



A feast of international cuisine

VILLAGE RESTAURANT WELL PREPARED TO CATER FOR MUSLIM ATHLETES DURING RAMADAN

By ZHENG XIN
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CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN – Special attention in the Universiade Village restaurant has been paid to Muslim athletes as they prepare for events despite their daily fasting which begin at dawn and end at sunset.

“All the chefs in charge of the Muslim food are Muslims themselves,” said Ricky Chen, a chef at the Universiade Village. “Since the Muslim athletes have to fast from dawn to sundown, we’ll be providing food 24 hours a day.”

Ramadan, the Islamic holy month, began on Aug 1. To demonstrate their faith, Muslim athletes cannot eat or drink in the daytime during the month.

Some argue the fasting puts Muslim sportsmen and sportswomen at a disadvantage. However, the chefs do not agree.

“Many Muslim athletes have done it for years so they know how their bodies react,” said Fitzroy Holness, a British chef at the Universiade Village. “They can practice their faith while also competing.”

Meanwhile, to help them recover after their events, the Muslim chefs will be providing food of high protein and energy.

“Food like yogurt, dates, pakoras and salad, as well as a special soup with lamb in it, are what the Muslim athletes need to recover from a day’s fasting and competition,” said Nadim Aljurdi, an international chef from Lebanon in charge of



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Fitzroy Holness (left) of Britain and Nadim Aljurdi of Lebanon share a light moment at the Universiade Village canteen.

preparing the Muslim food during the 26th Shenzhen Universiade. “We’ll try our best to ensure their (best) performances.”

There are exceptions as well, according to Chen. “Not all Islamic countries observe fasting during Ramadan. Some may break the fasting on match days in accordance with the advice of their doc-

tors or coaches,” he said.

Apart from looking after the special needs for Ramadan, executive chef Geoff Preston (from Britain) and his team of 16 foreign chefs are ready to cook up a storm in the 12,000-square-meter athletes’ restaurant.

The menu will include a wide variety of international dishes.

“The Muslim and Mediterranean dishes are just a few of the highlights on the menu,” said Preston, who worked at the 25th Summer Universiade in Belgrade and wants to head the kitchen at the 2012 London Olympics.

Talking about the difference between cooking for Olympic and Universiade athletes, Preston said

that young sportsmen had “fresher tastes”.

“For example, Olympic athletes prefer more traditional food while younger sportsmen like modern dishes such as meatballs and fried chicken”.

That might explain the presence of a MacDonal’s in the dining hall.

Games’ merchandise sales get off to a flying start



GAO ERQIANG / CHINA DAILY

Customers browse the wide range of Universiade licensed products at a store in the main press center.

By GAO CHANGXIN
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Though the 26th Summer Universiade in Shenzhen has not started yet, sales of the meet’s licensed products are already brisk — and journalists seem to be among the most enthusiastic buyers.

A franchise store at the Universiade’s main press center, the working area for reporters in Longgong, has seen daily turnover of more than 10,000 yuan (\$1,600) since it opened on Aug 6.

The bestseller is a set of shell-carving stamps that sells for 100

yuan, according to Liu Weidong, the store’s manager. Postcards, envelopes and key chains are also selling well.

“I didn’t expect sales to be so good. It seems like every reporter wants something to take back home,” said Li.

“I believe we will sell more when more reporters come here after the Universiade begins.”

Sales are even better at the flagship franchise store at Yitian Holiday Plaza in Nanshan district.

Sales people at the store, which opened in September, 2010, say sales have reached millions of

yuan as locals visit the store more frequently with the Universiade drawing near.

“As the flagship store, we have the most complete set of products. We are replenishing our stocks in preparation for better sales after the Universiade opens,” said a salesperson.

Currently, there are more than 2,000 Universiade licensed products, ranging from accessories and sportswear to gold bullions. Prices range from 30 yuan to more than 400,000 yuan.

Products can be bought at franchise stores and sales outlets throughout the city.