



REFUTE: Rajendran 'Pal' Kurusamy denies fixing the Timor Leste versus Malaysia SEA Games football match. PHOTO: TNP FILE

S'porean, 3 others charged with fixing SEA Games match

Report by RONALD LOH
rloh@sph.com.sg

Four people were charged yesterday morning with trying to fix a SEA Games football match.

Rajendran "Pal" Kurusamy, 55, was the only Singaporean among them.

He is said to have conspired with Indonesian Nasiruddin, 52, and Timor Leste national Moises Natalino De Jesus, 32.

They allegedly met Timor Leste's football team manager Orlando Marques Henriques Mendes, 49, who is also the technical director of the Timor Leste football federation, at Orchid Country Club on Wednesday, where the three men offered \$15,000 to Orlando to throw the match against Malaysia.

He allegedly accepted the bribe.

The arrests were made during an operation that began late in the evening on Thursday and lasted through the morning, the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) said in an earlier press release.



MATCH: Malaysia beat Timor Leste 1-0 last night.

TNP PHOTO: GAVIN FOO

Timor Leste met Malaysia in their football match last night. Malaysia won 1-0. (See match report on page S7.)

Yesterday morning, Rajendran and Orlando denied the charge in court.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Nicholas Khoo requested for the four men to be remanded a week for further investigations.

He said that not all the people involved in the CPIB investigations have been apprehended.

Rajendran and his co-accused will be

back in court on Friday.

The SEA Games football tournament kicked off on Friday.

The CPIB said that day that it had been monitoring football match-fixing activities.

Some members of the Timor Leste SEA Games football team have also been called up for investigations.

If found guilty of corruption, Rajendran and his co-accused could be jailed up to five years and fined up to \$100,000.