

## Saiedah's appeal against drug ban rejected

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# Saiedah's appeal against drug ban rejected

By / CHAN U-GENE ✉ ugenec@sph.com.sg

THE National Anti-Doping Appeals Committee (NAAC) has turned down silat exponent Saiedah Said's appeal against her two-year suspension from the sport.

It announced yesterday that it is upholding the athlete's ban, which started on June 4, from all sports for testing positive for banned substances at a local meet in April.

At the hearing, Saiedah, 28, was unable to prove that the banned substances, known as Nor-Sibutramine and OHI-Nor Sibutramine, were present in traditional medicine which she took for back pain.

The 2004 world champion and two-time SEA Games bronze medallist had earlier claimed that the banned substances entered her body through the traditional medicine given to her by her mother.

Saiedah tested positive for the banned substances - which are known appetite suppressants - at the National Pencak Silat Championships three months ago.

She was subsequently slapped with the two-year ban by Anti-Doping Singapore.

Despite yesterday's outcome, Sheik Alauddin, chief executive of the Singapore Silat Federation (Persisi), still believed that the athlete did not intentionally consume the banned substances.

He said: "The first time I heard it, I got a shock.

"I have known her for a long time and she has always been a good kid.

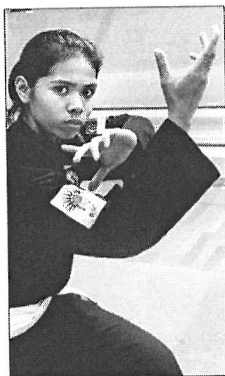
"She spoke to me about it and she swore that she did not do it. I believe her."

Sheik said there was no reason for Saiedah to be doping as the 2005 Sportsgirl of the Year had already left the national fold in March.

He added that Saiedah's ban will not affect Singapore's SEA Games preparations as Persisi has already short-listed a group of 15 athletes to be led by world champion Shakir Juanda.

Yesterday, Saiedah, an employee of the Singapore Civil Defence Force, refused to comment.

**2004 world champion Saiedah Said tested positive for the banned substances at the National Pencak Silat Championships in April. BERITA**



Substance at the National Pencak Silat Championships in April. BERITA HARIAN FILE PHOTO