

Ticketing solutions sought to fill empty seats

By CUI JIA
CHINA DAILY

GUANGZHOU — In an effort to fill the empty seats, Guangzhou Games organizers appealed to local citizens on Monday to return the free tickets they have received if they are not interested in using them.

The Olympic Council of Asian (OCA) President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah said he was concerned at seeing so many empty seats in the early days of the games, but all the tickets had already been distributed.

The Guangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee (GAGOC) dished out half of all the tickets to residents and corporate sponsors but many have not yet showed up, said Yuan Yue, director of GAGOC's ticketing office.

"One big problem is that people don't know what sport or match the free tickets entitle them to see until after the draws are made," she said. "They may decide not to go because they aren't interested in that particular event."

Li Zhiqing was among the million Guangzhou residents who received a complimentary ticket. He said he was disappointed to learn it was for a soccer match between the Republic of Korea and Jordan.

"I don't like soccer. I prefer badminton or table tennis," said Li, who decided not to go. He said tight security checks were also annoying.

Yuan urged people to hand over unwanted tickets to relatives and friends. She said corporate sponsors had already returned



LIU JIN / AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Ayaka Oba (left) and Mai Sasaki of Japan celebrate winning a point during the women's soft tennis team final. Officials expressed concern about the number of empty seats at some venues and asked locals to return their free tickets if they are not going to use them.

some, and those were being put on sale immediately.

Meanwhile, venue directors have been told they have the right to sell extra tickets on site if the stadium does not fill up. They

will determine the number and price of the tickets on a match-by-match basis.

Sheikh Ahmad said he has been discussing the issue with local organizers and looking for solutions. He also announced on

Monday an extra 400,000 tickets were being released, with a dozen new ticket booths to be opened citywide.

"We will try our best to get more people into the stadiums," said Yuan.

MEDAL TALLY >>

through Monday's competition

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
China	54	20	19	93
ROK	18	14	18	50
Japan	13	25	23	61
Chinese Taipei	2	3	9	14
Hong Kong	2	3	2	7
DPRK	1	4	9	14
India	1	4	3	8
Malaysia	1	1	3	5
Philippines	1	0	3	4
Macao	1	0	0	1
Kazakhstan	0	4	7	11
Uzbekistan	0	4	4	8
Thailand	0	3	5	8
Iran	0	2	3	5
Vietnam	0	2	3	5
Indonesia	0	1	6	7
Mongolia	0	1	2	3
Myanmar	0	1	1	2
Singapore	0	1	1	2
Kuwait	0	1	0	1
Pakistan	0	0	1	1
Tajikistan	0	0	1	1

24 HOURS >> HOW THE DAY PLAYED OUT

15:14 Thailand scored 25 runs to defeat an undermanned Mongolian squad in a Group A preliminary baseball game at the Aoti field.

Mongolia only had 11 players active for the game and was without starting pitcher Khatanbaatar Batbold, who was injured when he was hit in the face by a foul ball in Sunday's loss to China.

15:29 The ROK set an Asian record during the first round of the men's team pursuit at the Guangzhou Velodrome.

China set a record of 4:09.832 in the second heat but its jubilation was shortlived. In the third heat, Korea lowered the mark to 4:06.598, cutting a whopping 3.234 seconds off China's time. Unfortunately for China, its time was not even enough to secure a place in the race for gold.

15:55 Chan Yung-jan of Chinese Taipei was forced to withdraw from the second singles of the women's team semifinals at Aoti Tennis Center because of a left-foot injury.

Chan was losing 6-1 3-0 to Japan's Kimiko Date Krumm. Her withdrawal left Japan and Chinese Taipei tied at 1-1 after two singles matches.

16:53 India's penalty corner specialist, Sandeep Singh, scored twice to help the team beat Hong Kong 7-0 in the men's preliminary round at the Aoti hockey field.

Fresh from a silver-medal winning performance at the Commonwealth Games, India made a strong start, scoring after just two minutes.

16:25 Kazakhstan beat India 38-2 in an historic first Asian Games women's water polo

match at the Tianhe Natatorium.

Anna Zhubkova became the first goal scorer in Asian Games' women's polo with her first-minute strike and it was all Kazakhstan from then on.

For India, it was the first time it had played a senior international match and the inexperience showed as two-time Olympic attendee Kazakhstan led 13-1 after the first quarter and 27-1 at halftime.

17:10 Fong Ying-chai from Malaysia won her second consecutive Asian Games gold in the women's *Taijiquan/Taijijian* all-around final at the Nansha gymnasium.

It was Malaysia's first gold medal of the Guangzhou Asian Games.

19:10 Kim Kum-sok won the first gold medal for the DPR Korea in the men's 69kg weight-

lifting in Dongguan gymnasium.

Kim broke Iranian hearts by claiming the title on Monday from Mortaza Rezaeian on inferior body weight.

19:23 Four-time Olympic champion Kosuke Kitajima was surprisingly denied a medal in his specialty, men's 100m breaststroke.

His teammate, Ryo Tateishi, won the gold medal ahead of Vladislav Polyakov of Kazakhstan and China's Wang Shuai. Kitajima placed fourth.

19:30 Iran confirmed it will be without star NBA center Hamed Ehadadi for its Asian Games men's basketball campaign.

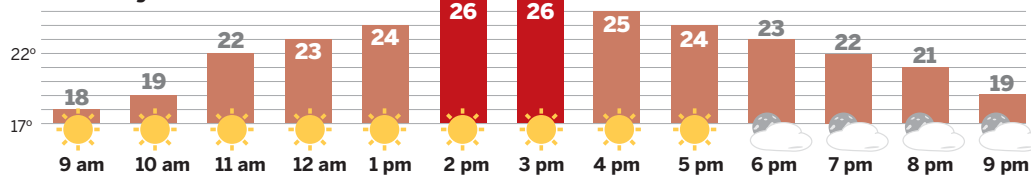
Iran coach Veselin Matic said the Memphis Grizzlies refused to release Ehadadi for the tournament.



Today's forecast
Sunny

Max **27°C**
Min **16°C**
Source: weather.com

Hour by hour



Wednesday
27°C
17°C

Thursday
29°C
18°C

