

Pass: Waiter used master key



When Vijayanthiran's colleague went to deliver the food and did not get a response from the victim, he opened the door with a master electronic keycard, and found her sleeping.

Vijayanthiran was present when his colleague told the supervisor about it.

Vijayanthiran then took another master keycard and went to the victim's room at about mid-

night. He let himself in, and stole the victim's electronic keycard.

Later, he used it three times to enter her room while she was asleep.

The victim woke up at around 4.30am to find Vijayanthiran sleeping beside her with his hand between her thighs.

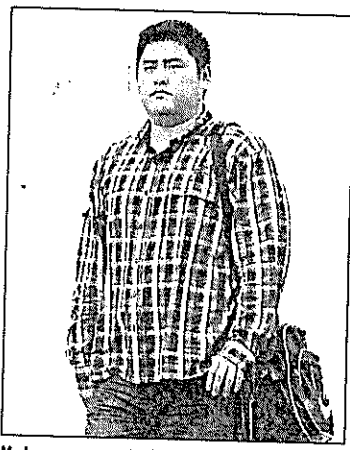
She shouted and immediately rang her colleague and reported the incident.

Vijayanthiran left. The police were called.

In the meantime, the hotel manager took Vijayanthiran and his colleague to the room, where the victim identified Vijayanthiran as the person who had been there.

Five other criminal trespass charges and one of molestation were taken into consideration.

ELENA CHONG



Mr Luan was recruited in 1999 under the Foreign Sports Talent scheme. ST PHOTO: SHAHRIFA YAHAYA

Sacked China athlete sues SAA

Ex-shot putter alleges it broke promises; body denies claims and points to his 'poor showing'

By KHUSHWANT SINGH

HE WAS one of six China-born throwers who moved to Singapore a decade ago, attracted by hopes of a brighter future.

But five years after his sacking, former shot putter Luan Wei is back to sue the Singapore Athletic Association (SAA) for allegedly breaking its promises to him.

The 26-year-old was recruited in 1999 under the Foreign Sports Talent (FST) scheme by the SAA, then known as the Singapore Amateur Athletic Association.

But after spending five years living and training in Singapore, Mr Luan, who became a permanent resident in 2003, was dismissed by the national sports association for poor performance.

In the civil suit that began yesterday, Mr Luan, who returned to China after his dismissal, and his mother, Madam Zhang Ping, are arguing that SAA broke its word by failing to provide him with education, training, allowances and a chance of gaining Singapore citizenship in his five years here.

They are also claiming loss of earnings and expenses arising from the SAA's breach of contract.

No amount has been specified in the statement of claim, but the maximum the Subordinate Courts can award is \$250,000.

Court papers indicate that the sportsman's parents had asked the SAA for \$500,000 as compensation in 2004. This was for what they alleged was "five years wasted" by their son here as he did not receive any formal schooling and proper coaching.

In its defence, the association denies failing to fulfil any terms it had agreed with Mr Luan, who is now studying social science and physical education in a school in Hunan province.

Yesterday, Madam Zhang disagreed with SAA's lawyer, Senior Counsel Giam Chin Toon, that she had exaggerated by saying her son was about to start university in 1999 when he was actually studying at the Shanghai Second Sports School.

The lawyer also pointed out that Mr Luan was training under a former Olympic silver medallist and not a gold medallist, as his mother had claimed.

Madam Zhang, 54, said these errors could be due to translation difficulties. She added that the family was attracted to the offer from SAA president Loh Lin Kok when they met in May 1999.

The mother had asked if the terms were to be listed in a contract, but Mr Loh, 62, is alleged to have said it was not necessary as he was the association's president and an international lawyer by reputation. The other officials at the meeting could also vouch for his sincerity, he is said to have added.

One of them, Mr Steven Lee Thong How, 53, SAA's vice-president then, will be testifying for the sportsman and his mother later.

In its opening statement, the association said the case was "all huff and puff about alleged broken promises", with no regard to whether Mr Luan had reached the standard required of him to participate in the Asian, Commonwealth and Olympic games.

The SAA also intends to show that despite Mr Luan's personal best of 17.17m achieved in May 2003, his median distance for the five years here, based on his recorded performances, was only 16.38m.

On top of his inability to improve his throwing distance to the target of 18m set for him, the association said Mr Luan also displayed a poor attitude towards training and failed to cooperate with a new coach.

The FST scheme created a stir earlier this year, when rising badminton star Riky Widianto quit the national team after complaining that he was told to either take up citizenship or leave.

The hearing is expected to continue till Friday.

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