



India's Sushil Kumar carries the flag during the opening ceremony of the Olympics on Friday in London. An unknown young woman (in red) who managed to march with the country's athletes has caused an international incident at the Games.

MARK HUMPHREY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

# India's team abuzz with mystery marching woman

## Gatecrasher at opening ceremony draws ire and raises security concern

By JILL LAWLESS  
in London  
Associated Press

A mysterious woman in red has caused an international incident at the London Olympics.

Indian officials are mystified — and miffed — after an unknown young woman managed to march with the country's athletes and officials during the opening ceremony on Friday night.

Games organizers on Sunday downplayed security concerns around the unscripted moment, saying the interloper was a ceremony cast member and had been screened before entering the

Olympic Park.

Images from Friday's ceremony showed a young woman in turquoise jeans and a red jacket marching alongside Indian flag bearer Sushil Kumar at the head of the delegation of 40 athletes in bright yellow and navy blue.

"We are totally dazed," Indian press attache Harpal Singh Bedi said on Sunday. "How can a person without any accreditation walk past?"

Indian officials said they had no idea who the woman was. The country's Deccan Chronicle newspaper said she was likely Madhura Nagendra, a graduate student from the southern city of Bangalore who had been living

in London.

The newspaper said she had displayed her Olympic passes on her Facebook page, which used the name Madhura Honey. It said the page was later deactivated.

The case of the ceremony's mystery woman dominated Indian media's coverage of the opening of the games. "Who's That Girl?" asked the front page of The Hindustan Times.

"Leaky London: Unaccounted presence in march past," said a headline in the Times of India. The newspaper said the mystery woman had "brazenly gatecrashed the party, raising security concerns and adding to the anger over India's blink-and-miss appearance on global TV screens."

Bedi said India's acting chef de mission, P.K.M. Raja, had sent Games organizers an official letter of com-

plaint about the intrusion.

"I think this is definitely a security lapse," Bedi said. "You cannot have flawless security everywhere, but this is not flawless."

But London organizing chief Sebastian Coe insisted the woman had not posed a threat to the ceremony. He told reporters she was "a cast member who clearly got slightly over-excited."

About 10,000 volunteers performed alongside professional musicians, actors and dancers in director Danny Boyle's ceremony.

Coe stressed the woman had been screened to get into Olympic Stadium so there had been no security breach.

"Don't run away with the idea that she walked in off the street," Coe said.

Coe said Games officials "will have our own discussions" about the incident.

## Sprinter sent home for using banned substance

By GENE CHERRY in London  
REUTERS

Sprinter Tameka Williams has been withdrawn from the Olympics after admitting to using a banned substance, her St. Kitts and Nevis team said on Sunday.

The athlete, who had been scheduled to run the women's 100 and 200 meters, left the Olympic Village on Sunday and returned home, the country's Olympic committee said in a statement.

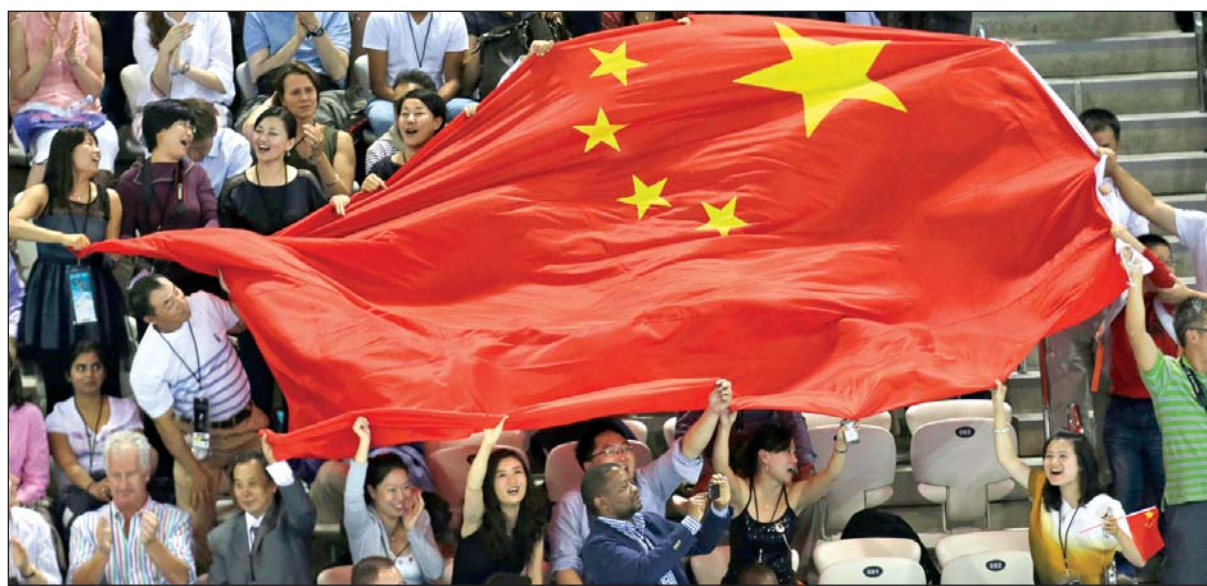
"In discussion with team management, Ms Williams volunteered information to the effect that she has been using a substance which the SKNOC considers to fall outside the internationally accepted medical code," it said.

The SKNOC did not provide any details on the substance Williams admitted to using and said an investigation was under way.

Williams could now face up to a two-year ban as a first time offender but could also get a shorter sentence or even no punishment after voluntarily providing the information and depending on the nature of the anti-doping rule violation.

She is the third doping case at the Olympics after an Albanian weightlifter and an Uzbek gymnast tested positive for banned substances.

The 22-year-old Williams, fourth in the 200m in last year's Panamerican Games, was due to compete in her first Olympics.



Chinese fans wave their national flag during the winning ceremony for the 3 Meter Synchronized Springboard final at the Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park during the 2012 Olympics in London on Sunday.

LEFTERIS PITARAKIS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Chinese fans follow Games to London

By CHEN XIANGFENG

While Londoner Jeremy Clivaz slung a Chinese flag over his chest on his way to watch the women's 48kg weightlifting competition, he actually had no relationship with Chinese athletes — nor had he even been to China.

"I don't quite know Chinese athletes' names or faces," he said.

The finance industry worker's support comes from his admiration of the abilities of the exceptional athletes China is sending to the London Games, he said.

"China has got some great athletes in this Olympics," Clivaz said.

"I have seen them train and compete before on TV. They are fabulous. That's why we are here — to admire those great Chinese athletes."

Clivaz, who brought his daughter to the weightlifting event, planned to cheer for Wang Mingjuan.

"Honestly, I am the last in my family who has not been in China," he said. "My wife, my son and my daughter were there the past two years, separately... I would love to go."

Clivaz also believes the Games will lure more Chinese to London.

"There are now lots of Chinese living and working in London, which is great," he said.

"I have worked with lots of Chinese people, and some are very good friends. I think hosting the Olympic Games will let more people know how charming the city is."

Many Chinese have flooded the city to cheer their compatriots.

As a dominant world force in weightlifting, the Chinese team needs

not be concerned about where they are competing and whether there are many supporters onsite.

Chinese fans accounted for nearly half of the packed stadium at the opening-day competition on Saturday.

"Watching weightlifting is a chance to relax and watch China win gold," Chinese student Liu Bin said.

"Close matches in some sports are too intense. That's why my friend and I came here to support Wang."

As Liu expected, Wang won eruptive applause from not only her compatriots but also fans from other countries.

"It's like competing on home soil," she said. "It was a great feeling to see so many flags waving when I stood on the top podium. I also heard the whole stadium cheering for me when I finished the last stretch. I should thank all of them. They are lovely."

## offtrack ...

### STRONG SETBACK

China's powerful weightlifting team showed its first sign of weakness on Sunday when 17-year-old Zhou Jun failed her three snatch attempts to go out of the women's 53kg competition.

In an apparent move to reduce the pressure on the inexperienced Zhou, her coaches placed her in the "B" group of lower-ranked lifters even though she was among the favorites to medal in the event.

Zhou started the snatch at 95kg — 5kg more than any other lifter in the group had cleared in three attempts. Looking tense and nervous, she failed every lift despite roaring support from the crowd in the ExCeL Center.

### GYMNAST SUSPENDED

Uzbek gymnast Luiza Galiulina was on Sunday provisionally banned from the 2012 Olympics for a positive drug test, the International Olympic Committee said.

Galiulina provided a urine sample on July 25 that tested positive for the prohibited substance furosemide — a diuretic that can be used as a masking agent or for weight loss.

### FANFARE CELEBRATION

More than 350,000 Chinese fans sent their congratulations to Sun Yang on Sina Weibo, China's answer to Twitter, after he posted "I made it. I succeeded! Thanks for all your support!"

He became the first Chinese men's swimmer to stand atop the Olympic podium on Saturday.

Within hours, the number of fans on his account had grown to more than 8.6 million.

Another hot topic on the micro blog was the first-round exit of China's top women's tennis player, Li Na, who lost to Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia. About 24 million netizens logged on to Sina Weibo during the opening ceremony at the London Games, with 2.4 million messages being sent from the United Kingdom.

### MAN ARRESTED

A man has been arrested following an incident at an Olympic shooting event in London, police said on Sunday.

"A 25-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of common assault at Royal Artillery Barracks. He is currently in custody at a south London police station," a Metropolitan Police spokeswoman said.

Police gave no further details about the incident. The London Olympics are surrounded by Britain's biggest peacetime security operation.

AP-AFP-REUTERS-CHINA DAILY

### REPORTER'S LOG | ZHANG HAIZHOU

## Asian eats on British streets

There was a joke on *weibo*, China's popular Twitter-like microblogging service, when the documentary series *A Bite of China* aired more than two months ago.

The seven-part documentary, which was shown late at night in China, depicted various gourmets across the vast Chinese culinary landscape. Never before in China has a documentary stirred so much public enthusiasm.

Then, a *weibo* user posted: "What would *A Bite of Britain* be like?"

One reply said: "Well, it will be a two-part documentary about fish and chips, and British breakfast. That's it."

Local cuisine has never been a part of allure when it comes to Britain. And many of the throngs from those who have descended on London for the Games have wondered out loud about how they can find good food.

But, actually, they need not worry.

London is home to gourmets from every corner of the globe.

As a Chinese person, first, and an Asian, second, I don't feel qualified to advise on Italian or French fare.

But I can say that Chinatown is where I enjoy the best Asian cuisine in Europe.

Grab some friends to hit the Sichuan restaurant Bashu on Frith Street after an exciting Olympic event. Treat yourself to Chengdu dry-braised sea bass. You'll definitely love the spicy flavor.

If Sichuan spice is too hot for you to handle, there are a multitude of eateries that offer authentic northern Chinese-style dumplings and Cantonese restaurants serving great dim sum.

Many other Asian cuisines are also represented in Lon-

don.

Try Mugen Japanese restaurant on the northern side of London Bridge. You'll get fresh sushi and great eel bento, which is properly grilled — with little fat — so that it's crispy and tender, and a little sweet. Delicious!

I would say foodies should also head to east London's Brick Lane for authentic Indian food, but my Indian colleague Ravi Shankar disagrees.

He took me to Jaffna House, a small southern Indian restaurant on south London's Tooting High Street. Ravi described it as the world's "best Indian food".

I was actually very skeptical until I tried it.

I could detect a faint scent when I was presented rice pudding steamed in a thick bamboo tube.

The stir-fried lamb and prawns were spicy, and absolutely delectable.

I asked Ravi why there was little curry, which I had believed was the trademark of Indian food.

Ravi explained it's wrong to equate Indian food with curry. It's like saying sweet-and-sour is the taste of Chinese food, which I think is absurd.

Well, it's impossible to recommend all the great Asian eateries in London in a 500-word log.

My caveat is that food and drink can be more expensive in London than in many other cities. But don't be stingy. Treat yourself to great Asian delights and enjoy this once-every-four-years celebration.

Now, I'm off to Old Tree Bakery, which is a five-minute walk from north London's Golders Green Station, to treat myself to great Taiwan-style braised pork.

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