



## BIRTHDAYS

Athletes born on Nov 15

## Athletics

**Zhou Chunxiu,**  
China 1978

## Boxing

**Kumar Santhosh Virothu,**  
India 1991

## Canoe/Kayak sprint

**Takayuki Kokaji,**  
Japan 1986

## Chess

**Shinya Kojima,**  
Japan 1988

## Cricket

**Kumar Suhan  
Alagaratanam,**  
Malaysia 1986

## Cycling track

**Bader Mohammed  
A Alyasin,**  
Saudi Arabia 1984

## Diving

**Hamad M.H.A.A. Saleh,**  
Kuwait, 1994

## Soccer

**Abhishek Das,**  
India 1993

## Gymnastic artistic

**Huang Che-kuei,**  
Chinese Taipei 1981

## Gymnastic rhythmic

**Dou Baobao,** China 1994

## Gymnastic trampoline

**Anna Savkina,**  
Uzbekistan 1990

## Karate

**Jang So-yong,**  
Republic of Korea 1989

## Rowing

**Pramila Prava Minz,**  
India 1992**Zafar Usmonov,**  
Uzbekistan 1993

## Amusana Davi

**Moirangthem,**  
India 1994

## Rugby

**Edward Haynes,**  
Hong Kong 1987

## Sailing

**Chen Huichao,**  
China 1990

## Shooting

**Zhu Qinan,**  
China 1984

## Soft tennis

**Nakahori Shigeo,**  
Japan 1971

## Softball

**Noh Keum-ran,**  
Republic of Korea 1990

## Swimming

**Bader Abdulrahman  
Almuhana,**  
Saudi Arabia

## Syn swimming

**Chang Si,**  
China 1986

## Lee Zhien Huey,

Malaysia 1989

## Tennis

**Sanja Mirza,**  
India 1986

## Volleyball

**Lay Sie Nyi,**  
Myanmar 1985

## Weightlifting

**Md. Hamdul Islam,**  
Bangladesh 1975

## Wrestling

**Mohammed  
Abdulmalek,**  
Iraq 1987

## Wushu

**Lee Tze Yuan,**  
Singapore 1990

# Sport helping heal wounds

SUN XIAOCHEN / CHINA DAILY

**Mohammad Wardak, deputy-head of the Afghanistan delegation, communicates with friends back home through the Internet in the Athletes' Village.**



By SUN XIAOCHEN  
CHINA DAILY

GUANGZHOU — Afghanistan's new generation of athletes want to use sport as a weapon against violence and prejudice.

Personable Sayed Djawid Athar is one such young man from the nation that's been ravaged by war for decades.

"The world may be misreading the real situation in our country," Sayed, president of Afghanistan's sport shoot-

ing federation, said in an interview with China Daily on Sunday.

"Yes, war has indeed harmed us for a long time. But everything has changed, especially for members of the new generation," said Sayed, who was born in Afghanistan and educated in Germany.

"Although the domestic situation is precarious sometimes, we still have the opportunity to develop a sports industry in our country and

we can go abroad to attend sports events. That's why we are here — to change people's minds about Afghanistan. And sport is the best stage for doing that."

With a 127-member delegation in Guangzhou, including 67 athletes, Afghanistan will compete in dozens of events.

The cricket, shooting, taekwondo and weightlifting competitions represent the nation's best hopes for medals at the Asian Games.

The contingent includes

12 veiled female competitors who attracted plenty of media attention when they showed up at the delegation's welcoming ceremony.

"That's maybe one of the misunderstandings," said Sayed. "Actually, women have equal rights to take part in sports events in our country now. They trained very hard to be here.

"This time we sent a dozen (women). Maybe in four years, we will send 100 female athletes to the next Asian Games."

Because some team members had expired visas, the Afghanistan delegation had to postpone registration at the Athletes' Village when it arrived on Nov 8.

Mohammad Wardak, deputy head of the delegation, solved the problem by communicating with officials at home through a cyber video conference on his laptop.

"We often use the Internet to contact our colleagues or families at home," said Wardak. "It's convenient and efficient."

## Q & A >> SALIM AL JABRI, OMAN BEACH VOLLEYBALL TEAM OFFICIAL

**It seems that you want to have a local mobile phone number. Have you got it? And how is the service at the telecommunications desk?**

Yeah, I want to have a Chinese number, so I can contact with my team members and friends here. The service is good, always good in China. And the volunteer girls are all beautiful and friendly, I am happy that I have taken a photo with them.

**If you made a call to your family right now, what will you say?**

Well, you know, the first thing I would like to tell

them is that I am living very well here. Everything is OK. The room is big, the bed is so comfortable and I have many different kinds of food to choose from.

**The Asian Beach Games will be held in Muscat, Oman, next month. How is the preparation work going there?**

We are ready to welcome all of our Asian friends to our country. You know, we have beautiful beaches, a very long coast and a clean sea ... it's a very nice place for the games. The organizing work is in progress and maybe we can learn something from Guang-

zhou. I know the Chinese are good at holding big events.

**Some athletes have complained about not having TVs in their apartments. What do you think about that?**

I don't think it's a big problem for my team and I. If there was a TV in the room, that will be good. But compared with the whole perfect service here, it's just a tiny thing.

**Have you been to the beach volleyball venue?**

Yes, I went there yesterday. It's in the Asian Games Park, not far away from here. It's convenient for us. The facilities and beach are good.



SUN XIAOCHEN / CHINA DAILY

**Salim Al Jabari, an official from the Oman beach volleyball team, poses with volunteers at the telecommunication service desk in the international zone of the Athletes' Village.**