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19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Prestige Partner

Enjoy E-mobility @ the Asian Games with Geely



Zhejiang Geely Holding Group was founded in 1986 and entered the automotive industry in 1997. Since then, it has grown with a dedication towards technological innovation, talent cultivation, tempering of core strengths, sustainability. Geely has developed into a global enterprise engaged in the design, R&D, production, sales, and service of vehicles, powertrains, and key components. The Group is in the midst of transforming into a global mobility technology enterprise engaged in the fields of mobility services, digital technology, financial services, education, sports, and other business. In 2019, Geely Holding Group was listed on the Fortune Global 500 for eight consecutive years with annual sales of over 2.17 million vehicles, assets totaling over 330 billion RMB, and employing more than 120,000 people.

Headquartered in Hangzhou, the group owns several brands including Geely Auto, Lynk & Co, Geometry, Volvo Cars, Polestar, PROTON, Lotus, London Electric Vehicle Company, Farizon Auto, Terrafugia, CAOCAO, Qianjiang Motorcycle, Joma, Saxo Bank, Mitime Group, etc. The group and its subsidiaries have set up a global development network with R&D and design centres located around the world. The Group operates world-class manufacturing facilities in China, US, UK, Sweden, Belgium, Belarus, and Malaysia. Geely is also the largest shareholder in Volvo AB and Daimler AG.

In April 2019, Geely Holding Group became the official prestige partner of the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou. Under the slogan "Enjoy E-mobility @ the Asian Games with Geely," the Group will empower the games with green, intelligent, and humanistic technologies. Geely will develop a series of full autonomous mobility solutions by 2022 to service the 19th Asian Games.



GEEELY
吉利控股集团

杭州2022年亚运会官方合作伙伴
Official Prestige Partner of the 19th Asian Game Hangzhou 2022

SPORTING ASIA

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FRONT COVER:

The front covers of the previous 49 editions of Sporting Asia form the figure "50" to mark the 50th edition of the OCA's official newsletter.

President's Message

OCA'S SPORTING ASIA NEWSLETTER TURNS 50

Welcome to the landmark 50th edition of the OCA's official newsletter, Sporting Asia.

In cricket parlance, Sporting Asia has hit an unbeaten half-century and is looking to build on this solid start as the Olympic Movement in Asia continues to thrive and prosper.

The OCA launched Sporting Asia in 2009 to mark the inauguration of the new OCA HQ building in Kuwait and at the beginning of a year that would see three OCA multi-sport games.

The aim of Sporting Asia was to provide a platform for the OCA, our National Olympic Committees and games organising committees to report on their events and activities on a quarterly basis.

Sporting Asia expanded quickly from eight pages in March 2009 to 36 pages and added an online version for download around the world.

So I would like to thank our NOCs, games organising committees and other stakeholders for contributing to the "50 not out" of Sporting Asia and look forward to your continued support.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the OCA had no option but to postpone our sixth Asian Beach Games in Sanya, China to the spring of 2021. The new dates are April 2-10.

We have been monitoring the situation very closely all year with our friends and colleagues from the Chinese Olympic Committee and Sanya Asian Beach Games Organising Committee and the decision to postpone the event was taken jointly by the three parties and announced on August 10.

The original dates were November 28 to December 6, 2020, but now we will have to wait a few more months to visit the beautiful



resort city of Sanya on tropical Hainan Island.

I can assure you it will be well worth the wait, and I thank all the National Olympic Committees for your support, understanding and unity.



There was much for Asia to celebrate at the 136th IOC Session, which was held virtually for the first time in Olympic history on July 17.

Two of the five new IOC Members elected are from Asia, while Asia provides one of four IOC Vice Presidents and a new member of the 15-strong Executive Board.

The OCA is proud of these achievements, which reflect the standing of Asia as a major partner in the global Olympic movement.

Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah
President, Olympic Council of Asia

OCA SPONSORS' CLUB





UZBEKISTAN and Turkmenistan NOCs held an online video conference on June 5 to discuss bilateral sports cooperation. The Secretary General of each NOC plus the respective ambassadors of the two countries and other representatives joined in the conference. The topics included joint training camps in strong Uzbek sports such as boxing, judo, weightlifting and wrestling and cooperation in sports medicine and pharmacology. Turkmenistan, having staged a successful Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games at Ashgabat in 2017 and with world-class venues for aquatics and track cycling, is ready to support the preparations of Tashkent in hosting the Asian Youth Games in 2025. (<http://olympic.uz>)



NEPAL Olympic Committee Vice President Chaturananda Rajvaidya has been appointed the first Executive Director of the NOC. Rajvaidya, who is President of the All Nepal Table Tennis Association, is pictured with NOC President and Member of Parliament the Hon. Jeevan Ram Shrestha (right) and Treasurer Ratan Tandon.



CHINESE Taipei Olympic Committee hosted the annual International Sports Affairs Inheritance Workshop on June 19 and June 24 in Kaohsiung and Taipei. The keynote speakers included former IOC Member Wu Ching-Kuo, OCA Women and Sport Committee member Jacqueline Shen Yi-Ting and Jack Huang, Vice President of the International Equestrian Federation. The workshop consisted of four courses: Current Trends in International Sports Affairs, Professional Experience Sharing, Practice on International Law and Practice on International Negotiation. Participation was restricted to 40 people per workshop.



THE Indian Olympic Association has adopted a new identity and logo to celebrate and mark the 100-year milestone of being part of the Olympic Games. In a joint statement on July 6, IOA President Dr. Narinder Dhruv Batra and IOA Secretary General Rajeev Mehta said: "The new logo is a symbol of our country's identity and our values in sport...to be carried with pride as our athletes take to the world stage."



KAZAKHSTAN NOC's Vice President for International Cooperation, Andrey Kryukov, has been appointed interim Secretary General by order of the NOC President until the next General Assembly. The previous Secretary General, Saken Mussaibekov, was appointed Vice Minister of Culture and Sport of Kazakhstan on May 6. Andrey holds posts in FINA, the Asia Swimming Federation, WADA and ANOC and is a member of the OCA Rules Committee.



PALESTINE Olympic Committee President Maj. Gen. Jibril Rajoub and the President of the Asian Athletics Association, Dahlan Al Hamad of Qatar, opened a 12-day training course in the southern governorates. The POC President said Qatar was a model to follow in terms of developing sport and hosting international sports events. He thanked the Qatari people and the leadership, led by HH the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, for his support of Palestine.

IRAN NOC President Dr. Seyed Reza Salehi Amiri believes the newly inaugurated Iranian Sports Hall of Fame inside the National Sport, Olympic and Paralympic Museum will connect the past, present and future by recognising the achievements of former athletes, encouraging the athletes of today and inspiring a new generation. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Minister of Sport and Youth, the Minister of Tourism, the Mayor of Tehran and other top-ranking sports officials.





WITH the collaboration of Kyrgyz Republic NOC and the Asian Kickboxing Confederation, the Kyrgyzstan Kickboxing Federation organised a post-lockdown seminar for judges and referees on June 12-13. More than 50 people took part in the events, which were held at Osh and Jalal-Abad in the south and Bishkek in the north. NOC Secretary General Salamat Ergeshov said: "The Asian Kickboxing Confederation has been established 24 years in Bishkek and we have great collaboration with its President, Mr Nasser Nassiri; we always support their activities."



TEAM Singapore golfers Jen Goh, Shannon Tan and Hailey Loh deliver masks and laptops to the community as part of the Singapore National Olympic Council's "Circuit Breaker Buddy" programme to provide relief for vulnerable students unable to attend school during the pandemic. A total of 24 athletes are involved in the programme. (Photo: Singapore Golf Association).



MONGOLIA NOC signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on June 5 with the Korea Sport Coach Federation and Korea Boxing Agency to promote sports, athletes and coaches and to conduct exchange programmes involving sports experts from the two countries.

(Mongolian News Agency – Montsame)



AFGHANISTAN Olympic Committee President Dr. Hafizollah Wali Rahimi praised the unity and support of the national federations in developing the sports scene throughout the country.

He was speaking at a function for all national federations and awarded the leaders with a memento

OLYMPIC Council of Malaysia President Dato' Sri Mohamad Norza Zakaria welcomed the Sports Commissioner of Malaysia, Dr. Wirdati Mohd Radzi, to the OCM HQ in Kuala Lumpur on Monday, June 22, accompanied by Hajah Siti Nazariah Abdul Razak, the Chief Assistant Sports Commissioner. "We are looking forward to renewing the working relationship between the OCM and the Sports Commissioner's Office," said the OCM President.



BHUTAN Olympic Committee commemorated Social Forestry Day on June 2 by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bhutan Ecological Society to beautify sports venues. The event was marked with the planting of fruit tree saplings at the skate park in Bebena, Thimphu. Under the MoU, similar saplings will be planted around football fields and other open spaces managed by Bhutan NOC. (BBS Media)



LEADING officials of the United Arab Emirates NOC and the General Authority of Sport discussed the technical and logistical preparation of athletes for this year's 6th Asian Beach Games in Sanya, China. The online meeting started with an offering of thanks to Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, President of the NOC, for supporting all athletes in all sporting events. (Photo: UAE NOC)

TAJKISTAN NOC, with the help of Olympic Solidarity, extended its financial assistance to 15 athletes in six sports preparing for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. The amount ranged from US\$200 to US\$950 per month for the second quarter of 2020. The 15 athletes included boxers Bahodur Usmonov and Shab-bos Negmatulloev, who have already qualified for the Tokyo Olympics.

(<http://www.olympic.tj>)



OCA CULTURE COMMITTEE DISCUSSES 'NEW WAVE' PROJECT AND ASIAN GAMES YOUTH CAMP 2022

The OCA Culture Committee held a virtual meeting on Saturday, June 27 via the Zoom video conference link. A total of 14 participants joined in the 90-minute meeting.

The Chair of the OCA Culture Committee, Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, began the meeting by saying how proud and honoured she was on being appointed Chair of the IOC Culture and Olympic Heritage Commission.

The IOC Member from Thailand said: "I am sure that my work with the OCA Culture Committee can help me in my new role as Chair of the IOC Culture and Olympic Heritage Commission and that we can achieve our goals together. I would like to thank the OCA and IOC for the responsibility they have placed in me."

The meeting focused on two main topics: an expo and festival running alongside OCA multi-sport events and proposals for an Asian youth cultural camp at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China in 2022.

Francis Wanandi, who was a Director of the 2018 Indonesian Asian Games Organising Committee, made a presentation entitled "OCA New Wave" which highlighted global sports trends, market research and sponsor expectations.

Festivals of food, fashion and music could add a cultural flavour to sporting events and attract a new audience, while a sports museum and forum could be incorporated into an expo/convention, he said.



IOC Member Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul chairs the OCA Culture Committee meeting on June 27. (Photo: OCA)

The Director General of the OCA, Husain Al-Musallam, said the scale of the OCA New Wave project would depend on the size of the games, with the Asian Games at the top and the Asian Beach Games and Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games on a smaller scale.

The OCA's Director of International and NOC Relations, Vinod Tiwari, outlined plans for an Asian youth camp at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou from September 10-25, 2022.

Similar to the Asian youth camp held during the Guangzhou Asian Games in 2010, which involved 180 participants aged from 14-17, the camp in 2022 would focus on art and culture, music and dance, culinary activities and drawing and painting, he said.



The OCA Culture Committee virtual meeting is in progress.

OCA TEAMS UP WITH GEF TO PROMOTE ESPORTS

The OCA President, HE Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, announced a strategic partnership with the Singapore-based Global Esports Federation on June 24 to promote and develop electronic sports throughout Asia.

“The OCA looks forward to working with the Global Esports Federation in serving the youth of Asia,” Sheikh Ahmad said.

“One of the big stories of our time is esports - and the OCA is pleased to join forces with the GEF to maximise the potential of esports.”

The GEF President, Chris Chan, added: “In partnering with the OCA we acknowledge the depth and breadth of progressive innovation in this dynamic, youthful continent.

“Together we will convene a partnership focused on advancing forward-thinking and future-oriented initiatives in service to athletes, players and youth.



“We are grateful to the OCA President and Executive Board for their trust and confidence and we look forward to doing big things together.”

The OCA has been recognised as a pioneer in advancing the direction of esports, introducing esports for the first time at the 2007 Asian Indoor Games in Macau, China.

NOTE: The GEF was launched on December 16, 2019 in Singapore. Tencent, one of the world’s leading technology companies, is the Founding Global Partner.



OCA VP Song Luzeng

OCA VP SONG TO ADVISE GEF

The Global Esports Federation confirmed the appointment of OCA Vice President Song Luzeng as Senior Adviser to the Board on July 2.

The Chinese sports official, who is Chairman of the OCA Sports Committee, has close to 40 years’ experience in the Olympic movement with the Chinese Olympic Committee, Olympic Games bidding and organising committees and with the OCA.

“I am honoured to take on this new opportunity and thank the GEF President and Board for entrusting me with this new mission,” he said. (Photo: GEF)

OCA HAILS 'MODERN, DYNAMIC' IHF LOGO

OCA Director General Husain Al-Musallam has congratulated the International Handball Federation on its new logo.

“The logo of an International Federation is always very distinctive and gives the sport a unique identity and appeal,” said Mr. Al-Musallam.

“This new logo of the IHF is modern and dynamic and will really enhance the profile of handball in the Olympic sports movement.”



The IHF unveiled a refreshed and updated logo on July 12 during the first-ever International Handball Week.

“The OCA will continue to work hand in hand with the Asian Handball Federation and International Handball Federation to promote and develop the sport throughout the continent,” said Mr. Al-Musallam.

OCA WELCOMES BACK 361 AS ASIAN GAMES PARTNER

The Olympic Council of Asia has welcomed back 361 Sport as a Prestige Partner for the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China from September 10-25, 2022.

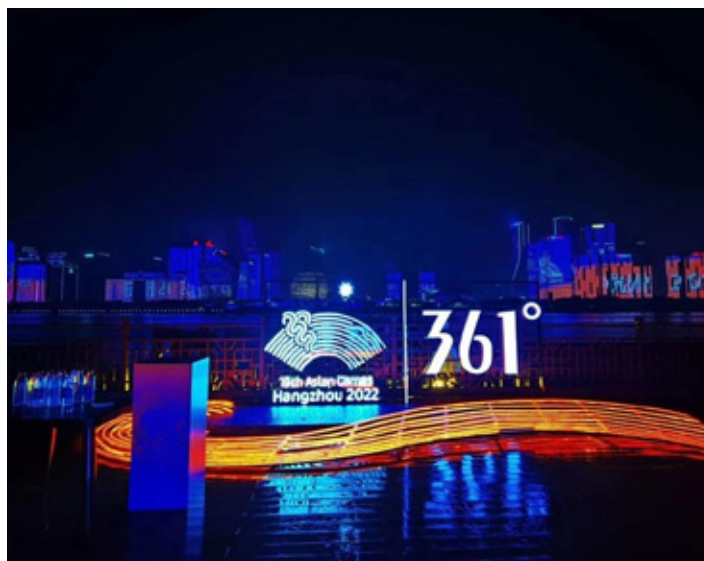
This will be the fourth consecutive Asian Games for the prestigious Chinese sports apparel brand to support the OCA's showpiece event.

The partnership began with the Guangzhou Asian Games in 2010 and continued through Incheon 2014 and Jakarta-Palembang 2018.

"The OCA is proud and delighted to welcome back 361 Sport into the Asian Games family," said the OCA President, HE Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah.

"They have become a valued and trusted partner of the Asian Games and have played a big part in the continued success of our event with their innovative and creative ideas and products."

361 will be the official sports apparel supplier for Hangzhou 2022 and their distinctive designs and colours will add value to the Asian Games in many areas. The contract with organising committee HAGOC was signed on June 21.



361 joins the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou.

Chen Weiqiang, Deputy Secretary General of HAGOC and Vice Mayor of Hangzhou, added: "They have a rich history in supporting the Asian Games. We hope they can integrate the concept of 'green', 'intelligent', 'frugality' and 'civilised' into the design."

19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Prestige Partner

A large graphic banner for the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022. The banner features a red and blue background with a grid pattern. On the left, there is a vertical timeline with the year 2022 repeated. In the center, the 19th Asian Games logo and the 361° logo are displayed. Below the logos, the text reads "杭州2022年第19届亚运会官方合作伙伴" and "Official Prestige Partner of 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022". At the bottom, the slogan "热爱造未来" (Love creates the future) is written in large, stylized Chinese characters.

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON BASEBALL-SOFTBALL COMPLEX

Following their return to the Olympic Games in Tokyo next summer, baseball and softball will be able to capitalise on this upsurge in popularity at the 19th Asian Games in 2022.

And they will have a brand new home to do it!

A four-field baseball-softball complex is being built in Shaoxing city, 52km from Hangzhou, and consists of two baseball fields and two softball fields.

Construction work began in June and is scheduled to finish by October 2021 – giving organisers plenty of time to complete the overlay and hold test events in the months before the 19th Asian Games in September 2022.

The four ballparks are at the core of a wider construction project, which is set to improve the surrounding facilities and create a future community where the sports industry, city culture and natural ecology are integrated.

The Chinese Baseball Association and Chinese Softball Association will work together with the venue owner

and local sports authorities to attract international events. The complex will also serve as a training hub for the Chinese national teams after the 2022 Asian Games. (Photo: WBSC)



An artist's impression of the new baseball and softball complex.

19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Prestige Partner



杭州2022年亚运会官方合作伙伴
Official Prestige Partner of the 19th Asian Game Hangzhou 2022

长龙行 亚运情

FLY LOONGAIR FOR AMAZING ASIAN GAMES



ASIAN GAMES PROFILE GROWS AROUND HANGZHOU

Excitement is building around Hangzhou city and Zhejiang province in eastern China ahead of the 19th Asian Games in September 2022.

With the fan-shaped emblem, sporty mascot triplets Congcong, Lianlian and Chenchen and the “Heart to Heart, @Future” slogan in the public domain, all the elements are in place to begin the systematic promotion of the next Asian Games.

Organising committee HAGOC has already stepped up the public awareness campaign and this is in evidence around the city – and even at the airport with the brightly decorated planes of Prestige Partner Loongair.

Not only do the emblem, mascots and futuristic slogan reflect the rich history and culture of Hangzhou, they also highlight the dynamism of the modern city as a high-tech, internet capital of China.

Furthermore, they will be incorporated into the daily activities and regular promotional events of the organising committee and contribute to other aspects of the Asian Games such as the sport pictograms, the official “look” of the games and also the eye-catching signage around the venues and the city.



The countdown clock and mascots at Wulin Square in downtown Hangzhou on July 27. (Photo: © Xiao Da/China Daily)



The Asian Games-decorated Loongair jet.

19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Prestige Partner



杭州2022年亚运会官方合作伙伴
Official Prestige Partner of the 19th Asian Game Hangzhou 2022



A FUTURE WITH INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

HANGZHOU 2022, AICHI-NAGOYA 2026 TEAM UP TO PRODUCE VIDEO FOR NEXT TWO ASIAN GAMES

The organising committees of the next two Asian Games have jointly produced a three-minute video to celebrate hosting the continent's biggest sports event.

Hangzhou 2022 and Aichi-Nagoya 2026 worked together for several months in deciding a theme and content to promote not only the spirit of the Asian Games but the attractions and historical beauty of the next two host cities.

The video opens with a quick look at the Asian Games of Guangzhou 2010, Incheon 2014 and Jakarta-Palembang 2018 before focusing on Hangzhou and Nagoya.

The highlight is when two runners – one in Hangzhou and the other in Nagoya – run step by step as a symbol of team work and unity before waving to each other as they continue their separate journeys.

Detailed discussions between the two organising committees HAGOC and AINAGOC were held in November 2019 and a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed in January, with the full support and approval of the OCA.

Production was completed in April and the film was released to a global audience on July 21.



The two runners, in Hangzhou and Nagoya, promote the Asian Games.

19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Prestige Partner



杭州2022年亚运会官方合作伙伴
Official Prestige Partner of the 19th Asian Game Hangzhou 2022



赋能未来

SABGOC RELEASES OFFICIAL PROMO SONG FOR ABG

The organising committee of the 6th Asian Beach Games in Sanya city, Hainan province, has released the official promotional song.

Entitled "See ya in Sanya", the song was aired publically for the first time on July 19 to mark the first anniversary of the formation of the organising committee SABGOC.

The video runs for 4 minutes, 36 seconds and the song is performed by Hainan-born pop singers Chen Chusheng and Su Yunying.

With lyrics by Zheng Hai and music by Zhou Yi, the song says the Asian Beach Games will bring "friends near and far under the same star" and that Sanya is "a place to belong, a place to throng".

"See ya in Sanya; mi casa es su casa," is the opening and closing line, and the song touches on the Sanya legend of the sea meeting the sky and also the symbol of the city, the deer.

The 6th Asian Beach Games were due to take place from November 28 to December 6, 2020 but have been postponed to April 2-10, 2021.

In other news from Sanya, the slogan, logo, nickname and theme song for the 12,000 ABG volunteers were announced on July 19 and reflect the pride and passion of the local people. They were chosen from more than 900 entries.



The opening performance of the theme song "See ya in Sanya". (Photo: SABGOC)

SANYA 2020 UNVEILS MEDALS

With the approval of the Olympic Council of Asia, the designs for the medals of the 6th Asian Beach Games were released to the public on June 19.

The medals possess rich Sanya characteristics, with the event emblem and Sanya's distinctive Tianya Haijiao rock formation in the upper part of the front side. The curved lines around the lower part symbolise the unique marine elements of the bay, waves and beaches in the tropical city.

On the back of the medal is the emblem of the Olympic Council of Asia. The side of the medal features the words "Welcome to Tianya Haijiao" in English.



The front and back of the medals for the Sanya ABG.

NEW MAYOR IN SANYA

SABGOC informed the OCA on June 17 that a new city mayor had been appointed in Sanya. Due to a change in job duty, the Vice President and Secretary General of SABGOC has been changed from Mr. A Dong, the previous Mayor of Sanya city, to Mr. Bao Hongwen, incumbent Executive Mayor of Sanya city.



"We believe that, under his leadership, the cooperation and friendship between OCA and SABGOC will be even closer," said Zhou Jun, Deputy Secretary General of SABGOC and Vice Mayor of Sanya.

OLYMPIC DAY has been celebrated on or around June 23 every year since 1948 to mark the founding of the International Olympic Committee in Paris on June 23, 1894.

This year was different, however, as the “new normal” lifestyle brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic forced National Olympic Committees to come up with some innovative and creative activities. Over the next 12 pages, Sporting Asia reports on Olympic Day 2020 around the continent.



MALDIVES Olympic Committee invited National Sports Associations, athletes, officials and sports enthusiasts to celebrate Olympic Day 2020 online.

“Join us by posting videos, photographs and inspirational messages by simply using the hashtags #StayActive, #StayHealthy, #StayStrong and #Olympicday2020 and tagging the Maldives Olympic Committee.

“We will keep sharing your posts on our page.”



BANGLADESH Olympic Association, in association with the National Olympic Academy of Bangladesh, distributed 4,000 Olympic information notebooks to secondary schools, National Federations and other stakeholders, reported Brigadier General Fakhruddin Haider (Retd), Director General, Bangladesh Olympic Association.



THE CHINESE Olympic Committee and Beijing 2022 organised a “#StayStrong” livestream featuring over 350 Chinese athletes and medallists of different generations.

A number of Chinese athletes also took part in an Olympic Day workout led by IOC Member Zhang Hong.



WITH 2020 marking the 100th anniversary of the Korean Sport & Olympic Committee, the KSOC launched an online Olympic Day celebration on June 23 to engage with the public. The online challenge ran until July 7 and offered prizes for sharing photos or videos of workout/exercise sessions.

The purpose was to encourage nationwide participation through social media at a time when staying healthy and ensuring social distancing was becoming increasingly important.

Olympic Day in Afghanistan

AFGHANISTAN NOC held competitions in eight sports – shooting, archery, golf, tennis, swimming, cycling, BMX and canoeing –

on June 23 in the presence of NOC President Dr. Hafizollah Wali Rahimi. Trophies were handed out at a closing ceremony.



LAOS NOC held an Olympic Day celebration at Kaysone city, Savannakhet province on Friday, July 24.

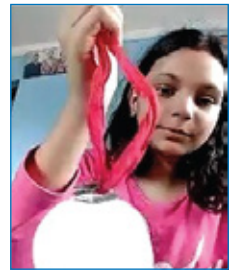
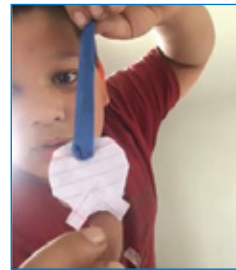
More than 1,800 people took part in walking-jogging, mini marathon of 5km and 10km for youth, adults and seniors, tug

of war, cycling and cultural shows by Oudomvilay High School, Savanh High School and Phonsavanh High School.

The NOC partners were Lao Brewery Co. Ltd. and Football Thai Goods Factory Ltd.



Olympic Day in Nepal



NEPAL Olympic Committee President and Member of Parliament the Hon. Jeevan Ram Shrestha planted a tree to mark Olympic Day 2020 and hoisted the flag of Nepal at a ceremony at the NOC HQ on June 23 held in conjunction with the Sport For All Commission.

NOC Secretary General Nilendra Raj Shrestha raised the IOC flag. A Zoom conference among the Nepal sports community followed the ceremony. Meanwhile, the National Olympic Academy of Nepal organised a virtual Arts and Crafts Workshop in coordination with the NK Singh Memorial School.



PALESTINE Olympic Committee President Maj. Gen. Jibril Rajoub opened National Olympic Week on July 20, accompanied by Father Ibrahim Faltas from the John Paul II Foundation in the Middle East.

The activities included the inauguration of the National Olympic Academy, the Sports Court and the Olympic Sports Medical Centre.

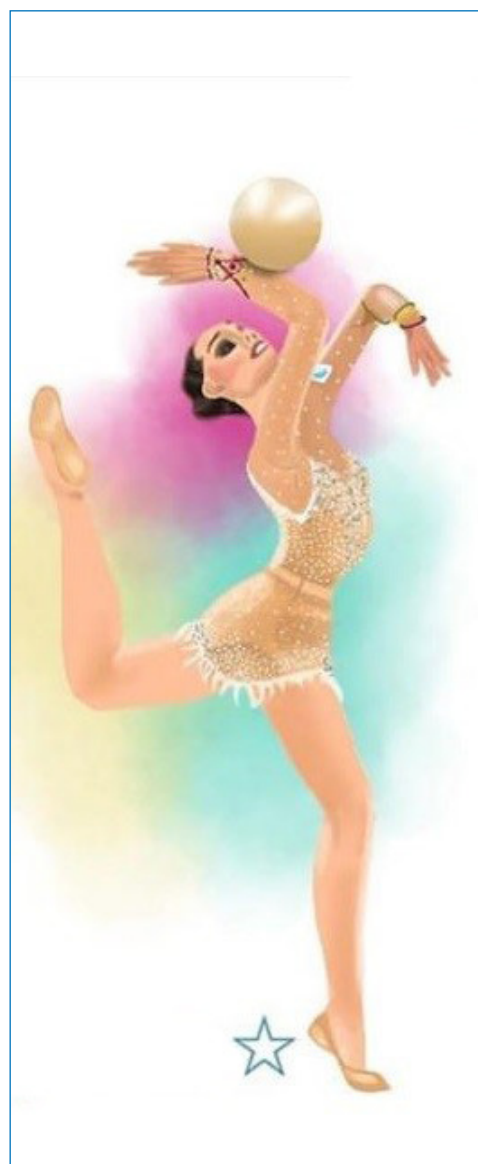
The week-long celebrations included an international kickboxing women's seminar via Zoom on July 24-25 and an athletics meet.



Olympic Day in Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan NOC celebrated Olympic Day for the 27th time. The theme this year was "The Olympics Start With Childhood" and the many activities included a children's painting competition. The results can be seen here in the Sporting Asia Art Gallery. Congratulations to all!





Olympic Day in Sri Lanka

SRI LANKA NOC organised a three-and-a-half-hour Virtual Olympic Day at its Colombo HQ on June 23.

As well as a tree-planting campaign, a torch-lighting ceremony and relay and sports demonstration, the online session involved messages and greetings from around the world, including IOC

President Thomas Bach.

NOC President Suresh Subramaniam, Secretary General Maxwell de Silva, Academic Programmes Director B.L.H Perera and Olympic hero Susanthika Jayasinghe were among those who took part.



Olympic Day in Chinese Taipei

CHINESE TAIPEI Olympic Committee's celebrations kicked off with the formation of a dragon boat team with international partners from Australia and Japan called "Olympic Friendship".

On Olympic Day itself, CTOC staff held a flash event in front of the historical Red House Theatre and live-streamed a workout at the famous Rainbow pedestrian crossing.

CTOC, led by President Lin Hong-Dow, also held promotional events such as a "meet-up session" with elite athletes and the delegation's uniform launch show for Tokyo 2020 at the Sports Industry Expo.



Olympic Day in Uzbekistan

UZBEKISTAN NOC held a series of events from June 15 through to Olympic Day. These included a Zoom Olympic Day greeting party on June 20 for athletes, coaches, sports federation leaders and national artists, a virtual racing programme for

500 participants, an “Olympiad – is” project through various media platforms, online competitions in sports such as karate, taekwondo, cycling, archery, equestrian and rowing and staff activities at the Metropolitan Museum of Olympic Glory.



IRAN NOC's Olympic Day Sport, Art and Literature competition attracted 372 entries in painting (137), photography (55), short film (102), short story (66) and cartoon (12).

The winners were announced on July 22 and were awarded a certificate of 2020 Olympic Day and souvenir gifts.



SQUASH champion Abdullah Al Tamimi and Tokyo 2020-bound shooter Mohamed Al Rumaihi were among the Qatari athletes who took part in the Qatar Olympic Committee's online celebrations on June 23.

QOC President Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani said the QOC was determined to celebrate Olympic Day annually to spread the Olympic values. (Photo: Qatar Tribune)



SAUDI Arabian Olympic Committee President HRH Prince Abdulaziz ibn Turki Alfaisal welcomed the participants to the first monthly online video conference to mark Olympic Day on June 23.

The topic was sports governance and the two special guests were Jérôme Poivey, Head of Institutional Relations and Governance at the IOC, and Dr Donald Rukare, Advocate at the High Court of Uganda and Secretary General of the Uganda Olympic Committee.



Olympic Day in Asia

TAJIKISTAN NOC awarded 50 of the country's famous athletes and long-serving veterans of the sports industry with souvenirs at an Olympic Day function on June 23.

Rahmonzoda Abdullo, Chairman of the Committee for Youth

Affairs and Sport, and NOC Secretary General Abdullozoda Muhammadsho handed out the souvenirs. It was noted that sport in Tajikistan was a priority and had received the personal attention of Emomali Rahmon, President of the country and the NOC.



VIETNAM'S Olympic Day Run in downtown Ho Chi Minh City on July 12 attracted 5,000 runners over 4.5km and 2km. The 25,000 spectators lining the streets were entertained by 2,000 school children from 36 elementary schools.



YEMEN Olympic Committee Vice President Nazmeh Abdul Salam Othman and Secretary General Muhammad Al-Hajri participated in the Olympic Day celebrations on June 23 when 120 athletes from eight sports - judo, taekwondo, wushu, athletics, table tennis, cycling, tennis and fencing - took part in a series of events at various venues. The NOC provided masks and gloves and undertook strict hygiene measures in light of the coronavirus pandemic. All athletes who participated received a certificate.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES 'SUPER DAN'

Two-time Olympic badminton champion Lin Dan announced his retirement from the sport on July 4.

The 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games MVP said that his body would no longer allow him to compete at the top level and that now, in his 37th year, he had to call it a day.

"From 2000 to 2020 it's been 20 years since I joined the national team. Now, I am saying goodbye," the 2008 and 2012 Olympic champion announced on Weibo, China's Twitter-like social media platform.

He thanked his family, coaches, teammates and fans for accompanying him through the ups and downs of an illustrious career that has also seen him crowned world champion on five occasions.

Not only is he a badminton legend in China, Asia and the world, he is also one of the country's most iconic and charismatic sports figures of the past two

decades. Lin captivated many with his unyielding spirit, persistence and fight on the court.

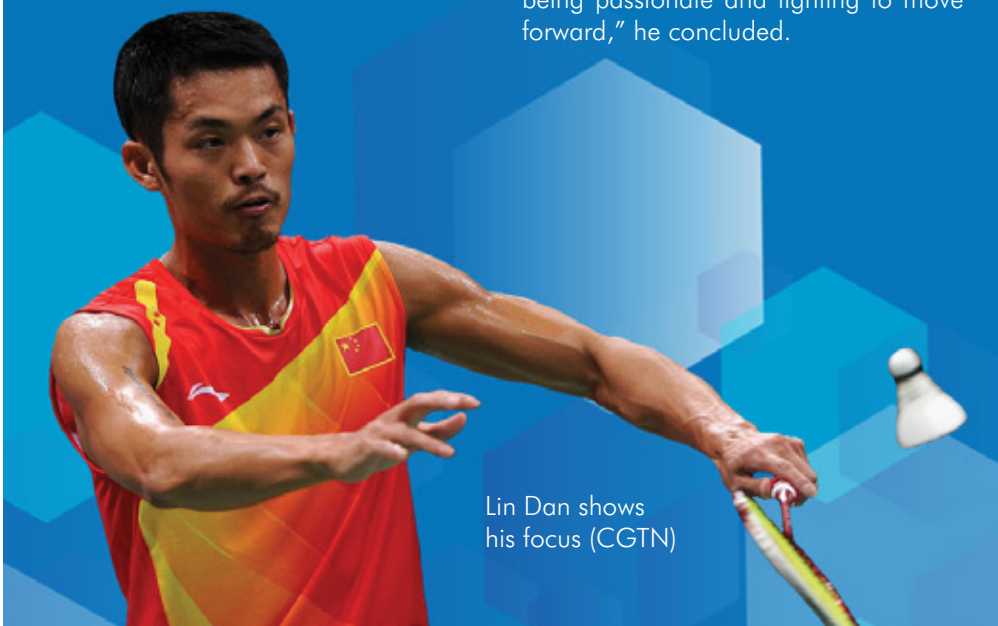
"In every jump smash lies my eagerness for victory," the left-handed Lin said in his goodbye note. "I had never considered hanging up the racket during my professional career which spanned four Olympics. I have devoted everything to the sport I love."

A 20-year professional badminton career is impressively long. Lin always reminded himself to "persevere" during every tough moment and said he hoped he could have extended his career even longer.

"In comparison to purely pursuing the rankings when I was young, I wanted to challenge my physical extreme in recent years – to carry out the unyielding sports spirit."

He said he was looking forward to hearing the Chinese national anthem playing repeatedly in future Olympic Games and that fresh faces would be ready to take his place.

"No one can stay young forever, but there are always young people out there being passionate and fighting to move forward," he concluded.



Lin Dan shows his focus (CGTN)



Lin Dan celebrates after winning the men's badminton singles final of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

PROFILE

Name: Lin Dan

Country: China

Birth place: Fujian

Born: October 14, 1983

Age: 37

Plays: Left-handed

Height: 1.78m

Career singles games*: 798

Won: 666

Lost: 132

Career earnings*:
USD 1,050,593

Olympic Games gold (2):
Beijing 2008, London 2012

World Champion (5):
2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013

*Badminton World Federation.

LONDON 2012 MVP KIM GOES HOME TO KOREA

Volleyball superstar Kim Yeon-koung ended speculation about her future after 11 years overseas by re-signing for her first club - Heungkuk Life Pink Spiders in Incheon.

The 32-year-old Korean points machine had completed a two-year contract in Turkey and was being linked with a money-spinning return to China. But, on June 6, she announced she was coming home to Korea.

"I wanted to be in the best shape possible for the Olympics next year and realise my last remaining dream," she said.

"The one thing I want to accomplish more than anything else is to win an Olympic medal."

Kim and her Korean colleagues came close at London 2012, only to lose the bronze medal match to Japan at the famous Earls Court Arena. Despite not winning a medal, Kim was named Olympic Games MVP by the FIVB.



Kim Yeon-koung is back with the Pink Spiders (Photo: Yonhap)

Kim began her career with the Pink Spiders in 2005 and won three championships in four years before moving to Japan, then China and Turkey over the next 11 years and establishing her reputation as one of the finest players in the world. (Yonhap News)

INDIA'S MANU BHAKER UNDER THE OLYMPIC SPOTLIGHT



Manu Bhaker. (Photo: IOC)

India's rising young pistol shooter Manu Bhaker was the subject of a "quickfire questions" feature on the IOC's website on May 28.

Olympic.org asked the 18-year-old sharpshooter on her hopes for Tokyo 2020 after winning a string of gold medals in the 10m air pistol event throughout her short career, including Commonwealth Games and Youth Olympic Games.

When asked how her training had been affected by COVID-19, Manu replies: "I am enjoying lockdown and doing my training at my home range. I try to see this opportunity as a positive as it has given me time to explore my painting and spend quality time with my parents."

As for her goals for Tokyo 2020, she is in no doubt. "To win gold, maybe even multiple golds," she says.

CHINESE Taipei's Asian Games 2018 badminton champion Tai Tzu Ying, 26, sat proudly at the top of the Badminton World Federation's world rankings when the COVID-19 pandemic forced a rankings freeze from March 17.

The Kaohsiung-born dynamo has a win-loss record of 394-149 in 543 career women's singles games and prize money of over USD 1.5 million.

(Photo: BWF)



MAIS KHOURY – CRASHING THROUGH BARRIERS IN JORDAN

As a rugby player, Mais Khoury is used to crashing through tackles. Now, as a rugby coach, she is breaking through a different kind of barrier as she teaches young boys in Jordan how to play the game she loves.

After Jordan Rugby formed a women’s national team in 2019, Mais has branched out into coaching and now visits rural communities to spread the word.

What makes her experience particularly exceptional is that she breaks the general stereotypes associated with having females taking leading roles, not only in the sports community but in Jordanian society in general.

“One of the biggest challenges I faced when I was coaching in rural areas was being a female leader because rural communities are not used to having women outside their household,” she added.

“Coaching 13-16-year-old boys who grew up not used to seeing women as leaders was a new idea to them. It was



Mais Khoury – breaking through barriers. (Photo: Asia Rugby)

challenging to gain their attention and respect. However, with time, their views on not only female leaders but females in sport changed, and this was a beautiful thing to witness.”

Mais hopes to engage more and more female coaches along this path and expand the community of resilient female rugby coaches in Jordan. (Article: Farah A. Ghanma for Asia Rugby)

QATAR’S FIRST FEMALE OLYMPIAN STILL IN THE NEWS

The latest edition of the Qatar Olympic Committee’s magazine Sport for Life includes a special four-page feature on Bahiya Al-Hamad – Qatar’s first female Olympic athlete.

Bahiya, 28, qualified for London 2012 and competed in the women’s 10m air rifle competition; she also had the honour of carrying the flag at the opening ceremony.

She sprang to prominence the previous year, winning five shooting medals at the 2011 Arab Games hosted by Qatar, and was named Female Athlete of the Year 2011-2012 by the QOC.

“The State of Qatar pays great attention to women’s sport, and many sports facilities are devoted to women,” she says.

“For women’s sport we have a lot of places where we practice; there is a lot of encouragement for women to participate in sports and tournaments.”



Bahiya Al-Hamad was Qatar’s first female Olympian in 2012.

In the interview, Bahiya says she is convinced that female athletes in Qatar can reach higher levels because of the world-class training facilities available and also because of the encouragement and support of everyone in Qatar. (www.olympic.qa)



SHAHRDARI Bam have been crowned champions of the Kowsar women’s football league in Iran with 54 points, six clear of their nearest rivals, after an early conclusion to the 2019-2020 season due to COVID-19.

It was their third consecutive championship and seventh title in 12 years of the professional women’s league.

(Photo: Tehran Times).

HRH PRINCESS REEMA'S 'REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT'



HRH Princess Reema became an IOC Member on July 17. (Photo: (C) 2020 KSA)

Describing her election as “another remarkable achievement for Saudi women and for Saudi sports as a whole”, the SAOC said: “Princess Reema is the third Saudi to hold this position after the late HRH Prince Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (1983-1999) and HRH Prince Nawaf bin Faisal bin Fahd Al Saud (2001-2014).”

The President of the SAOC, HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Faisal, thanked the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, and the Crown Prince, HRH Prince Muhammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, for their continued support of all sports, both internally and externally.

The International Olympic Committee elected five new IOC Members during the 136th IOC Session held by video conference on Friday, July 17.

Among them was Her Royal Highness Princess Reema bint Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud – Saudi Arabia’s Ambassador to the United States and the first woman from the Kingdom to be elected to the IOC.

The Saudi Arabian Olympic Committee issued a press release to celebrate the election of the 45-year-old Princess Reema, who is one of the most prominent and influential personalities in Saudi sport.

The SAOC President said the election of HRH Princess Reema “confirmed the ability of Saudi sports cadres to be present in international organisations such as the IOC where she can work towards upholding the Olympic values and promoting Olympism in Saudi Arabia and the world”.

Princess Reema commented: “It has been an honour to be able to serve my community - and continuing to serve them through sports is unmatched. Sport is a means of connection and engagement and it is the true global language.”

NOTE: For a full profile of HRH Princess Reema, see: www.olympic.org

MONGOLIA'S DYNAMIC YOUNG LEADER JOINS IOC

At 34 years old, new IOC Member Battushig Batbold has already proved himself in the sports and business world.

Having gained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics at the University of Chicago, followed by a Master in Business Administration at Harvard Business School, the basketball and badminton enthusiast is a financial and entrepreneurial whizz.

Battushig Batbold became First Vice President of Mongolia NOC in 2017 and is now Acting President. He has already been named Chef de Mission for the Mongolian delegation at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

NOTE: For a full profile of Battushig Batbold, see: www.olympic.org



Battushig Batbold of Mongolia. (Photo: The UB Post)

MIKEE: PRIDE OF THE PHILIPPINES – AGAIN!

At the 2002 Asian Games in Busan, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski earned a precious equestrian gold medal for the Philippines with a gripping, tension-packed performance in the individual showjumping event.

Eighteen years on, Mikee is once again the pride of the Philippines after being elected on to the Executive Board of the IOC.

At the 136th IOC Session conducted by video conference on July 17, the 46-year-old TV and movie celebrity won one of two places available on the IOC EB for four candidates.

Immediately, the fast and furious social media world in the Philippines went into overdrive, with messages of congratulations and pride flowing in from the Philippine Olympic Committee and the government’s Philippine Sports Commission as well as media outlets, sports groups and fans.

The posts pointed out that not only was Mikee the first Filipino to be elected to the IOC Executive Board but also the first Asian woman to achieve this honour.

Her election was further recognition of her standing in the Olympic Movement. After becoming a member of the OCA Athletes’ Committee in 2011, Mikee was elected IOC Member in 2013 and is involved in several commissions.



NG SER MIANG BECOMES IOC VP FOR SECOND TIME

Singapore’s veteran sports administrator Ng Ser Miang was elected IOC Vice President for a second time at the 136th IOC Session on July 17.

The 71-year-old Singaporean, who is Chairman of the OCA Advisory Committee, first served as IOC Vice President from 2009-2013. He became an IOC Member in 1998 and first joined the EB in 2005.

Posting on his Facebook account, Mr. Ng said: “An honour and privilege to be a Vice President of the International Olympic Committee for the second time.

“I will give my all to support the IOC and the Olympic Movement during this unprecedented time. I also hope to continue to contribute to sports and the Olympic Movement in Singapore.”

In other news:

- China’s Li Lingwei was one of three IOC Members re-elected for an additional eight years.
- OCA Vice President Yu Zaiqing of China had his term of office as IOC Member extended from December 2021 until the end of 2025.



Singapore trailblazer Ng Ser Miang. (Photo: Straits Times)

ANOC announces new dates for Seoul 2021



The Association of National Olympic Committees, in partnership with the Korean Sport and Olympic Committee, has confirmed that the 2021 ANOC General Assembly in Seoul will take place on October 26-27. The ANOC Awards are set for October 26.

Both events will be hosted at the state-of-the-art COEX Convention Centre. Delegates will be accommodated at the COEX Intercontinental Hotel and Grand Intercontinental Hotel.

The 2020 ANOC GA was due to be held in Seoul on November 25-26 as part of the centenary celebrations for the establishment of the Chosun Sports Council on July 13, 1920 but was called off due to COVID-19.

Two IOC Sessions in 2021



The International Olympic Committee will organise two IOC Sessions in 2021, the 136th IOC Session on July 17 announced.

The 137th IOC Session, which will include the presidential election on the agenda, will be held next spring.

The 138th IOC Session will take place before the Tokyo 2020 Games, which are scheduled from July 23 to August 8, but the elected IOC President will take office only on August 9, 2021.

Dakar YOG 2022 postponed to 2026



Senegal and the IOC have mutually agreed to postpone the fourth edition of the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2022 to 2026.

The decision was announced by the IOC Executive Board on July 15 and was made due to the crowded international sports calendar following the one-year postponement of the Tokyo Olympics to 2021.

The original dates of the first Olympic event in Africa were October 22 to November 9, 2022.

Asia Rugby grows to 34 unions



Asia Rugby announced on July 8 that Cambodia, Iraq and Palestine have been granted associate membership of the continental governing body, taking the number of member unions to 34. In addition, Afghanistan has been granted full membership.

Asia Rugby President Qais Al-Dhalai said all four unions had been working hard to promote the game in their respective countries and this recognition would further propel rugby around the continent.

Judo 'Stronger Together'



The International Judo Federation has confirmed that the theme of the 2020 World Judo Day, celebrated each year on October 28, is "Stronger Together".

The aim is to bring the judo community together and show its unity in the face of the global health crisis while continuing to acknowledge and combat issues such as racism and discrimination in society.

OCM thanks government for support



The President of the Olympic Council of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Mohamad Norza Zakaria, has thanked the government for providing a RM10 million (US\$2.3 million) fund for national sports associations.

In a letter dated June 17 and posted on the OCM's Facebook page, the OCM President said: "The fund demonstrates the government's concern and commitment towards stakeholders in the sports industry.

"We have no doubt that this assistance will go a long way towards helping us revitalise and revive the country's sports industry."

Indonesia wins AESF Charity Cup



The OCA-affiliated Asian Electronic Sports Federation organised the AESF Charity Cup Mobile Legends edition on June 4 and June 11.

Players from eight Southeast Asian nations took part and Indonesia beat Singapore 3-1 in the final.

The Charity Cup is part of the AESF's "Your Home, Your Arena" campaign to bring the esports community together from the safety of their own homes during the pandemic while raising money for the vulnerable in society.

FINA plans for Tokyo qualifying



FINA has announced new dates in 2021 for the qualifying events for the Tokyo Olympics.

The women's water polo qualification tournament has been postponed to January 17-24 in Trieste, Italy while the men's event will take place from February 14-21 in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

The Olympic marathon swim qualifier is now planned for May 29-30 in Fukuoka, Japan and the Diving World Cup for February 23-28 in Tokyo. Finally, the artistic swimming qualifier will be from March 4-7 in Tokyo.

Softball to kick off Tokyo 2020



Tokyo 2020 will kick off with softball at 9am on July 21, two days before the Opening Ceremony, at Fuku-shima Azuma Baseball Stadium, organisers announced on July 17. Preliminary football matches will start on the same day.

Rowing preliminary events and archery ranking rounds will be held on July 23, the day of the Opening Ceremony. The first medal event - the women's shooting 10m air rifle - will start at 8.30am on July 24. See the full competition schedule at: www.tokyo2020.org.

New dates for ITTF world team championships



The International Table Tennis Federation has announced new dates for the Hana Bank 2020 ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships in the 2002 Asian Games host city of Busan, Korea.

The twice-postponed event will now take place from February 28 to March 7, 2021 at the Busan Exhibition and Convention Centre.

2020



Aarhus, Denmark: October 3 – 11
TOTAL BWF Thomas and Uber Cup Badminton Finals



Doha, Qatar: June 5
FINA General Congress



Jeddah, Saudi Arabia: October 8 – 11
Ladies European Tour USD 1 million Aramco Saudi Ladies International, presented by Public Investment Fund, at Royal Greens Golf and Country Club



Tokyo, Japan: July 23 – August 8
Olympic Games



Chengdu, China: August 18 – 29
31st FISU World University Games

2021



Busan, Korea: February 28 – March 7
ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships



Tokyo, Japan: August 24 – September 5
Paralympic Games



Nanjing, China: March 19 – 21
World Athletics Indoor Championships



Seoul, Korea: October 26 – 27
ANOC General Assembly and Awards



Sanya, China: April 2 – 10
OCA 6th Asian Beach Games



Shantou, Guangdong Province: November 20 – 28
OCA 3rd Asian Youth Games



Hong Kong, China: April 2-4
Cathay Pacific/HSBC Hong Kong Rugby Sevens



Hanoi, Vietnam: November 21 – December 2
31st Southeast Asian (SEA) Games



Bangkok-Pattaya/Chonburi, Thailand: May 21 – 30
OCA 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games



Abu Dhabi, UAE: December 10 – 12
FINA World Aquatics Convention



Abu Dhabi, UAE: December 13 – 18
FINA World Swimming Championships (25m)

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2022



Chandigarh, India: January (dates to be confirmed)
Commonwealth Archery and Shooting Championships



Beijing, China: February 4 – 20
Olympic Winter Games



Beijing, China: March 4 – 13
Paralympic Winter Games



Fukuoka, Japan: May 13 – 29
FINA World Championships



Kyushu, Japan, May 31 – June 9
FINA World Masters Championships



Eugene, Oregon, USA: July 15 – 24
World Athletics Championships



Birmingham, England, July 28 – August 8
22nd Commonwealth Games



Hangzhou, China: September 10 – 25
OCA 19th Asian Games

2023



Phnom Penh, Cambodia: May 5 – 17
32nd Southeast Asian (SEA) Games

2024



Gangwon, Korea: January 19 – February 2
4th Winter Youth Olympic Games



Paris, France: July 26 – August 11
Olympic Games

2025



Tashkent, Uzbekistan: (dates to be announced)
OCA 4th Asian Youth Games

2026



Milano/Cortina, Italy: February 6 – 22
Olympic Winter Games



Milano/Cortina, Italy: March 6 – 15
Paralympic Winter Games



Aichi-Nagoya, Japan: September 19 – October 4
OCA 20th Asian Games

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Huang Yungeng

Data source: China Patent Protection Association "exposure of global authorized patents in blockchain field in 2020", the intellectual property industry media IPdaily and the intellectual innovation research center jointly released the "global blockchain trademark patents ranking list (top 100) in 2019".
Note: AntChain provides credit technology services based on blockchain, and financing services are provided by other financial institutions.



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ALIPAY BROTHER BRAND

BALBIR SINGH SENIOR – INDIAN HOCKEY LEGEND

Three-time Olympic gold medallist Balbir Singh Sr., 96, passed away on May 25.



Balbir Singh Sr. – three-time Olympic hockey champion.

Balbir Singh Sr. is considered to be one of the finest forwards to have ever graced the game and his prolific returns and inspirational leadership helped the Indian hockey team win their hat-trick of Olympic golds in 1948, 1952 and 1956.

He scored in both the 1948 and 1952 Olympics finals - and his five goals against the Netherlands in 1952 still stands as the record for most goals scored in a men's Olympic final.

In the 1956 Olympic Games final against Pakistan, the Indian hockey legend played through the pain of a fracture in his favoured right hand to guide them to a 1-0 victory and ensure a sixth consecutive gold medal.

Balbir Singh Sr. went on to become the coach of the Indian hockey team and inspired them to a bronze medal at the inaugural 1971 World Cup before being at the helm for the country's only World Cup victory in 1975. (Photo: Olympic Channel)

KATSUMI WAKAO – VOLLEYBALL ADMINISTRATOR



Japanese volleyball administrator Katsumi Wakao.

The International Volleyball Federation (FIVB), Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) and Japan Volleyball Association (JVA) were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Mr Katsumi Wakao on May 24. He was 86.

A central figure within the JVA, Wakao-san's illustrious work in volleyball ranged from being an influential member of the FIVB Sports Events Council to working as the senior advisor of the AVC.

In addition, at the 2010 FIVB Women's World Championship in Tokyo, Wakao-san was recognised by the competition director for his tireless contribution to volleyball.

His efforts and achievements within volleyball earned him the prestigious "Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays" Award from the former Japanese Emperor Akihito. (Photo: FIVB)

DR. MOEEN AL-FAOURI JORDAN KARATE PRESIDENT

The Jordan Olympic Committee reported on the sad loss of a member of the JOC Board and Jordan Karate Federation President, Dr. Moeen Al-Faouri, on July 19.

The Facebook account of Karate Around the World – a public group with over 33,000 members – said: "The family of Karate Around the World mourns with grief and sorrow for all the athletes and for the Jordanian Federation." (Photo: JOC Facebook)



AHMED RADHI – IRAQI FOOTBALL HERO

Iraqi football legend Ahmed Radhi died in a hospital in Baghdad on June 21 as a result of complications with COVID-19, the Iraqi health ministry said. He was 56.

“Ahmed Radhi passed away wearing the green jersey which he loved so much - and that we loved him in it,” said Iraqi Premier Mustafa al-Kadhemi.

FIFA added: “Football lost a legend today. RIP Ahmed Radhi.”

FIFA listed some of his achievements: Scorer of Iraq’s only World Cup goal, against Belgium at Mexico 1986; voted Asia’s best player in 1988; 62 goals in 121 internationals and 9th on the International Federation of Football History & Statistics (IFFHS) Asian Player of the Century ranking.

Radhi, a striker, led Iraq to victory in the Gulf Cups of 1984 and 1988.



Ahmed Radhi scored Iraq’s only World Cup goal, against Belgium, in 1986. (Photo: FIFA)

HASAN UDDIN AHMED SHIMUL – BANGLADESH HOCKEY



The Asian Hockey Federation reported on June 4 that the former AHF Development and Coaching Committee member and AHF-FIH Technical Official, Hasan Uddin Ahmed Shimul of Bangladesh, had passed away.

The President of the Bangladesh

Hockey Federation, Air Chief Marshal Masihuzzaman Serniabat, said Mr. Shimul had contributed an immense amount to hockey at the national and international levels as a national team player, umpire, organiser and committee member.

“He was a valuable asset and I am extremely saddened to have lost such a good hockey mate,” he said.

(Photo: Asia Hockey)

MOHAMMED YASEEN MOHAMMED IRAQI OLYMPIAN



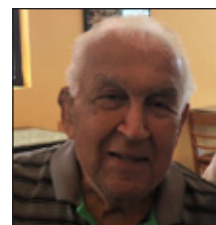
The International Weightlifting Federation paid tribute to Iraqi weightlifter and two-time Olympian Mohammed Yaseen Mohammed, who passed away in Sweden on June 24 due to COVID-19. He was 57.

The Erbil Club athlete competed in two consecutive Olympic Games - Moscow 1980 and Los Angeles 1984 – and recorded a highest finishing position of sixth.

His long-time friend, IWF General Secretary Mohammed Jalood, said: “I have lost Mohammed Yaseen, who was like a brother to me. He will always be remembered as a hero in the Iraqi weightlifting community and will be greatly missed by everyone. I am sending all my condolences to the weightlifting family of Iraq.” (Photo: IWF)

KHALIL TAHA - LEBANON'S FIRST OLYMPIC MEDALLIST

Lebanon’s first Olympic Games medallist, Khalil Taha, died from kidney disease on July 27. He was 88.



Taha won a bronze medal in Greco-Roman wrestling when he was 19 years old at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. He was national champion from 1949 to 1955 before moving to the United States and continuing his wrestling career, later becoming a coach.

In 2005 Taha was recognised for his contribution to wrestling and was inducted into the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States Hall of Fame. In 2016 he was given the Lifetime Devotion to Wrestling Award at the Michigan Chapter National Wrestling Hall of Fame ceremony. (Photo: InterMat Wrestling)

LOCK HONG KIT – SINGAPORE SAILING PIONEER

One of Singapore's sailing pioneers, Lock Hong Kit, died on June 20. He was 74.

'Kit Lock' paved the way for many generations of local sailors and competed in no fewer than six classes at international regattas, winning two gold medals and one bronze medal at the SEAP/SEA Games along the way. He was also the team manager and coach at several major events, including the 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima.

Veteran sports administrator and former national sailor Ng Ser Miang said: "Kit belongs to the pioneer generation of sailors. He shared the joy of sailing with youths and coached many of our national sailors and inspired them to become champions. He was well respected internationally for his integrity and strength of character."



Lock Hong Kit. (Photo: The Straits Times)

— LU SHANZHEN – CHINESE GYMNASTICS COACH —

Former Chinese gymnastics team head coach Lu Shanzhen died of a heart attack at home in Beijing on June 20, the Chinese Gymnastics Association (CGA) reported. He was 63.

Lu was well known for his excellence as a coach and for leading Team China to historical heights, including the first women's World Championship team title in 2006 and first women's Olympic team gold at Beijing in 2008.

The legendary coach built China's Golden Generation, developing young world and Olympic champions such as Cheng Fei, Bi Wenjing and Liu Xuan.

"Lu had a unique understanding and respect of women's gymnastics. He always insisted on individualizing everyone's learning. He made great contributions to the development of the Chinese

Gymnastics," the CGA said in a statement.



Lu Shanzhen applauds his team. (Photo: FIG)

RAJ KUMAR SINGH – INDONESIAN HOCKEY STALWART

The Asian Hockey Federation on June 5 mourned the loss of Raj Kumar Singh, who was regarded as the "Father of Hockey" in Indonesia.

A long-time president and chief executive of the Indonesian Hockey Federation, Raj Kumar Singh received the International Hockey Federation President's Award in 2018.

AHF President Fumio Ogura knew him for over 40 years and



said: "A true hockey veteran in Indonesia, Raj Kumar Singh dedicated his life to the sport of hockey and achieved many notable milestones. He was, without doubt, the Father of Hockey in Indonesia. We will miss the passion and dedication he brought to the hockey family." (Photo: Sikhs in Hockey)

ASIAN GAMES HEROES STILL MAKING THEIR MARK

Two champions from the 18th Asian Games in Indonesia in 2018 have been making news around the world in recent weeks.



Yuka Saso wins her first pro tour title in Japan. (Photo: JLPGA)

Tottenham Hotspur's Korean forward Son Heung-min won the Budweiser Goal of the Season in the English Premier League, and double Asian Games champion Yuka Saso became the first golfer from the Philippines to win a title on the lucrative Japan Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour.

Son, who led Korea to Asian Games gold by beating Japan in the final two years ago, scored a sensational solo goal against Burnley on December 7, 2019.

Collecting the ball just outside his own box, Son raced 71.4 metres in 11 seconds, beating six Burnley players on the way, before scoring with a cool finish.

Saso, 19, won individual and women's team gold in Jakarta and has now collected her maiden title on the Japan LPGA Tour - the NEC Karuizawa championship on August 16 in Kitasaku-gun, Nagano Prefecture.

She won by four shots after firing a 63 in her last round with an eagle and seven birdies. The prize money of 14.4 million Japanese yen converted to 6.6 million peso.



Son Heung-min scores his wonder goal. (Photo: Getty Images)

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