SPORTING ASIA

Official Newsletter of the Olympic Council of Asia

EDITION 75 | DECEMBER 2026



Contents
Inside Sporting Asia Edition 75 – December 2026











04
3 President's Message
4 OCA Executive Board
5 Asian Games Torch Relay
6 OCA in 2027

14
7 – 42 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026
8 – 9 Review, Facts and Figures
10 – 11 Opening Ceremony Photo Gallery
12 China storms ahead
13 Medals Table
14 – 15 Records Galore
16 – 20 20 Memorable Moments from 20th Asian Games

21
21 OCA MVP
22 – 27 Golden Gallery
28 – 37 OCA Youth Reporter Project

38
38 – 39 OCA Athletes Committee Elections
40 – 41 Closing Ceremony
42 Doha 2030

40
43 – 44 Games Update
45 OCA leaders in the news
46 OCA: Behind the Scenes
47 Obituary
48 OCA Sports Diary

OCA Sponsors' Club

NEW ENERGY · BORNAN SPORTS TECHNOLOGY · 361° · YDPOWER 获德能源 · Banmali 班玛礼 · Canon
皇派门窗 高端隔音门窗 · DAFENG 大丰 · 安恒信息 DAS-security · 蒙娜丽莎 MONALISA · BENING 伯林 Since 1985

SPORTING ASIA

Sporting Asia is the official newsletter of the Olympic Council of Asia. It was first published in 2009 and is now in its 18th year.

Sporting Asia is published quarterly - in March, June, September and December - and aims to connect the Olympic Movement in Asia through OCA events and activities, OCA Games updates, NOC news, the OCA Diary and much more.

Jeans **ZHOU** Jian
Director, Media and Broadcast
jeans@oca.asia

Jeremy **WALKER**
Sporting Asia Editor
jeremy@oca.asia

Alvin **SALLAY**
Correspondent
alvin@oca.asia

Ramireddy **KONA**
Photographer
ramireddy@oca.asia

Design and Printing by
Abdul Muneem **KHAN**
khansaab_29@yahoo.com

Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)
PO Box 6706, Hawalli
Zip Code 32042, Kuwait
info@oca.asia
www.oca.asia

Front Cover

This Olympic Council of Asia graphic thanks Aichi-Nagoya for hosting the 20th Asian Games.



AICHI-NAGOYA 2026 ASIAN GAMES SHOWED UNITY, SOLIDARITY OF OCA

It was a very proud moment for me personally at the opening ceremony of the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026.

This was my first Asian Games as OCA President, and to see the 45 National Olympic Committees marching into the stadium was a very moving experience.

Here, in the space of a few minutes, we could wonder at the diversity of the Asian continent through the various national costumes of the athletes.

This parade also highlighted the unity and solidarity of Asia, as the National Olympic Committees marched in one after the other – but everyone together for the good of the Asian Games and the Olympic Movement.

This atmosphere continued throughout the Games, even in the fiercest moments of competition. We were witnessing something much greater than individual athletes, much greater than gold, silver and bronze medals.

We were all part of this one Movement – a Movement that promotes inclusivity alongside the three Olympic pillars of excellence, friendship and respect.

This is what the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya showed to me – and it struck me even more as OCA President.

The Asian Games will move from East to West as Doha prepares to stage the 21st edition in 2030, spreading these values across the continent.

A lot will be happening between now and then, especially in 2027 with the rearranged Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Riyadh and also the first Asian Esports and Mind Sports Games in Kuwait.

The OCA and State of Kuwait took part in an official signing ceremony in Nagoya and this event will build on the success of the integration of esports into the Asian Games as well as giving a permanent home to mind sports such as chess.

This will expand our portfolio of international multi-sport games to six and keep the OCA at the forefront of the global Olympic Movement. We will embrace more sports and more athletes, thereby enlarging the footprint of the OCA.

Finally, I would like to thank all our NOCs for their hard work and dedication in making the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 a big success.

Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani
President,
Olympic Council of Asia



Group photo after the OCA EB meeting.

OCA PRESIDENT HOSTS 110TH EB MEETING IN NAGOYA

The 110th OCA Executive Board meeting took place at the Hilton Hotel in Nagoya on Friday, September 18 – on the eve of the opening ceremony of the 20th Asian Games.

The OCA President, HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, welcomed the EB members to Nagoya city and thanked Asian Games organising committee AINAGOC for all their hard work in preparing for the 20th Asian Games.

The President of AINAGOC and Governor of Aichi Prefecture, Mr. Hideaki Ohmura, said the excitement was building in Nagoya city and Aichi Prefecture for the 20th Asian Games.

"I would like to thank the OCA for their continued guidance and support," Governor Ohmura said.

"We will keep working until the very end so this will be a memorable experience. We have 45 National Olympic Committees here and we are committed to providing the best environment."

The OCA EB meeting heard progress reports from the following organising committees:

- 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in December 2026
- 7th Asian Beach Games in Cebu, Philippines in March 2028
- 10th Asian Winter Games in Almaty, Kazakhstan in 2029.

RIYADH 2026 – 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games – Postponed to March 2027

CEBU 2028 – The dates for the 7th Asian Beach Games were announced as March 7-16. There will be four clusters, 11 venues and 25 sports. Some sports will be held in Siargao (surfing), Cebu City and Mactan Island. The mascot is Butanding (whale shark).

ALMATY 2029 – OCA Vice President Kudrat Shamiyev, in his first OCA EB meeting, said organisers planned to use five ice arenas and three snow venues in Almaty and its surroundings, with no plans to build any new sports venues.

"This will allow us to focus our resources above all on the quality of the organisation and successful delivery of the Games," he said.

They are hoping to finalise the sports programme in time for the OCA General Assembly in Doha in January 2027.

"I would like to emphasize that the Games have the full support at the state level in Kazakhstan," said Vice President Shamiyev.



Sheikh Joaan greets OCA Vice President for West Asia Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al Sabah.

OCA PRESIDENT JOINS TORCH RELAY CELEBRATIONS

The OCA President, HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, took part in the final leg of the torch relay for the 20th Asian Games on Friday, September 18.

After flame-lighting ceremonies in Japan's two previous Asian Games host cities, Tokyo (1958) and Hiroshima (1994), on August 18 and August 20, respectively, the torch relay began at Nagoya Castle on August 22.

The course took 1,000 torchbearers through all 40 municipalities of Aichi Prefecture and 16 wards of Nagoya City before this final leg at the iconic Hisaya-Odori Park in the heart of Nagoya.

Sheikh Joaan was joined by OCA Vice Presidents and representatives of National Olympic Committees as well as local, national and international sports dignitaries.



Sheikh Joaan holds the torch.



Aichi Prefecture Governor Hideaki Ohmura lights the torch.


Sheikh Joaan runs with the torch.


Sheikh Joaan is pictured with OCA Vice President Otabek Umarov.



IOC President Kirsty Coventry joins the meeting.

OCA ANNOUNCES AFRO-ASIA CULTURAL EVENT FOR 2027

The OCA and Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa will hold a joint cultural event next January.

The Director General of the OCA, Mr. Husain Al Musallam, gave details of the event during the OCA-NOCs-ANOCA Gathering at the Hilton Hotel in Nagoya on Saturday, September 19.

The joint activity is designed to strengthen the relationship between the two continents and lead to mutual development, not only in sport but also in culture, education and other aspects of the Olympic ideals.



The OCA President, HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, at the OCA-NOCs-ANOCA meeting.

Captain Husain said the Afro-Asia Cultural Programme would be held in Doha, Qatar on January 26, 2027 – the day before the OCA General Assembly.

He explained that the relationship between the two continents went back as far as 1982, and that they were both committed to advancing the Olympic Movement through their joint efforts.

"We will hold this event between the two continents every year. In 2027 it will be about culture and music; in 2028 it will be a different theme," said Captain Husain.

"It will be different every year in the programme and the event." The 2027 cultural programme will feature four segments from Asia and four from Africa, all from different zones in the two continents. The original event was due to be held in Kuwait last March but was postponed due to tensions in the region.

Arrival in Doha will be on January 24-25, and departure on January 28.

OCA President Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani welcomed the President of ANOCA, Mr. Mustapha Berraf, and representatives of National Olympic Committees from Africa.

The highlight of the meeting was the arrival of IOC President Kirsty Coventry, who said it was "wonderful" to be back in Asia and a "huge honour".

A signing ceremony for the 1st Asian Esports and Mind Sports Games Kuwait 2027 took place at the Nagoya Hilton on Saturday, September 19. The contract was signed by the OCA President, HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, the President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee and OCA Vice President for West Asia, Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al Sabah, and Dr. Tareq Hamad Al Jalahma, Minister of State for Youth and Sport Affairs. Organisers are expecting around 4,000 athletes to take part.



20th Asian Games
Aichi-Nagoya 2026

20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026

OCA FLAG FLIES HIGH AT AICHI-NAGOYA 2026

EVER ONWARDS



Asian Games Review | Facts and Figures | Opening Ceremony | 20 Memorable Moments from 20th Asian Games | OCA MVPs | Golden Gallery | OCA Young Reporters Project | OCA Athletes' Committee elections | Closing Ceremony | Doha 2030

ASIAN GAMES PUTS ATHLETES ON TOP

It was the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 – but it was so much more than that.

It was the Asian Games of a staggering 54 World Records.

It was the Asian Games of the "floating athletes' village" aboard the spectacular Costa Serena docked at Kinjo Pier in the Port of Nagoya.

It was the Asian Games of Teqball, Padel, Mixed Martial Arts and Surfing – all new sports that made an instant impact.

And, finally, it was the Asian Games that put Nagoya City and Aichi Prefecture on the OCA map – following Tokyo in 1958 and Hiroshima in 1994.

For 16 exhilarating days, from the opening ceremony on September 19 to the closing ceremony on October 4, Asia's finest athletes thrilled the crowds and showcased the growth and development of the OCA's flagship event to the world.

The 20th Asian Games also displayed the unity of Asia as the athletes and officials got down to business and showed their professionalism, dedication and determination in contributing to the success of the event.

In the closing ceremony at Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium on the evening of Sunday, October 4, the OCA President, His Excellency Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, paid tribute to the athletes – and also to the people of Aichi-Nagoya for creating an atmosphere in which they could thrive.

"From the first competition to the very last, Asia's finest athletes captivated us with their performances," said Sheikh Joaan – in his first Asian Games as OCA President.

"You created a legacy that reaches far beyond sports and Japan. Together, we have seen just how far Asia can rise when we dream without limits – when we 'Imagine One Asia'," he added, referring to the Games slogan.

"Tonight, as we lower the flag of Aichi-Nagoya 2026, we close these Games but we raise the bar for Asian sports.

"The flame may be extinguished, but the hopes it has ignited will continue to burn brightly across our continent."



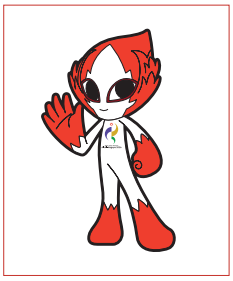
Aichi-Nagoya welcomed an OCA Asian Refugee Team for the first time to the Asian Games.



IOC President Kirsty Coventry joins the OCA President, HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, on a tour of the Athletes' Village.

OF THE WORLD

The 21st Asian Games will be held in Sheikh Joaan's home state of Qatar – Doha 2030, and he urged the youth of Asia to "carry this spirit forward - as we move from East to West, from Japan to Qatar, spreading our values and ensuring that every corner of our continent experiences this celebration of sport."



Speaking in Arabic at the end of his address, the OCA President officially welcomed the continent to the next edition, stating: "Our hearts and homes are open to all of Asia, and everyone is welcome in Doha, the city for everyone."



OCA Female MVP Yu Zidi of China. (Xinhua)



OCA Male MVP Puripol Boonson of Thailand. (Kyodo News)

Aichi-Nagoya 2026

Opening Ceremony: September 19, 2026

Venue: Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium

Opened by: His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito

Closing Ceremony: October 4, 2026

Venue: Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium

Closed by: HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, President, Olympic Council of Asia.

National Olympic Committees: 45

Plus: Asian Refugee Team

Athletes: 10,706

Sports: 43

Disciplines: 71

Events: 469

Competition started: September 10

World Records: 54

Asian Records: 89

Asian Games Records: 212

World Junior Records: 11

Asian Junior Records: 11

NOC Team Officials: 5,855

Technical Officials: 3,641

International Technical Officials: 1,807

National Technical Officials: 1,834

Venues: 54

Media: 7,104

Press and Photographers: 1,985

Host Broadcaster: 2,972

Rights-Holding Broadcasters: 2,147

Slogan: Imagine One Asia

Mascot: Honohon

Next Asian Games:

Doha 2030

Riyadh 2034



The Royal Box at the opening ceremony.



Anyone for hoops?



We ♥ Aichi-Nagoya



An explosion of colour and culture.



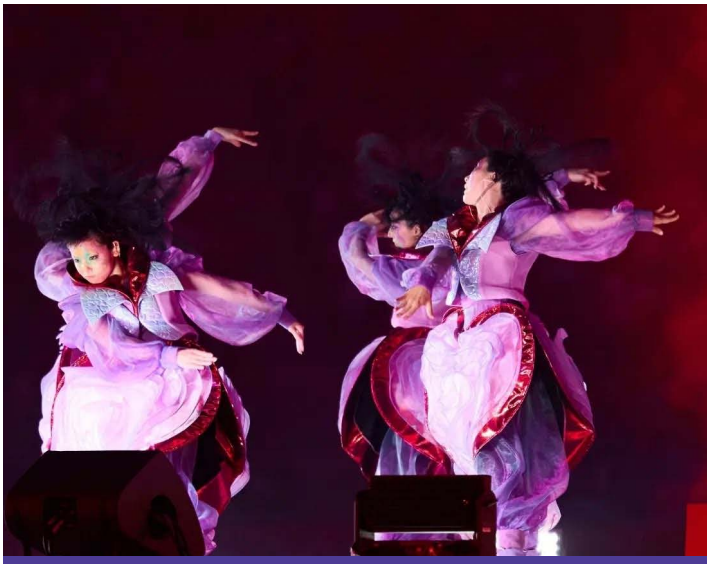
A virtuoso performance on the violin.



A proud moment for the host country.



Honohon joins in the fun.



A flamboyant performance.



Practice makes perfect.



Nagoya Castle featured prominently.

CHINA IN A CLASS OF THEIR OWN AT TOP OF MEDAL RANKINGS

It was no surprise to see China at the top of the medal rankings – for the 12th consecutive Asian Games going all the way back to New Delhi 1982.

But it was a surprise to see just how far ahead they were of their nearest challengers Japan – and a Japan on home soil.

China's unstoppable medal machine pumped out 169 gold medals – more than twice Japan's impressive golden haul of 83.

Add in 89 silver and 83 bronze medals and China finished with a total of 341 medals.

Japan were second with 83-95-91 (269), followed by Korea in a distant third place on 39-43-68 (150). India and Uzbekistan rounded out the top five, both with 21 gold medals.



Zhang Zhanshuo won seven gold medals. (CGTN Sports Scene)



Chen Yujie wins the women's 100 metres – one of three gold medals for the 17-year-old track star. (2026 Getty Images/Olympics.com)

The big question being asked, especially in Seoul, was: has the so-called "big three" of China, Japan and Korea now become a "big two", with Korea leading the chasing pack rather than mixing it with China and Japan at the peak of Asian sport.

Fourth-placed India, excelling in team sports at Aichi-Nagoya with men's and women's golds in cricket, hockey and kabaddi, will be eyeing that third place at Doha 2030, especially as they have their sights on hosting the 2036 Olympic Games and 2038 Asian Games.

For China, the two Olympic mainstays of athletics and swimming accounted for 47 of those 169 gold medals, with 30 coming in the pool at the Tokyo Aquatic Centre and 17 from athletics.

The incredible Zhang Zhanshuo, 19, contributed to seven of those 30 swimming gold medals, winning the men's 200m, 400m, 800m and 1500m freestyle titles along with three relay golds. Zhang became the first swimmer to win seven gold medals at a single edition of the Asian Games.

In track and field, China unearthed new female stars in 17-year-old 100m champion Chen Yujie, who won three gold medals including two relays, and javelin thrower Yan Ziyi, 18.

Apart from swimming and athletics, other main sources of gold for China were shooting (16), wushu (12) and diving (10).

Rank	NOC					
1	CHN	People's Republic of China	169	89	83	341
2	JPN	Japan	83	95	91	269
3	KOR	Republic of Korea	39	43	68	150
4	IND	India	21	27	37	85
5	UZB	Uzbekistan	21	25	24	70
6	IRI	Islamic Republic of Iran	19	18	15	52
7	THA	Thailand	18	13	21	52
8	KAZ	Kazakhstan	12	24	48	84
9	HKG	Hong Kong, China	11	19	24	54
10	BRN	Bahrain	11	5	6	22
11	MAS	Malaysia	9	7	16	32
12	PRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	7	13	9	29
13	UAE	United Arab Emirates	7	5	1	13
14	QAT	Qatar	6	6	6	18
15	TPE	Chinese Taipei	5	17	33	55
16	INA	Indonesia	5	11	23	39
17	PHI	Philippines	4	9	16	29
18	KSA	Saudi Arabia	4	3	10	17
19	KUW	Kuwait	4	1	4	9
20	VIE	Vietnam	3	3	19	25
21	SGP	Singapore	2	9	7	18
22	TJK	Tajikistan	2	5	9	16
23	JOR	Jordan	2	3	6	11
24	MYA	Myanmar	2	1	2	5
25	MAC	Macao, China	1	4	1	6
26	KGZ	Kyrgyzstan	1	3	10	14
27	MGL	Mongolia	1	1	13	15
28	SRI	Sri Lanka	1	1	1	3
29	PAK	Pakistan	0	2	8	10
30	IRQ	Iraq	0	2	3	5
31	TKM	Turkmenistan	0	2	0	2
32	AFG	Afghanistan	0	1	2	3
32	LBN	Lebanon	0	1	2	3
34	OMA	Oman	0	1	1	2
35	CAM	Cambodia	0	0	4	4
36	NEP	Nepal	0	0	2	2
37	BAN	Bangladesh	0	0	1	1
37	BRU	Brunei Darussalam	0	0	1	1
37	LAO	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0	0	1	1
37	SYR	Syrian Arab Republic	0	0	1	1

Legend: Gold Silver Bronze Total

ASIAN ATHLETES PRODUCE RECORD-BREAKING

The staggering figures speak for themselves:

- 54 World Records
- 89 Asian Records
- 212 Asian Games Records
- 11 Junior World Records

The 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 will be remembered for a lot of things, but these record-breaking figures will go down in history as Asian athletes flexed their muscles and showed the power of Asia on the world stage.

With the next Olympic Games in Los Angeles less than two years away, these Asian Games heroics will give the continent a solid foundation on which to build gold medal challenges at LA28.

The OCA Director General, Mr. Husain Al Musallam, summed it up at the closing press conference.

"I would like to congratulate the Asian Games organising committee AINAGOC for providing an environment which produced one of the best performances in the history of the Asian Games," he said, before reeling off the number of World (54), Asian (89), Games (212) and Junior World Records (11).

Weightlifting was the sport to watch for world records, as new marks were set from lift to lift in some cases due to the new weight categories introduced by the International Weightlifting Federation.

Of the 54 world records at Aichi-Nagoya, 47 of them were achieved in weightlifting, while the sport produced a total of 231 new records across World, Asian and Games marks, according to the Asian Weightlifting Federation – 143 in the men's competition and 88 in the women's divisions.

DPR Korea led the world record charge, accounting for numerous historic lifts. Ri Song Gum swept the women's 49kg division, setting three world records across the snatch (94kg), clean and jerk (121kg) and overall total (215kg).

In classes like the men's 70kg and 75kg divisions, six world records were broken on a single day of lifting, highlighted by gold-medal performances from DPR Korea's Ri Won Ju and Indonesia's Rahmat Erwin Abdullah.

A total of 149 athletes from 31 National Olympic Committees competed in 16 weight categories at the Nagoya City Trade and Industry Center – and new records were set in 14 of the 16 categories.

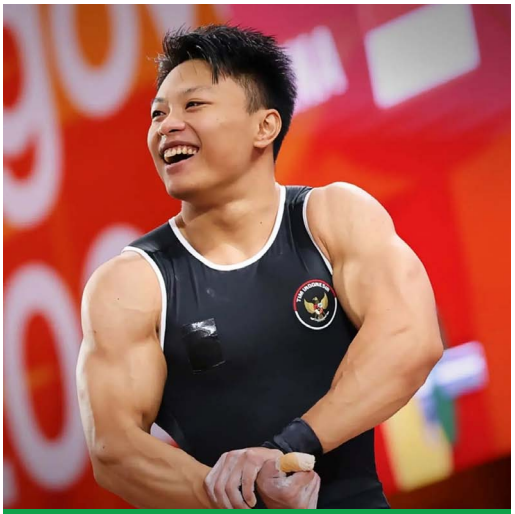
- The best swim of the Asian Games came from Shin Ohashi, 17, as he became the first man to break the 2:05 barrier in the men's 200m breaststroke as he set a new world record.

Touching the wall at the Tokyo Aquatic Centre in 2:04:83, the teenage prodigy eclipsed the previous time of 2:05:48 set by China's Qin Haiyang in July 2023.

"I'm so happy with this result," said Ohashi.



China's world record-breaking 10m air rifle men's team. (AINAGOC)



Rahmat Erwin of Indonesia. (AINAGOC)

PERFORMANCES

"I think being in Japan was a huge reason for making this possible and I just want to thank everyone first and foremost."

- China set all four world records in shooting – two of them by the same pair.

Represented by Sheng Lihao and Wang Zifei, China set a world record in both the qualification and final of the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team competition, winning gold with a world record 507.1 in the final. China had already set a qualification world record of 638.9 earlier in the day, beating the previous mark by two points.

China won the 10m Air Rifle Men's Team event with a world record score of 1899.0. India took silver with 1890.1, while Korea claimed bronze with 1884.2.

China produced a record-breaking performance to win the Skeet Mixed Team gold with 52, setting a new world record.

- Two new match world records were set in compound competition, with 14-year-old Kang Yeon-seo of Korea becoming the first under-18 women's archer to shoot a perfect score in a 15-arrow match.

Korea's Park Jung-yoon and Choi Yong-hee had already set a new world record in the compound mixed team match, shooting 160 points from 16 arrows with 11 Xs - the X-ring being the central zone within the 10-ring used to break ties in qualification and when certain world records reach their maximum points score.



Ri Song Gum of DPR Korea. (Yonhap News)



Shin Ohashi swims to a world record. (AINAGOC)



Kang Yeon-seo of Korea. (Korea Archery Association)

20 MEMORABLE MOMENTS
from 20th Asian Games



1. Imperial Family shows strong support

The Imperial House of Japan showed strong support for the Asian Games, with His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito and Her Majesty the Empress Masako attending the opening ceremony on September 19, accompanied by Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince and Crown Princess Akishino. They also watched several of the sports, including equestrian in Tokyo along with Her Imperial Highness Princess Aiko and the OCA President, HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani. (OCA)



2. IOC President adds to Asian Games legacy

The President of the International Olympic Committee, Kirsty Coventry, graced the 20th Asian Games with her presence – not only at the opening ceremony and at sports competitions but also behind the scenes. Here, the IOC President visits the Athletes' Village at Garden Pier, accompanied by the OCA President and OCA Director General.

(OCA)



3. Father and son light up opening ceremony

Athens 2004 Olympic hammer throw champion Koji Murofushi, aged 51, and his father, five-time Asian Games champion Shigenobu Murofushi, 80, jointly lit the cauldron at the opening ceremony on September 19. This was an historic father-and-son duo moment, celebrating multiple generations of Japanese athletes.

(The Straits Times, Singapore)



4. World class competition

There's no doubt that the competition was world class at the Asian Games – as the number of world records, Asian records and Games records prove. Those are just the cold, hard figures, though, and don't quite capture the fierce level of competition in sports where records were not the concern – only victory and medals. Basketball was a classic example.

(OCA)



5. 'Floating Village' makes its mark

The Italian cruise ship Costa Serena was an awesome sight on first viewing when it docked on September 15 at Kinjo Pier. With a capacity of 4,000 athletes and officials, the Costa Serena served as part of the Athletes' Village for 22 days. Operated by Costa Cruises, the Costa Serena has gross tonnage of 114,000 tons and is 290.2 metres in length. It has 1,500 cabins and a passenger capacity of 3,780. (Sporting Asia)



6. Regional favourites showcase Asia's diverse sports scene

While the Olympic staples of athletics and swimming, along with judo, wrestling and several other Japanese favourites, provided plenty of familiar faces for the spectators to cheer, regional sports such as sepaktakraw from southeast Asia, kabaddi from south Asia and wushu from east Asia provided new faces and athletes to admire. This combination of established Olympic sports and regional favourites remains a key attraction of the Asian Games. The Korea Times captures a spectacular moment in the sepaktakraw competition.



7. Volunteers show pride in Japan

The people of Japan have a reputation for being polite and respectful as they go about their daily lives. These characteristics were very much to the fore as the Asian Games volunteers made their guests feel at home and brought an air of calmness at times of stress. Volunteers also took part in the medal ceremonies.

(Xinhua)


Echoing the Voices of Sports and Culture in Aichi-Nagoya
THE ASIAN GAMES TIMES
The Official Bilingual Daily of the 20th Asian Games Saturday, September 26, 2026 Vol. 08
Kazakh rowers celebrate with fellow athletes
Photos by Ayano Miura

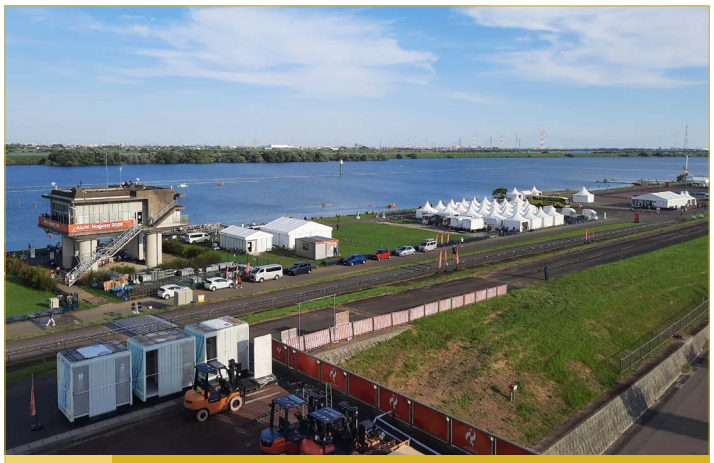
8. Read all about it!

For the people who prefer the more traditional form of media, such as newspapers and magazines, the Asian Games Times was a breath of fresh air around the scene. The daily eight-page bilingual tabloid reported on the main news of the day and turned the spotlight on individual athletes with a story to tell. The sports menu for the upcoming day was a highlight – and the short and sharp Japanese reading and speaking lessons added to the occasion. The Asian Games Times was published by the Chunichi Shimbun. (AINAGOC)



9. Nagoya Castle

A bracing walk – or short journey on the metro – from Nagoya Station took visitors to the magnificent Nagoya Castle. By day in the sunshine, or by night all lit up, Nagoya Castle is truly a sight to behold with its greenery, moat and outbuildings. Nagoya Castle provided a scenic backdrop for the OCA President, HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, to welcome guests, including IOC Member Ng Ser Miang of Singapore. (OCA)



10. Venues show natural beauty of Japan

The sports programme required 54 competition venues. While some of them were renovated, all-purpose gymnasiums in towns or cities, others were outdoors and showed the natural beauty of Japan. One such venue was the Nagaragawa International Regatta Course, located on the Nagara River between Aisai City in Aichi Prefecture and Kaizu City in Gifu Prefecture. On a sunny day for the 14 rowing finals, sport combined with nature to stunning effect. (OCA)



11. Cricket turns up the volume

Korogi Athletic Park had never seen or heard anything like India v Pakistan in the men's T20 final at the Asian Games. Packed stands of flag-waving fans cheered as Pakistan chased India's 211-6, but could manage only 192-6. India won by 19 runs and took gold in a thrilling showcase for T20 cricket ahead of its Olympic debut at Los Angeles 2028.

(Reuters)



12. Aichi Sky Expo – a perfect host

Near Nagoya International Airport, Aichi Sky Expo created a lively Asian Games park atmosphere, with spectators enjoying sport, food, relaxation and souvenirs in one shared space. Five halls hosted skateboarding, BMX freestyle, esports, breaking and fencing, showing how a multi-sport venue can offer variety while helping control costs. In this Xinhua photo, China's Cui Chenxi competes in the women's street final.



13. Star quality adds to Asian Games appeal

Aichi-Nagoya 2026 gave fans the chance to see Olympic champions competing on home soil before the next Olympic campaign. Stars included Korean badminton champion An Se-young, Japanese wrestler Akari Fujinami, the Filipino gymnast Carlos Yulo and Chinese swimmer Pan Zhanle. In this Korea Times photo, An Se-young celebrates winning the women's singles badminton title at Ichinomiya City Municipal Gymnasium.



14. New sports make instant impact

Teqball, surfing, padel and mixed martial arts brought fresh excitement to Aichi-Nagoya 2026. Teqball began two days before the opening ceremony, building interest ahead of its five finals on the first official medal day, September 20. Padel, a blend of squash and tennis, featured later, with Japan winning women's pairs gold and Qatar taking the men's title. In this AFP photo, Myanmar's Wai Khin Hnin returns a shot against Indonesia's Sumaya in the women's singles teqball final.



15. Mass Media Interest

Aichi-Nagoya 2026 attracted 7,104 media members. The Main Media Centre at Nagoya Port Messe hosted 5,119 broadcast personnel at the International Broadcast Centre and 1,985 writers and photographers at the Main Press Centre. Of the broadcast staff, 2,972 worked for host broadcaster CMG-IMP and 2,147 represented rights-holding broadcasters. Here, IOC President Kirsty Coventry and OCA President Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani visit CMG. (OCA)



16. Putting athletes first

OCA President His Excellency Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, accompanied by IOC President Kirsty Coventry and OCA Director General Husain Al Musallam, visited the Athletes' Village to review facilities and services supporting competitors throughout the Asian Games. They also met athletes, wished them success and praised the sportsmanship that unites Asia.

(OCA)



17. One Asia World

Hisaya-Odori Park transformed into a lively evening fan fest through One Asia World, a joint initiative by AINAGOC and the OCA. Medallists received red-carpet welcomes, took part in interviews and official photos, and met fans for selfies. The initiative brought the Asian Games community together in a relaxed atmosphere, allowing athletes to celebrate their achievements and connect with the public. (AINAGOC)



18. Imagine One Asia

The slogan "Imagine One Asia" united 45 National Olympic Committees and, for the first time, an OCA Refugee Team. At the closing press conference, OCA Director General Husain Al Musallam highlighted sport's power to promote peace and solidarity, noting that 40 NOCs won medals and around 60,000 people helped deliver the Games, including athletes, officials, media and volunteers. "Imagine One Asia" at the closing ceremony. (CGTN/VCG)



19. Aichi-Nagoya enters history books

Following Tokyo in 1958 and Hiroshima in 1994, Aichi-Nagoya 2026 became Japan's third Asian Games host. Held from September 19 to October 4, the 20th edition secured Nagoya City and Aichi Prefecture a place in sporting history. Nagoya Mayor Ichiro Hirosawa and Aichi Governor Hideaki Ohmura joined the official flag handover to Doha during the closing ceremony. Japanese athletes join the closing ceremony. (AINAGOC)



20. All eyes on Doha 2030

Doha dazzled at the closing ceremony of Aichi-Nagoya 2026, offering a glimpse of the 21st Asian Games in 2030. Having hosted the event in 2006, Qatar welcomed Asia back with spectacular horsemanship inside the stadium and captivating digital displays. Doha 2030's slogan, "The Games We Live For", sets the stage for the next chapter. See Page 42 for more on Doha 2030.

(AINAGOC)

YU (CHINA), BOONSON (THAILAND) NAMED ASIAN GAMES MVPS

The Olympic Council of Asia announced the two recipients of the Most Valuable Player Award of the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 on October 4.

The Female MVP was Yu Zidi (China, Swimming)

The Male MVP was Puripol Boonson (Thailand, Athletics)

Each of the two winners received a prize of USD25,000 from the OCA.



Tayyab Ikram with the two MVPs.

YU ZIDI (CHINA)

Aged just 13, Yu won three gold medals in the women's 200m butterfly, women's 200m individual medley and women's 400m individual medley. She set three Games records and one Asian record.

In the 200m butterfly on September 20, Yu set a Games record of 2:05.08.

In the 200m individual medley on September 21, Yu's 2:06.10 was not only a Games record but also an Asian record.

In the 400m individual medley on September 23, Yu clocked 4:28.56 to establish a Games record.

PURIPOL BOONSON (THAILAND)

The Thai flyer, aged 20, surged to a 100m-200m sprint double, setting a total of four Asian Games records and equalling one Asian record.

In the men's 100m on September 25, Boonson won gold in an Asian Games record of 9.90 seconds, beating his own Games record of 9.91 seconds set in the semi-finals.

In the men's 200m on September 27, Boonson raced to a Games record of 19.88 seconds, breaking his own Games record of 20.10 set the previous day. His gold medal-winning time of 19.88 also equalled the Asian record.

Boonson also won a silver medal in the 4x100m mixed relay.

Asian Superstars

The Chair of the OCA MVP Awards Panel, Mr. Tayyab Ikram, said: "The five members of the panel had a very difficult job selecting the Female and Male MVP of the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026.

"This is testament to the exceptional quality of the athletes and to the high level of competition throughout the Asian Games.

"Our two winners not only registered a series of Games records and Asian records but also established themselves as Asian sports superstars around the world. We are convinced that their performances here at the Asian Games will be a stepping stone to greater things at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 2028.

"They made a huge impact on the spectators and on the media at Aichi-Nagoya 2026 and have time on their side to build on this success and win many more gold medals in the future.

"OCA would like to congratulate Yu Zidi, Puripol Boonson and all our Asian athletes for putting on a tremendous show at the 20th Asian Games and for providing sporting memories that will last a lifetime."

Previous MVPs: **1998:** Koji Ito (Japan, Athletics); **2002:** Kosuke Kitajima (Japan, Swimming); **2006:** Park Tae-hwan (Korea, Swimming); **2010:** Lin Dan (China, Badminton); **2014:** Kosuke Hagino (Japan, Swimming); **2018:** Rikako Ikee (Japan, Swimming); **2022: Male MVP:** Qin Haiyang (China, Swimming) - **Female MVP:** Zhang Yufei (China, Swimming); **2026: Male MVP:** Puripol Boonson (Thailand, Athletics) - **Female MVP:** Yu Zidi (China, Swimming)



The Philippines' two-time Paris Olympic champion Carlos "Caloy" Yulo, 26, doubled up in Nagoya with gold in the men's floor exercise and in men's vault, winning half his team's gold medal tally. (AP)



Kuwaiti shooter Khaled Al-Mudhaf, 48, went home with two gold medals – in the trap men's team and men's individual. (Kuwait Times)



Saudi Arabia's Ramzy Al Duhami, 54, recorded a golden double in the jumping team event and individual competition B (heights of up to 1.55m) on the 13-year-old mare Untouchable 32. Five rounds, five clears and two gold medals was the story of his faultless Asian Games.



Tajikistan won two gold medals at Aichi-Nagoya 2026, both in the new discipline of Mixed Martial Arts. Otabek Rajabov triumphed in the men's traditional -65kg category. (AINAGOC)



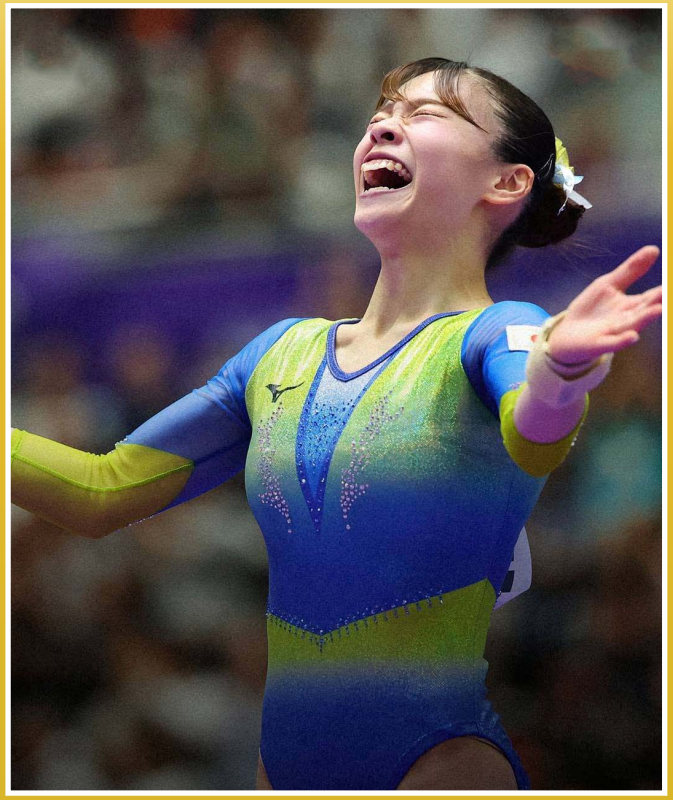
Indian archer Kumkum Mohod, 17, showed nerves of steel to win the women's recurve individual gold. (Reuters)



Korea's Nam Dong-heon wins individual dressage gold on Leonidas. (Xinhua/Yonhap)



Singapore's Shanti Pereira wins her second successive women's 200m gold medal. (SNOC)



Aiko Sugihara was one of the stars of Team Japan, winning the artistic gymnastics women's all-around and women's floor exercise. (AINAGOC)



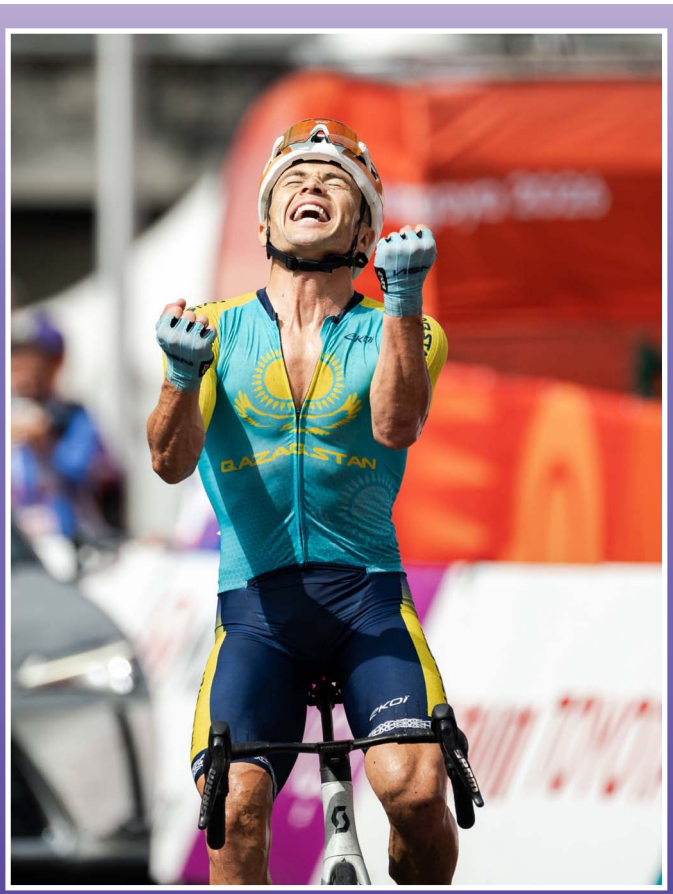
Coleman Wong powers his way to the men's singles tennis title, thereby securing an Olympic berth for Hong Kong, China at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. (SF&OC)



Vietnam's karate team won gold in the women's team kata final. The three members were Bui Ngoc Nhi, Hoang Thi Thu Uyen and Nguyen Ngoc Tram. (Vietnamnet Global)



Uzbekistan's Barnokhon Sayfullaeva, 21, recorded a personal best of 1.90 metres to take gold in the women's high jump. (Xinhua)



Kazakhstan's Alexey Lutsenko cycled to a golden double in the men's road race and individual time trial.



Iran's Ali Davoudi lifts gold in the men's +110kg. (Mehr News Agency)



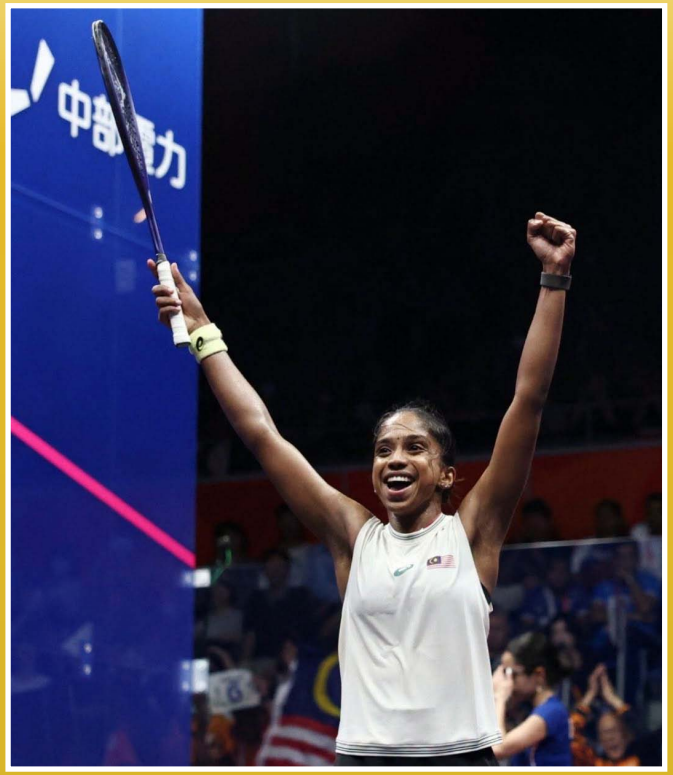
Thailand's Natnicha Chongprongklang beats DPR Korea's Pang Chol-mi by a 4–1 split decision to win the women's 54 kg boxing title.



Myanmar made a big bang at the Asian Games esports competition, winning gold in Mobile Legends: Bang Bang. (Myanmar Digital News)



Bahrain's Winfred Yavi raced to a golden hat-trick in the women's 10,000 metres, 3000 metres steeplechase and 5000 metres.



Malaysia's Sivasangari Subramaniam defends her women's squash title from Hangzhou 2022 by defeating India's Anahat Singh 3-0 in the final and qualifying for LA28. (OCM)



Asma Al Hosani celebrates jiu jitsu gold for the United Arab Emirates in the women's -52kg division.



DPR Korea won seven gold medals at Aichi-Nagoya 2026, all in weightlifting. Here's one of them, from Oh Kwang Ok in the women's 57kg category.



Sri Lanka's Commonwealth Games men's javelin champion Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage added the Asian Games title to his season's collection with another commanding performance and best throw of 88.55 metres. (AP)



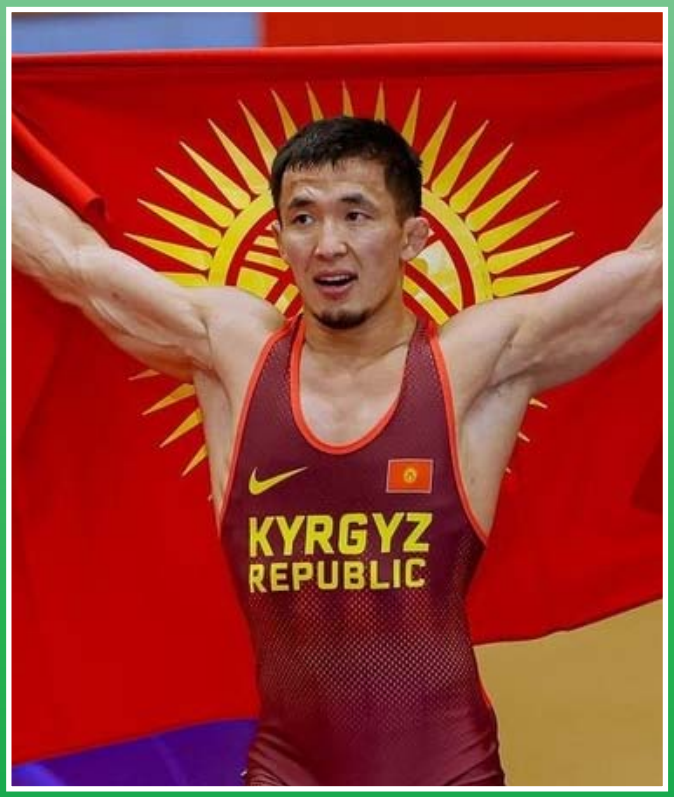
The Naif brothers Mashari, 19, and Rashed, 21, made history for Qatar by winning the first-ever Asian Games padel gold, in men's pairs. (Doha News)



Chinese Taipei's Lin Yu-ting defeats China's Yang Chengyu 5-0 in the women's boxing 60kg final to win gold. (CNA)



Nurisa Dian Ashrifa, 20, made history by winning Indonesia's first Asian Games gold medal in archery with the compound women's individual title. (World Archery)



Kyrgyzstan's Zholoman Sharshenbekov celebrates victory in men's Greco-Roman 60kg wrestling. (AINAGOC)



Kuong Chi Hin led a wushu 1-2 for Macao, China in the men's changquan, ahead of Song Chi Kuan. (Xinhua/Macau Business)

NINE YOUNG REPORTERS JOIN OCA MEDIA TEAM IN NAGOYA

The OCA Youth Reporter Project came to fruition at the 20th Asian Games when nine talented writers joined the OCA media team to cover Aichi-Nagoya 2026.

The OCA had conducted the Youth Reporter Project as part of the "Asian Games for All" campaign, and eight winners of the project hosted by eight National Olympic Committees around the continent were joined by one invited guest to create a nine-strong reporting team.

The reporters learned first-hand the demands of covering a massive event like the Asian Games and the qualities and characteristics it requires to complete such an arduous mission.



IOC President Kirsty Coventry shares a joke with the OCA youth reporters.

Early starts, transportation links, media tribunes, mixed zones with the athletes, official press conferences, gathering all the information and forming a coherent news article, late finishes and, above all, time management became a daily duty for the hardy band of young reporters.

They arrived in Nagoya as fresh-faced media rookies – and left 20 days later as battle-hardened multi-sport event warriors ready to tackle any assignment and produce the goods under pressure.

After settling in to their media hotel near Nagoya Station, they made full use of their media transport pass – worth 9,000 Yen and renewable twice for a total of 27,000 Yen free travel around Aichi Prefecture – and familiarized themselves with the Main Media Centre at Nagoya Port Messe.

Then it was a matter of identifying the sports and athletes they wanted to cover, checking the competition schedule on a daily basis and finding out how to travel to the venue – and, more importantly, how to travel back.

The highlights of the adventure included being introduced to the OCA President, His Excellency Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, and the IOC President, Kirsty Coventry, at the Main Press Centre; taking a tour of the Costa Serena cruise ship docked at Kinjo Pier; experiencing the delights of the Shinkansen bullet train on a day trip to Tokyo; and attending the Closing Ceremony as OCA Guests, their work having finished.

Over the next nine pages, Sporting Asia introduces the nine OCA youth reporters and gives examples of their excellent work during the course of the Asian Games.



Sri Lanka NOC's SiGo catches up with Katie Speldewinde (left), the youth reporter from Kandy, and Meera Regmi of Bhutan.



By **Zaynab Kawtharani**, 21
OCA Youth Reporter from Lebanon

PATIENCE BRINGS SUGIMURA GOLD IN WOMEN'S -78KG JUDO

One gold medal contest lasted more than six minutes. One bronze medal contest was over in 15 seconds.

Between them, the women's -78kg judo competition at Aichi International Arena on Friday, October 2 offered very different routes to the Asian Games podium.

Japan's Mizuki Sugimura emerged as champion after a tense final against Korea's Kim Minju, while Kazakhstan's Ekaterina Tokareva and Lebanon's Aqulina Chayeb claimed the two bronze medals.

The final became a test of patience as neither Sugimura nor Kim registered a technical score. Both received an early shido, and the contest continued into golden score before Kim's third penalty decided the outcome at 6:03. Sugimura, who had accumulated two penalties herself, secured gold for the host nation.

For Sugimura, victory brought relief after a disappointing result at another international tournament a month earlier had shaken her confidence.

"I've been practising every day for this tournament, so I'm very happy that I was able to connect it to this result of winning the championship," she said.

"I was able to fight through to the end, and the feeling of relief was the biggest emotion."

Sugimura had anticipated facing Kim in the final and expected opportunities to throw to be difficult to create. Her approach was to remain patient and keep working towards a decisive opening.

"I strongly resolved to just persevere to the end and ensure it led to a victory," she said.

For Kim, silver brought recognition but little immediate consolation. She had prepared with gold as her target and struggled to accept falling one step short.

"A silver medal is a really good result but, since I went through all the training with only the gold medal in mind, I can't help but feel disappointed," she said.

The Korean judoka revealed that she had competed while managing an elbow injury sustained last November and a completely torn anterior cruciate ligament in her knee. She postponed surgery to take part in the Asian Games, relying on rehabilitation and strengthening work.

Kim said she experienced pain when kneeling, falling or twisting her knee during grappling. With Olympic qualification in mind, she intended to continue competing to improve her ranking, while remaining determined to challenge for gold at a future Olympics or Asian Games.

Kazakhstan's Tokareva secured bronze against Iran's Maryam Barbat, winning by waza ari. She registered one waza ari and two yukos, while Barbat finished without a technical score and received one shido.

The other bronze contest produced a swift finish. Chayeb, 22, needed just 15 seconds to defeat China's Wu Hongtao by ippon, becoming the first female judoka representing Lebanon to win an Asian Games medal.

"It is an incredible feeling, nothing compares," Chayeb said. Reflecting on her route to the podium, she identified mental focus as a decisive part of competition.

"I think the toughest battle is always the mental one," she said.

Chayeb dedicated the medal to her parents, crediting their emotional and financial support and their belief in her from the beginning. She said her commitment to keeping Lebanon's flag high remained central to her ambitions.

"My long-term goal is definitely a medal in the Olympics," she said.



The podium at the women's -78kg judo. (AINAGOC)



By **Meera Regmi**, 17
OCA Youth Reporter from Bhutan

GAWA ZANGPO: BEYOND THE FINISH LINE AT THE ASIAN GAMES

Behind every athlete lies a journey of perseverance, resilience and hard work. For Bhutanese runner Gawa Zangpo, the 20th Asian Games provided an opportunity to challenge himself on a greater stage.

Competing in the men's 5,000m, Gawa clocked 14 minutes and 48.43 seconds, finishing 14th in a fiercely contested race. His performance marked a personal best and opened another chapter in his athletic journey.

Beyond his timing and performance, Gawa's experience at the Asian Games was also a journey of learning and personal growth. Reflecting on his time at the Games, he shared his memorable experience of competing against some of Asia's finest runners on one of the continent's biggest sporting stages.



Gawa Zangpo takes part in the men's 5,000 metres. (Bhutan NOC)

"Competing at the Asian Games was a memorable experience for me. It was a great opportunity to compete with the best athletes in Asia. I gave my best effort and stayed committed throughout the race," he said.

"Of course, there are always areas where I can improve, and this experience has motivated me to work harder and come back stronger in my next competitions."

Stepping on to such a significant sporting stage was both exciting and nerve-racking for Gawa. Representing Bhutan at an international event while competing against some of Asia's finest runners was a moment filled with pride and anticipation.

"Stepping on to the track, I was really excited, nervous and filled with pride because I was representing Bhutan on such a big international stage. I felt proud."

Having competed in several international competitions, including the South Asian Games, Gawa has experienced how running can shape an individual beyond the sporting arena. The sport has taught him valuable lessons in discipline, patience, resilience and perseverance, influencing not only his development as a runner but also his outlook on life.

MORE CONFIDENT

"Having competed in several international competitions, my journey as a runner has shaped me both as an athlete and a person. Every competition has taught me something different. The journey has not always been smooth, but the challenges and experiences have made me more confident and stronger."

Like many athletes, Gawa's journey has involved challenges that have tested his physical and mental endurance. The demands of training, difficult sessions and the pressure of representing his country have required considerable dedication and commitment.

"My journey as a runner has demanded a lot from me, both physically and mentally. The early mornings for training, pushing through difficult sessions and sometimes sacrificing personal time with family and friends have all been part of it. Despite all of that, the journey has taught me that success doesn't come overnight. It requires patience, consistency and a strong mindset."

During difficult moments, motivation becomes an important source of strength for athletes. For Gawa, his passion for running, personal goals and pride in representing Bhutan have helped him remain focused and continue pursuing his ambitions.

"My passion for running, the goals I have set and my dream of representing Bhutan on an international stage have kept me going. There are days when training doesn't go as planned, but I always remind myself how far I have come. The support I receive from my family, coaches and people back home also pushes me to keep going."



By **Melody Jo Hsuan Wu**, 21
OCA Youth Reporter from Chinese Taipei

FROM YOUTUBE LESSONS TO THE ASIAN GAMES STAGE

When Kyrgyzstan's Azhar Berikovna Makhmetova wanted to learn more about freestyle poomsae, one of the places she turned to was YouTube.

The 25-year-old taekwondo athlete competed in the women's individual poomsae event at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games in Toyohashi, bringing with her a journey shaped by curiosity, self-learning and a determination to develop in a discipline that is still growing in her country.

Makhmetova explained that taekwondo in Kyrgyzstan is more commonly focused on kyorugi - combat. While she has received taekwondo and poomsae (forms) training, opportunities to learn specialised freestyle poomsae have been more limited.

That is where YouTube became useful.

She watched videos of other athletes online, studying freestyle poomsae techniques and movements and using what she saw as another way to learn and improve.

Freestyle poomsae combines taekwondo techniques with acrobatic and performance elements, making specialised training particularly valuable. For Makhmetova, online videos became an additional learning resource when that kind of instruction was not always easily available around her.



Team Kyrgyzstan at Toyohashi

Different paths

Her commitment to freestyle poomsae has also required a personal financial investment. During the interview, she explained that she had paid for parts of her training and preparation herself.

Makhmetova's experience highlights how athletes can arrive at the same international competition through very different paths. While the Asian Games brings competitors from across the continent on to the same stage, the resources and opportunities available to them at home can vary greatly.

For Makhmetova, YouTube did not replace her coaches or her existing taekwondo training. Instead, it gave her another way to explore freestyle poomsae, study other athletes and continue developing her skills.

Those hours of watching, learning and practising eventually became part of a much bigger journey, one that brought her to Toyohashi to represent Kyrgyzstan at the Asian Games.

Her story shows how curiosity can sometimes become a training tool. For Makhmetova, a screen opened another window into freestyle poomsae and helped her keep learning on her way to one of Asia's biggest sporting stages.

With a score of 7.3000, she finished sixth in her semifinal and ranked ninth overall in women's individual poomsae - a fine effort for Kyrgyzstan.



By **Hana Dayyat**, 21
OCA Youth Reporter from Jordan

JORDAN'S FADIA KHIRFAN WINS TAEKWONDO GOLD

Jordan's Fadia Khirfan, 19, captured the Asian Games gold medal on Saturday, October 3, defeating China's Zhang Chuling in the women's -57kg final at Toyohashi Gymnasium.

In a tightly contested championship match, Khirfan secured a 2–1 victory by points. She took the opening round 2–0 before Zhang fought back to claim the second round 4–2. Khirfan then delivered a strong performance in the deciding third round, scoring six points to Zhang's three to claim gold and leave the Chinese athlete with the silver medal.

Khirfan shared that entering the arena against a familiar rival fueled her determination to win.

"It was a very tough bout. My opponent had beaten me previously, and I entered the arena with a 'do or die' mindset. I felt I absolutely had to win, to secure this major title," Khirfan said.

Reflecting on the achievement, the newly crowned champion dedicated the medal to her supporters at home.

"First of all, I want to thank everyone involved. I'd like to dedicate this achievement to all of Jordan and the entire Arab world," she said. "I dedicate my achievement to my father as he was my primary supporter. I also dedicate it to my mother and my entire family. This is a major achievement and, hopefully, there are more to come."

The victory meant that Jordan finished the taekwondo competition with one gold and four bronze medals for five total medals.



Fadia Khirfan shows her pride in Jordan.

HUANG LEAPS TO VICTORY IN WOMEN'S LONG JUMP

China's Huang Yingying claimed the women's long jump title on Sunday, September 27, producing a winning leap of 6.55 meters at Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium to edge India's Ancy Sojan Edappilly by just two centimeters.

Sojan looked set for the top step of the podium after registering 6.53m with her fifth attempt, only for Huang to overtake her in the sixth and final round to take gold.

China's Tan Mengyi secured the bronze medal with a best effort of 6.46m - also on her final attempt.

Huang, 22, revealed that she had to overcome a shaky opening attempt before finding her rhythm on the runway.

"My first jump was not good just 6 metres 14," Huang said. "But at the same time my opponents did not perform well."

Having already medaled earlier in the athletics program, with silver in the women's triple jump on September 24, Huang credited physical recovery and tactical patience for managing the back to back disciplines.

"Just a few days ago I won the silver medal in the triple jump," Huang said. "So, before the competition, I just tried to be relaxed, concentrate on this event and to reserve my stamina and sleep well."



Huang Yingying celebrates long jump gold.



By **Rumaiza Norova**, 18
OCA Youth Reporter from Tajikistan

LOOKING FOR MY BELOVED FLAG AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

Whenever I enter a place lined with the flags of different countries, I have a habit: I look for Tajikistan.

My eyes move from one flag to another, searching for three familiar stripes and the golden crown in the centre. At hotels, international institutions and events, sometimes I find it. Many times, I don't.

Tonight, at the Asian Games opening ceremony, I knew I would.

Before the athletes entered the stadium, dancers moved across the field to the sound of a violin. The music rose through a stadium filled with thousands of people, followed by the raising of the flag and the anthem. Somewhere between the music and the silence that followed, the scale of what was happening began to feel different.

Soon, the flags started arriving.

One after another, delegations walked into the stadium. Every flag belonged to someone in the stands. Somewhere, someone had been waiting for it.

I knew the feeling.

When Tajikistan appeared, I wasn't searching a row of flags anymore. I was watching our athletes carry one into a stadium before all of Asia. For countries that do not often occupy the centre of the world's attention, there is something powerful about simply being seen: your country's name announced, its athletes walking forward, its flag given its place among the others.

But what struck me was what happened between those moments.

People waited eagerly for their own countries, yet cheered when others appeared. Nobody had to surrender a flag, a language or an identity for the stadium to feel united. In fact, the differences were the entire point.

Earlier, listening to the violin, I had found myself thinking about how strange that felt against the world outside the stadium. Beyond it are wars, poverty and political divisions that sport cannot solve. Yet here were nations that disagree on much more consequential things sharing the same field, not because those differences had disappeared, but because for one evening they had something else to share.

"Imagine One Asia."

The slogan of the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games.

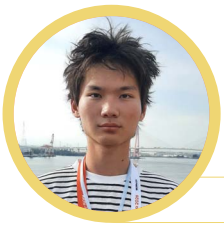
At first, "one" sounds like a word about sameness. Tonight looked nothing like sameness. It was dozens of uniforms, languages, anthems and flags.

Perhaps "one" does not mean asking any of them to disappear. Perhaps it means being able to search a stadium for your own flag, find it, and still cheer when someone else's appears.

And perhaps that is why, by the end of the ceremony, I was no longer only looking for mine.



AINAGOC



By **Naranbat "Sonny" Serjmaa**
OCA Youth Reporter from Mongolia

KAZIRBYEK YOLK CONTINUES MONGOLIA'S GOLDEN JUDO LEGACY

Mongolian judoka Kazirbyek Yolk etched his name into Asian Games history at Aichi International Arena on September 30.

The 26-year-old Kazirbyek won the men's -66 kg final with a dramatic Ippon victory over Uzbekistan's Paris Olympic bronze medalist Abdurahim Nutfulloev to claim Mongolia's only gold medal of the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games.

Facing Nutfulloev, a formidable opponent who previously captured both the Ulaanbaatar and Astana Grand Slam titles alongside his Paris 2024 Olympic bronze medal, Yolk asserted his presence early by scoring a Yuko at 1:46 after both athletes had received a Shido at 1:30.

Yolk seized his moment during ground work to secure the match winning submission at 2:20.

For Yolk, an International-class Master of Sports, the gold medal marks the pinnacle of a journey rooted in rural Mongolia. Raised in Selenge Province, Yolk began practicing judo at age 13 after following a friend to a local training session.

His development received a defining catalyst around 2013 when International Judo Federation representatives visited rural Mongolian provinces to introduce children to the sport. During that outreach visit, officials presented young Yolk with his very first judogi, which is the traditional uniform consisting of a heavy woven cotton jacket, reinforced trousers and a fabric belt.



Mongolia's judo champion Kazirbyek Yolk.

That early gift paved the way for rapid progress on the world stage. Following a breakthrough bronze medal at the 2025 World Judo Championships, Yolk built his momentum through 2026, placing fifth at the Ulaanbaatar Grand Slam and seventh at the Asian Judo Championships before peaking in Nagoya.

With this victory, Yolk became the 27th Mongolian athlete across all sports to win an Asian Games title, and the eighth Mongolian judoka in history to take home Asian Games gold.

As the Mongolian national anthem echoed inside the Aichi International Arena, Yolk did more than just claim an individual title. From a young boy receiving his first judogi in rural Selenge Province to standing atop the Asian Games podium, his campaign stands as a masterclass in poise and tactical excellence.

By writing his name alongside the legends of Mongolian judo, Kazirbyek Yolk has carried a proud athletic tradition into a new era, ensuring that his country's rich combat sports legacy continues to burn bright on the international stage.



By **Katie Speldewinde**, 17
OCA Youth Reporter from Sri Lanka

THE IRON WOMAN BEHIND SRI LANKA'S THREE ASIAN GAMES MEDALS

For Chamari Athapaththu, an Asian Games medal has become more than an achievement. It has become part of a legacy she has built across three editions of the Games.

From bronze in 2014 to silver in 2022 and now another silver in Aichi-Nagoya, the 36-year-old Athapaththu has been at the heart of Sri Lanka's journey on each occasion, leading her country on to the podium once again in what is likely to be her final Asian Games appearance.

The result may not have been the gold she and her team had hoped for - as India won the final by 147 runs after scoring 216-3 and dismissing Sri Lanka for 69 - but Athapaththu's pride in what Sri Lanka has accomplished remains clear.



Sri Lanka proudly show their women's cricket silver medals.



Chamari Athapaththu in action at the Asian Games.

"We came to this tournament to win the gold medal," said the left-handed batter, whose 21-ball 27 included five boundaries. "As the captain of this team, I'm not satisfied with the silver medal."

That hunger has been a defining part of Athapaththu's career. Even after securing another Asian Games medal, her thoughts quickly turned towards the team, the lessons from the campaign and what Sri Lanka can achieve next.

As captain, she has become more than a leading batter. She has been a constant presence for a generation of Sri Lankan cricketers, helping guide a young squad through the demands of international cricket while continuing to carry the responsibility of leading from the front.

THREE ASIAN GAMES MEDALS

Her own journey has unfolded alongside Sri Lanka's progress. Across three Asian Games appearances, she has now helped her country secure three medals, a record that reflects both her longevity and her enduring contribution to Sri Lankan cricket.

Athapaththu is also conscious of the challenges faced by the players coming through behind her. She spoke about the need for greater experience, particularly within a young bowling group, while highlighting areas such as power-hitting that Sri Lanka can continue to develop.

For her, however, the future is not solely about what she can accomplish herself. It is about preparing the next generation to carry Sri Lanka forward.

"This will likely be my last Asian Games," Athapaththu said. "I hope the young players will carry Sri Lanka to victories in the future."

Her own future may eventually take her beyond playing. Athapaththu plans to spend time in Australia learning more about coaching and sports administration, with the hope of one day returning to serve Sri Lanka using the experience she has gathered throughout her career.

Whether that comes as a coach, administrator or in another leadership role, the desire remains the same, to give back to the country that she has represented for so long.

Three Asian Games. Three medals. And, through every chapter, Chamari Athapaththu has remained one of the defining figures of Sri Lankan women's cricket.



By **Hawwa Zaaya Hassan**, 17
OCA Youth Reporter from Maldives

MY CHANCE TO MEET THE ASIAN GAMES' FIRST REFUGEE TEAM

A press conference at the Main Press Centre on Monday, September 21, marked a significant turning point for the two taekwondo athletes from the Syrian Arab Republic, via the Azraq refugee camp in Jordan, as they were officially introduced to the public as the OCA Refugee Team.

The two athletes are Mahmoud Al Jasem Al Mohammad Al Hussein, 24, who will compete in the men's 80kg Kyorugi (combat), and Talah Al Hassan Al Hinide, 18, in the women's -49kg Kyorugi.

What began as a standard media briefing quickly turned into a deeply moving exploration of what it means to work under extraordinary circumstances.

Central to this resilience was the spirit of unity fostered by the Olympic Council of Asia. During the session, it was noted that, when the OCA and its partners unite, they create a magic that transcends the typical boundaries of sport.

This collaboration acts as a force for building bridges across different countries and nationalities, making them one.

The athletes expressed that they felt incredibly blessed for this connection, as these partnerships turn the competitive arena into a space where cultural and geographic divides are dissolved through shared passion, and the core of the discussion centered on the unique and heavy responsibility the athletes carry as refugee representatives.

When journalists asked how it felt to represent a refugee camp on a global stage, the responses moved beyond sport. For these athletes, the competition is not merely an individual pursuit of medals, but a collective statement of existence.

They spoke of the immense pride and the daunting pressure of carrying the hopes of an entire community, turning every match and every movement into a testament to the survival and strength of those living in displacement.

Ultimately, the introduction of these athletes is a reminder that sport is often much more than a game. It is a powerful vehicle for human dignity. As they prepare to step on to the global stage, they carry with them a narrative of endurance that transcends physical competition.

Their journey serves as a profound testament to the fact that, even in the most restrictive environments, the pursuit of excellence can become a beacon of hope and a way to claim one's place in the world.



Talah Al Hassan Al Hinide at the press conference. (Xinhua)



The two members of the refugee team. (Xinhua)



By **Adala Anvith Reddy**, 20
OCA Guest Youth Reporter from India

INDIA SHOW IRAN WHO'S BOSS IN WOMEN'S AND MEN'S KABADDI

India and the Islamic Republic of Iran were involved in two gruelling battles in the finals of the women's and men's kabaddi competitions at the Tokai Citizen Gymnasium on Saturday, September 26.

The women were up first, and India held off Iran 37-34 after building up a six-point cushion at halftime, 22-16.

This was India's second successive gold medal and fourth in five women's kabaddi competitions since 2010; their only blemish came in 2018 when they lost the final to Iran.

The men's final brought the kabaddi competition to a close, and India completed a golden double by defeating Iran 40-34, despite trailing 18-17 at the break. It was India's ninth gold in 10 attempts since 1990. Iran won gold in 2018.

Speaking after the match, India's Pawan Kumar said: "Iran are a very good team. We knew it would be a tough match, but we had complete confidence in our raiders, our defense and the entire team.

"We made one or two defensive mistakes at the beginning, but our raiders made up for them. Our defense also improved, with Sumit making several successful tackles. We expected a good match, and that is what we got."



India's women celebrate kabaddi gold. (Mark Baker, AP)

BAHRAIN STUN REIGNING CHAMPIONS QATAR TO WIN HANDBALL GOLD



That golden feeling.

In a tense and thrilling men's handball final, Bahrain defeated the reigning three-time champions Qatar 33-32 to win gold for the first time.

Bahrain led 16-15 at halftime and held on for a one-point victory after the second half finished level 17-17.

In a breathtaking finale, defender Ahmed Fadhul extended Bahrain's lead to 33-31 with just four seconds remaining, and there was no way back for Qatar.

Fadhul scored seven goals from nine shots at 78 per cent, while teammate and right back Ahmed Kadhem went seven for seven for 100 per cent shooting.

Bahrain head coach Robert Gunner said: "We are very happy with the result considering that this is our fourth straight championship this season, and especially against a team like Qatar. We hope to cement ourselves as the best in the Gulf region."

OCA ATHLETES COMMITTEE WELCOMES

The Olympic Council of Asia announced the result of the elections for the OCA Athletes Committee during a press conference at the Main Media Centre on Saturday, October 3.

The OCA was looking to fill four places on the committee – one female athlete from West Asia, one male athlete from Central Asia, one male athlete from East Asia and one female athlete from Southeast Asia. This system was to ensure gender equity and regional representation on the committee.

There was a total of nine candidates for the four positions – two from West Asia, three from Central Asia, three from East Asia and one from Southeast Asia.

Athletes participating in the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 were entitled to vote at one of several polling stations located in the accommodation centres such as the Costa Serena cruise ship at Kinjo Pier, Asian Games Villas at Garden Pier and 75 hotels.

The OCA announced that, of the 11,000 athletes at the Asian Games, a total of 5,215 votes were collected during the voting period of September 20 to October 2.

The following results were announced at the press conference:

EAST ASIA – Votes tallied: **5,215**

Cho Sung-min (Korea, Sailing):
1,832 votes (35.13%)

Naoto Tobe (Japan, Athletics):
2,238 votes (42.91%)

Chun Han Yang (Chinese Taipei, Athletics):
1,145 votes (21.96 %)

- **Naoto Tobe** wins with 42.91% of the votes.

CENTRAL ASIA – Votes tallied: **5,215**

Arian Salimi (Iran, Taekwondo):
1,535 votes (29.43%)

Amir Maimuratov (Kazakhstan, Sport Climbing):
1,900 votes (36.43%)

Jasurbek Jaysunov (Uzbekistan, Taekwondo):
1,780 votes (34.13%)

- **Amir Maimuratov** wins with 36.43% of the votes.



Ding Ning presents an OCA souvenir to Naoto Tobe.



OCA Athletes Committee Chair Ding Ning.

FOUR NEW MEMBERS

WEST ASIA – Votes tallied: **5,215**

Hanan Nassar (Jordan, Boxing):
2,094 votes (40.15%)

Reem Al Sharsharni (Qatar, Shooting):
3,121 (59.85%)

- **Reem Al Sharsharni** wins with 59.85% of the votes.

SOUTHEAST ASIA – Votes tallied: **5,215**

Thanyalak Chotphibunsin (Thailand, Shooting):
5,215 votes (100%)

- **Thanyalak Chotphibunsin** wins with 100% of the votes.

The Chair of the OCA Athletes Committee, Ding Ning, welcomed the four new members, including Olympic high jumper Naoto Tobe, who was in attendance at the press conference announcement. She said the committee played a crucial role in OCA affairs as it gave the athletes a voice.

"I think this election is very important. The new members will bring different ideas to the committee," she said.

"I would like to thank all candidates for showing courage and commitment and for all your efforts. Congratulations to the winners of the election – you have an important job and will represent the athletes from across Asia. I look forward to working with you together."

- In addition to the four elected members, the Athletes Committee will also be joined by Rajeshwari Kumari from India who has been nominated by the OCA Executive Board to represent the South Asia region.

- The newly elected members of the OCA Athletes Committee joined the existing committee members later in the day for an introductory meeting.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the new representatives to meet their fellow committee members, learn more about their roles and responsibilities and discuss the priorities and plans for the coming term.

The committee discussed a range of areas including strengthening athlete engagement across Asia, improving communication with athletes and National Olympic Committees and developing initiatives that respond to the needs and experiences of athletes.



Group photo at the press conference.



Taiko drums pound out the rhythm of the night.



Performers captivate the audience (AINAGOC)



Honohon says farewell. (AINAGOC)



The stadium is bathed in red.



AINAGOC says a big "thank you" to everyone for taking part in the 20th Asian Games.



Performers hold up the names of the National Olympic Committees, with Indonesia leading the pack.



Asian Games Ambassador/Actor/Artist Ken Matsudaira leads a sing-song. (AINAGOC)



Fireworks explode to round off the night. (Xinhua)

21ST ASIAN GAMES DOHA 2030: 'THE GAMES WE LIVE FOR'

The highlight of the closing ceremony was the flag handover from Aichi-Nagoya 2026 to Doha 2030, via the OCA President, HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani.

HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, received the OCA flag from the OCA President.

The Prime Minister then handed it to HE Jassim bin Rashid Al Buenain, Secretary General of the Qatar Olympic Committee, who entrusted it to Olympic and Asian high jump champion Mutaz Essa Barshim for the Doha 2030 presentation that followed.

The slogan is "The Games We Live For", while the new Doha 2030 identity places the OCA sun within the "O" of DOHA, setting the Asian Games at the heart of the city.

The artistic sequence echoed the opening ceremony of Doha 2006 as Qatari equestrian rider Jassim Al Kuwari received the flag from Barshim in the stadium before the journey continued westwards through film towards Doha.

The flag has arrived. The journey to Doha 2030 begins.



Jassim Al Kuwari rides a horse into the arena. (AINAGOC)



Sheikh Joaan passes the flag from the first Asian Games New Delhi 1951 to His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar.



The OCA flag is handed to Doha 2030.

RIYADH AIMAG POSTPONED TO MARCH-APRIL 2027

The Olympic Council of Asia and Local Organizing Committee for the 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games - Riyadh 2026 announced new dates for the upcoming competition on October 26.

Organizers confirmed that the sixth edition of the AIMAG will now take place from March 28 to April 8, 2027, following a review of organizational and logistical arrangements in coordination with all National Olympic Committees, stakeholders and partners.

The 6th AIMAG was due to take place from December 13-21, 2026, with competitions starting from December 11.

"The new dates for the Riyadh AIMAG ensure the alignment of schedules and operational arrangements and ensure the broadest possible participation from all qualifying National Olympic Committees and members from the Olympic Council of Asia," a joint statement from the OCA and LOC stated.

"With this, the Olympic Council of Asia and the Local Organizing Committee, in alignment with the relevant authorities of the Kingdom, have confirmed all preparations are going as planned."

Saudi Arabia is preparing to welcome 3,000 athletes and 1,500 team officials from 45 NOCs.

There will be 18 sports, 25 disciplines and 122 events in the 6th AIMAG, with all athletes and team officials staying at the Princess Nourah bint Abdullah University campus and all competitions taking place in seven arenas of Boulevard Riyadh City – a vast entertainment complex.

"The 6th AIMAG will be the first multi-sport Olympic Council of Asia event held in the Kingdom. Riyadh 2026 builds on the momentum and supports the goals of Saudi Vision 2030: driving sports participation, developing talent, inspiring the community and establishing the Kingdom as a global destination for major sporting events," the joint statement concluded.



Macao, China NOC arrives in Riyadh for the CDM Seminar last July. The AIMAG will now take place in March 2027.


The Riyadh Hilton will be the official OCA HQ hotel.



The official transport carries the AIMAG branding.

OCA, KAZAKHSTAN NOC DISCUSS ALMATY 2029 AWG

The OCA and National Olympic Committee of Kazakhstan met in Astana to discuss preparations for the 10th Asian Winter Games to be held in Almaty in 2029.

The OCA delegation was led by Director General Husain Al Musallam and the Deputy Manager of the Sports Department, Henrick Ozsvart.

The hosts were represented by Kazakhstan NOC President Gennadiy Golovkin, OCA Vice President responsible for the 2029 AWG, Kudrat Shamiyev, and NOC Secretary General Alimzhan Akayev.

The parties discussed the main areas of preparation for the 2029 AWG, in particular the sports programme, competition dates, technological support, television broadcasting and marketing.

The OCA Director General praised Kazakhstan's experience in hosting major international winter sports competitions. He cited the 2011 Asian Winter Games in Astana and Almaty and the 2017 Winter Universiade, expressing confidence that the experience gained from hosting these events would contribute to a high-level hosting of the 2029 AWG.

Special attention was paid to the role of Kudrat Shamiyev in coordinating work between the OCA, Kazakhstan NOC and the Organising Committee.



A warm welcome in Kazkahstan.

OCA VISITS TASHKENT AHEAD OF 4TH ASIAN YOUTH GAMES 2029

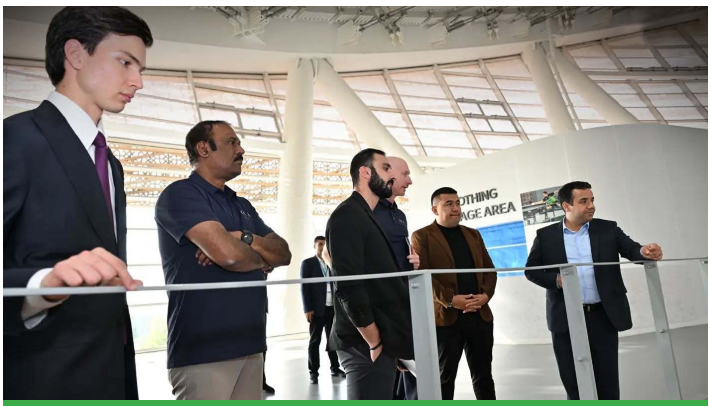
An OCA delegation led by Mr. Wissam Trkmani, Director of OCA Family Relations and Development Programmes, conducted an official inspection visit to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on October 8-9 as part of the preparations for the 4th Asian Youth Games Tashkent 2029.

The two-day visit aimed to assess the readiness of sports venues, accommodation, infrastructure and key operational arrangements while strengthening coordination between the OCA and the National Olympic Committee of Uzbekistan to ensure the successful planning and delivery of the AYG.

The programme began with an introductory presentation at the Uzbekistan NOC headquarters in the presence of Mr. Oybek Kasimov, NOC Secretary General, and representatives of the local organising team.

During the meeting, the OCA delegation reviewed the proposed sports programme and discussed the necessary adjustments and technical requirements. Particular attention was given to the planning and allocation of essential Games facilities, including the Main Media Centre, International Broadcasting Centre, Athletes' Village and other key operational areas.

As part of the inspection, the OCA delegation visited the New Uzbekistan hotel complex, comprising 12 hotels.



The OCA delegation in Tashkent.

The delegation also conducted a comprehensive tour of the Olympic City sports complex, inspecting competition venues, supporting facilities and infrastructure to evaluate their readiness and compliance with the organisational and technical requirements of a major international multi-sport event.

- The OCA representatives attended the opening ceremony of the second leg of the World Aquatics Swimming World Cup 2026 (25m), held at the Aquatics Palace within Olympic City.

The competition, featuring 230 athletes from 40 countries, provided an opportunity for the delegation to observe the venue's operational capabilities and its readiness to host international sporting competitions.

OCA DIRECTOR GENERAL AWARDED STATE HONOUR IN KAZAKHSTAN

The OCA Director General and President of World Aquatics, Mr. Husain Al Musallam, has been awarded the Order of Dostyk II (Friendship) by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, HE Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

One of Kazakhstan's state honours, the Order of Dostyk II recognises significant contributions to strengthening friendship, international cooperation and mutual understanding.

It has been conferred upon distinguished foreign statesmen and prominent international figures for their role in fostering relations with Kazakhstan and strengthening ties between nations.

Previous recipients include Abdulla Aripov, Prime Minister of Uzbekistan (2021); Tigran Sargsyan, former Prime Minister of Armenia (2019); and Apas Jumagulov, former Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic (2022).

The honour recognises the importance of international friendship, dialogue and cooperation in building stronger relationships between nations.



The OCA Director General is welcomed by the Kazakhstan President.



The Order of Dostyk II medal.

STRENGTHENING BILATERAL SPORTS COOPERATION IN ARUBA

HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, OCA President, met with HE Gerlien Croes, Minister of Sport of Aruba, and Wanda Broeksema, President of the Aruba Olympic Committee, during his visit to Aruba.

The meetings saw an exchange of views and ideas on strengthening sports cooperation and building on the existing relations between the two sides.

Sheikh Joaan also visited the headquarters of the Aruba Olympic Committee, in the presence of Nicole Hoevertsz, IOC Member, and Husain Al Musallam, OCA Director General.



The OCA President in Aruba.

OCA'S SIX CLEAN SPORT AMBASSADORS HONOURED

The OCA's Clean Sport Ambassadors supported anti-doping education at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games under the "Guarding the Asian Games" programme.

The initiative brought together representatives from six Asian countries and regions to engage with athletes and promote clean sport during the 20th Asian Games, which ran from September 19 to October 4.

The ambassadors were Aziz Khaled Saeed Ahmed from Yemen, Kim Na-ra from Korea, Adil Amanbayev from Kazakhstan, Natashya Marcellina Ardiany from Indonesia, Manami Uebayashi from Japan and Karen Mak from Hong Kong, China.

Their diverse backgrounds and multilingual capabilities helped them communicate with athletes from different delegations, making anti-doping education more accessible.

Through direct engagement, the ambassadors raised awareness of athletes' anti-doping responsibilities, Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs) and medication use. They also gathered athlete feedback to help the OCA strengthen education programs for future Games.

In recognition of their dedication and valuable contribution during the Games, Dr. Abdulwahab Musleh (Qatar) presented the ambassadors with certificates of appreciation provided by the OCA.



The six Clean Sport Ambassadors with their certificates.

OCA ACCREDITATION TEAM ISSUES OVER 2,000 CARDS

The smooth running of a massive international multi-sport event such as the Asian Games relies on many factors behind the scenes.

One of them is the accreditation process – and the lines of people outside the accreditation office in the OCA HQ hotel, the Nagoya Hilton, told its own story.

"Accreditation team has issued 2,200 registrations for the OCA Family," said the OCA's accreditation manager, Adnan Kabri.

"Our aim is to make the accreditation process as smooth as possible for everyone involved in the OCA Family and to accommodate the various requests on a case-by-case basis."



Adnan and his team at the Nagoya Hilton.



The OCA took part in the 20th West Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization board meeting and 2027 World Anti-Doping Code Preparation Workshop in Jordan on October 23-24. Nadiah Alshamali, Director of the OCA Anti-Doping Department, presented the priorities and plans of the OCA Medical Committee and Anti-Doping Commission for the coming year.

NG JOO PONG
MALAYSIAN CYCLING PIONEER

The Olympic Council of Malaysia reported that cycling pioneer and two-time Olympian Ng Joo Pong passed away peacefully on Wednesday, October 21, 2026. He was 80.

Ng Joo Pong competed in the Tokyo 1964 and Mexico 1968 Olympic Games and represented Malaysia with distinction in the South East Asian Peninsular Games and Asian Games.

In recognition of his contributions to the development of sport, particularly cycling, he was awarded the Pingat Jasa Kebaktian (PJK) by the Sultan of Selangor in 2015. He was also inducted into the OCM Hall of Fame in 2017.

"On behalf of the entire Olympic family, we mourn the passing of Mr. Ng Joo Pong, a pioneer of Malaysian cycling," said the OCM President, Tan Sri Dato' Sri (Dr.) Mohamad Norza Zakaria.

"The contributions of Mr. Ng Joo Pong to the sport of cycling and the Olympic Movement will be remembered with the greatest respect," he added.



Ng Joo Pong in his cycling heyday. (OCM)



DATO' SRI TEE LIP SIN
TABLE TENNIS PRESIDENT

Dato' Sri Tee Lip Sin, President of the Table Tennis Association of Malaysia, passed away on Wednesday, October 14, 2026. He was 55.

Dato' Sri Tee Lip Sin was a passionate advocate of table tennis and dedicated more than two decades of service to the promotion and development of the sport in Malaysia.

He was Vice President of the Table Tennis Association of Malaysia from 2011 to 2018 and President from 2020.

"I had the great honour of appointing Dato' Sri Tee Lip Sin as one of the Internal Auditors of the OCM for the term 2025-2029," said Tan Sri Dato' Sri (Dr.) Mohamad Norza Zakaria, President of the Olympic Council of Malaysia.

"Dato' Sri Tee Lip Sin will be remembered with the highest respect for his dedicated service, exemplary leadership and enduring contributions to Malaysian table tennis and the Olympic Movement.

"His legacy will live on through the athletes he supported, the achievements he helped foster and the continued development of table tennis, to which he devoted so much of his time and energy," he added.

MAHMUD JAMAL – FORMER BOA EX-CO

The Bangladesh Olympic Association has expressed its deepest condolences on the passing of former Executive Committee member Mahmud Jamul. He was 74.

Mr. Jamul, who was also a former Director of the Bangladesh Cricket Board, passed away on Saturday, October 24, succumbing to heart disease.

The BOA posted: "His death has deeply saddened the sports community and the members of the BOA family, including President General Waqer-Uz-Zaman. We express our deep condolences to his grieving family."



OCA SPORTS DIARY

2026

December 1 – 6
World Aquatics World Swimming Championships (25m)
Beijing, China

December 7
ANOC Executive Council Meeting
Hong Kong, China

December 8 – 9
ANOC XXVIII General Assembly
Hong Kong, China

December 10
ANOC Themed Sessions
Hong Kong, China

December 13 – 21
6th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
POSTPONED

December 14 – 15
IOC Executive Board Meeting
Lausanne, Switzerland

December 16
IOC Olympic Summit 2026
Lausanne, Switzerland

2027

January 26
Afro-Asia Cultural Programme
Doha, Qatar
NEW

January 27
47th OCA General Assembly
Doha, Qatar

February 8 – 9
OCA/OS Regional Forum - Phase 1
Doha, Qatar

February 11 – 12
OCA/OS Regional Forum - Phase 2
Doha, Qatar

February 21 – 26
2nd OCA-Asian Mixed Martial Arts Association Development Programme for Coaches and Referees
Bangkok, Thailand

March 28 – April 7
6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
NEW

April 21-22
OCA Athletes' Forum
Host to be confirmed

May 5-6
OCA Safeguarding Workshop
Amman, Jordan

May 12-13
OCA Gender Equity Seminar
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

July 12 - 17
Asian Figure Skating Youth Camp and Judges' Course
Harbin, China

July – August
Asian Shooting Youth Camp
Host and dates to be confirmed

August – September
Dates to be confirmed
OCA Development Programme for Coaches and Referees
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Regions: South Asia, Central Asia and West Asia

September – October
OCA Development Programme for Coaches and Referees
Host and dates to be confirmed

Regions: East Asia and Southeast Asia

September 18 – 29
34th SEA Games
Kuala Lumpur, Sarawak, Penang, Johor, Malaysia

October 17 – 23
14th ASEAN Para Games
Malaysia

December 2 – 14
SEA Plus Youth Games
Manila, Pasig City, Tagaytay, Subic Bay, Philippines

Dates to be confirmed
1st Asian Esports and Mind Sports Games
Kuwait
NEW

2028

March 7 – 16
7th Asian Beach Games
Cebu City, Philippines

July 14 – 30
XXXIV Olympic Games
Los Angeles, USA

August 15 – 27
XVIII Paralympic Games
Los Angeles, USA

2029

Dates to be confirmed
4th Asian Youth Games
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Dates to be confirmed
10th Asian Winter Games
Almaty, Kazakhstan

2030

February 1 – 17
XXVI Olympic Winter Games
French Alps

March 1 – 10
XV Paralympic Winter Games
French Alps

Dates to be decided
21st Asian Games
Doha, Qatar

2031

Dates to be confirmed
5th Asian Youth Games
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

2032

July 23 – August 8
XXXV Olympic Games
Brisbane, Australia

August 24 – September 5
XIX Paralympic Games
Brisbane, Australia

2034

February 10 – 26
XXVII Olympic Winter Games
Utah, USA

March 10 – 19
XVI Paralympic Winter Games
Utah, USA

Dates to be decided
22nd Asian Games
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia