16 titles at the Sijori Silat Championships, a regional tournament involving Singapore, Johor, Riau and Tanjung Pinang.

It also won four golds and the team title at the Belgian Open.

Former world champion Abdul Kadir Ibrahim has pulled out, and Zulfakar Ramli, who won a silver at the 2000 World Championships, will be Singapore's best hope. — MARC LIM

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