

# China continues to trounce Japan in the pool

China has turned an anticipated swimming gold medal duel into a one-horse race at the Asian Games in Guangzhou.

China and Japan each won 16 swimming gold medals at the Doha Games four years ago, and the two countries were expected — at least by the Japanese side — to engage in another battle for the top spot here.

But China has proven the Japanese wrong by winning 14 of the 19 gold medal events held in the first three days. In the men's 4x200m freestyle relay on Monday, China ended Japan's Asian Games record winning streak in a single event at 14 meets.

"More and more Chinese swimmers go overseas for training," said Takeshi Matsuda, a member of the relay team and the winner in Saturday's 200 butterfly. "It seems like Chinese swimming is looking at the world more seriously than us."

World 200m backstroke silver medalist Ryosuke Irie, another Japanese winner in Guangzhou, is also impressed by the Chinese team's performance.

"My impression at these games is Chinese swimmers are very strong," he said. "We are not doing badly at all, with some of us posting personal-best times, but the Chinese still keep outperforming us. The rise of Chinese swimming makes me think the level of Asia is getting closer and closer to the world."

Chinese women have won all 10 events. Five silver and four bronze are all Japanese women have been able to manage.

— THE MAINICHI DAILY NEWS (JAPAN)

## Shuttler Saina wants an Audi

Saina Nehwal would love to have a swanky Audi as a gift from her parents if she wins the Asian Games badminton title, but her father will have nothing of it. Harvir Singh Nehwal feels a multi-crore villa in Hyderabad is what his daughter really needs.

"Of course, we wouldn't want to see it as an Asian Games gift. It will be the gift of a lifetime," Harvir told TOI from Hyderabad.

"We booked the villa a few months back with one of the city's big builders. We have already paid half the amount and it is under construction. We should be moving in by next year."

Harvir said Saina's love for cars has drawn her towards the Audi. "She already has two cars, why does she need a third? Anyway, where is the space on Hyderabad roads to drive this big car?" he asked.

Harvir said his 20-year-old daughter has to realize that she has got the good things in life only with what she has earned. "The villa we are buying is paid with her money. She has to realize its value. Instead

of buying the car, she can use the money to pay the builder. She is still a kid, doesn't understand how hard it is to earn money."

— THE TIMES OF INDIA

## More than just a gold medal

It was a different class of a goal. When Park Chu-young slotted a curling free-kick around the defensive wall into the right corner of the net past the helpless Chinese goalkeeper, the more than 44,000-strong home crowd suddenly became silent.

Park made it 2-0 to help Korea beat the host 3-0 and advance into the quarterfinals.

For many, the beautifully taken free-kick was reminiscent of the goal Park scored against Nigeria at this summer's World Cup.

And, perhaps, for the AS Monaco striker, it was a gift for manager Hong Myung-bo, who picked him as a wild card for the 20-man squad for the Games. After scoring the goal, the 25-year-old Park ran toward and embraced the manager with joy.

"He has been grateful to Hong for his patience and understanding," Park's agency said.

Park was picked as an over-age player for the U23 squad last month, but until recently, the French club was reluctant to release the team's key striker for more than 16 days.

— KOREA HERALD

## Malaysia mulling bid for 2023

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is expected to seek the Cabinet's approval to bid for the 2023 Asian Games if the public pushes for it, said Minister of Youth and Sports Datuk Ahmad Shabery Cheek.

Ahmad Shabery said although the Cabinet had rejected an attempt to bid for the 2019 Asian Games, the ministry was ready to try and convince the cabinet to bid for the 2023 edition.

"For the 2019 Asian Games, the Youth and Sports Ministry expected the cost of organizing the games to reach more than RM1.6 billion (\$510 million). If we decide to bid for the 2023 edition, it may cost three or four times more."

"But what is more important is the desire of the people. If they want Malaysia to host the 2023 edition,

they must voice it and the government will judge their need," he said.

Malaysia came close to organizing the second biggest games after the Olympics in 2006 but were denied by Qatar.

After failing to win the bid to host the 2006 Asian Games, former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi snubbed a chance to bid the games in 2010 due to the whopping RM1.3 billion (\$415 million) cost involved.

The games were later awarded to China with Guangzhou playing host.

Incheon in the Republic of Korea will be hosting the 2014 edition while Hong Kong, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam and India are all bidding for the 2019 host job, which will be decided in 2012.

— BERNAMA (MALAYSIA)

## Cue king Kuo pockets gold

Pool shooter Kuo Po-cheng defeated Malaysian rival Ibrahim Amir 7 to 4 in the men's 8-ball pool singles final to win the second gold medal for the Chinese Taipei delegation.

The victory also broke Kuo's

personal jinx that prevented the veteran pool player from scoring any victories in major international tournaments in a long career of more than a dozen years.

The win is a belated reward for Kuo, aged 32 and standing only 158 centimeters in height. He had missed the top prizes in almost all main events at the critical and final moments.

Chang Ming-hsiung, head coach for Chinese Taipei pool players, said Kuo was able to snare the gold medal this time mainly because he was more relaxed after becoming a father. Kuo's baby son just turned one month old.

Kuo deserves the gold medal, Chang said, adding that he admired his determination and perseverance in overcoming the disadvantage of a comparatively short physical stature.

Chang likes to call Kuo a "little giant."

— THE CHINA POST

## Pakistan hockey promises revival

Pakistan hockey will soon revive its lost glory, as the Greenshirts have been put on the right track and will start producing desired results at the ongoing Asian Games in Guangzhou, Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) Secretary Asif Bajwa said.

"We may seem to be down and out following a couple of poor outings but let me assure you that the team is going to bounce back strongly," Bajwa said.

The former Olympian expressed his confidence that Pakistan would do well in the Asian Games and would continue to improve next year in the lead up to the Olympic Games in London in 2012.

"Everything will start falling into place for Pakistan hockey soon," promised Bajwa, who returned home after attending the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Congress in the Swiss city of Montreux over the weekend.

The PHF secretary revealed that he had a series of crucial meetings on the sidelines of the FIH Congress, adding that substantial progress was made over the revival of bilateral matches against India. "We are expecting to revive our bilateral series against India next year," he said.

Bajwa said that Pakistan was planning to host a couple of international events ahead of the World League Round 3 in 2013 that has been allotted to it by the FIH. He also said that hockey would be included in next month's National Games.

— ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL (INDIA)



ZHANG CHENLIANG / CHINA DAILY