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TRUE GRIT

Evergreen gymnast
still pushing the limits

Uzbekistan gymnast Oksana Chusovitina competes in the women's vault at the Hangzhou Asian Games on Thursday. The 48-year-old finished fourth to narrowly miss out on a medal, but said she will continue to train and compete as she bids to secure a berth at Paris 2024 in what would be her ninth Olympic appearance. AFP



Esports fan gives voice to his passion

League of Legends commentator revels in his Asian Games adventure

By **HE QI** and **LIN SHUJUAN**
in Hangzhou

Feng Zhuocheng isn't a competitor at the Hangzhou Asian Games. Yet as an on-site commentator for the esports events, he has a schedule no less intensive to that of an athlete.

He usually gets up at around 6 am, arrives at the competition venue, the China Hangzhou Esports Centre, at around 7:40 am for some intensive preparation work for the first match, which usually starts at 9 am.

This is OK with the 22-year-old, who has become used to an intense schedule since he became a professional esports commentator more than two years ago. Feng said he has lost a lot of sleep over the past few days, due to the excitement about the Asian Games, in which esports was officially included as a medal event for the first time.

"It is a big step forward," said Feng, who hails from Wuhan, the capital of central China's Hubei province, and has just graduated from Tsinghua University in Beijing as an English major.

The Games are set to make the public better acquainted with esports, both its charm as a sport and the joy it brings, which Feng has been passionate about since 2013.

"I remembered it was during the summer vacation and many of my classmates were playing League of Legends, so I started playing, too," Feng said, excitedly. "At first, I harbored dreams of becoming a professional player, but later I found that I was better at using the power of words, and finally became a commentator."

In 2020, the developer of League of Legends held a big audition event. Feng, then still a junior English major at Tsinghua, entered, and stood out to snag a spot as an official LoL commentator.

"My schedule during my college years was very challenging — I took

five classes from Monday to Wednesday and spent the remaining four days traveling back and forth to Shanghai for the commentary work," recalled Feng. "I am very grateful for my parents' support. They said I could fulfill whatever dream I had, as long as I balanced it with my studies, and I did."

As a young commentator, Feng said that the Hangzhou Asiad has also provided him a platform to learn from many traditional sports commentators, who have joined the commentary team for esports live TV broadcasts.

"There is a lot to learn from them, their use of language and more of a popular science approach to introduce the facets of esports, so that the audience can understand," Feng said. "They think about what the audience wants and respond naturally. It's something I think about less when I'm commenting on games."

Compared with traditional sports, esports events generally have a faster pace, Feng continued.

"Even in some intense traditional sports events, the requirements for commentators' on-the-spot reaction are not particularly high," he said. "But in esports, the density of information is much greater. In one or two seconds, you need to process a lot of information and convey it to the audience clearly, so commenting on esports is relatively laborious."

At this Asian Games, Feng, joined by another official commentator for the LoL professional league, will commentate on a total of eight matches, starting from the group stage to the finals on Friday.

"From this Asian Games, I feel that there are more people who love esports than I'd initially realized. We are not just a small project, playing in a small world of our own, but accepted by the larger audience."

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Feng Zhuocheng

Going out on a limb



Nouandam Volavouth of Laos attempts to defend a shot by Thailand's Ratsamee Thongsod (center) in the semifinal of the women's team sepak takraw at Jinhua Sports Centre Gymnasium on Thursday. Thailand won the game 2-0 and will face the Republic of Korea in Friday's final. AFP

An e-mazing experience

By **XU HAOYU** in Hangzhou
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In the most anticipated esports duel of the Hangzhou Asian Games, the Republic of Korea showed absolute dominance to beat Team China 2-0 in Thursday's League of Legends (LoL) semifinal clash.

The defeat saw Team China dethroned as the Games' LoL champion, having triumphed at the 2018 Asiad when esports was just a demonstration event.

But while the home fans were disappointed to see their heroes lose their crown, esports' massive popularity at the Hangzhou Games, where tickets for matches were snapped up within minutes of their release, still provided cause for celebration.

Team China coach Zhu Kai reckons esports' promotion to an official medal sport in Hangzhou is of huge significance to the sector.

"Joining the Asian Games is a very big affirmation for the entire esports community and the industry. I believe that as long as esports is on a stable development path, the industry will go from strength to strength."

Zhuo Ding, the Chinese player who goes by the gaming moniker "Knight", was delighted to make his debut at the Games.

"It's a great honor to represent China for the first time. I have participated in individual and club competitions before, but this time I am representing the country, and this competition is more important and different," he said. "We have to work harder to achieve better results, and we should also pay more attention to our image."

The Korean players also emphasized their pride in playing for their national team.

"Competing as a representative of the country, I feel a stronger sense of mission than usual," said experienced Korean star Lee Sang-hyeok (aka "Faker"), who served as a mid-lane substitute in Hangzhou.

Jeong Ji-hoon ("Chovy") echoed those sentiments, saying: "When I found out I had been selected as a national representative, I felt a mix of joy and worry to be honest. But as time went on, only the desire to carry out the mission remained."

Underlining just how seriously the players take the Games, Chinese player Zhao Jiahao was overcome

with emotion after Thursday's loss, continually wiping the tears away.

Seo Jin-hyeok, aka "Kanavi", offered some kind words for his heartbroken rivals. "It was a tough match. China really is a strong team," he said. "We played equally well, and in both games, we won by a razor-thin margin."

Tian Ye, known as "Meiko", rued his mistakes in the semifinal but was also quick to commend his teammates for their performances, urging them to bounce back in Friday's bronze-medal match against Vietnam.

"I hope we can learn from today's match and play better tomorrow. I hope the players can adjust themselves well after today," Tian said.

Coach Zhu was already thinking ahead to the next Asiad.

"After 50 days of preparation, the players have all worked very hard and done their best in today's match, but it is a pity that their performances weren't quite as good as their opponents," Zhu said. "I believe some of the players will be back chasing glory at the next Asian Games, when I hope they use the experience they gained from this edition to raise their level."



Swimmers show depth of their friendship

Pool stars exchange compliments, gifts and good wishes at Asian Games



By **SHI FUTIAN** in Hangzhou
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Apart from chasing medals and glory, another wish of Chinese Olympic and world champion Zhang Yufei at the Asian Games is to send a gift to Japanese swimming star Rikako Ikee, and to establish a deeper bond between two of female swimming's Asian powerhouses.

"I hope Rikako Ikee enjoys her trip to the Hangzhou Asian Games in China. I told her before that I will 'see you next year (in Paris)'. I hope she will enjoy swimming in Hangzhou, and also enjoy the atmosphere of the host city," said Zhang after winning the women's 100m butterfly in new record time for the

Asiad — 55.86s — on Wednesday.

"I wish to send her a gift that represents the traditions and customs of China, and which she will like. I really can't make up my mind and I hope maybe the public can help me to choose one."

Ikee knows what kind of gift she would like, saying on Wednesday: "Pandas! I would like to take some cute panda souvenirs as gifts back to Japan."

Competing against Zhang in the women's 100m butterfly, Ikee wasn't at her best on Wednesday, finishing in fifth place with a time of 58.98s.

"In the morning, I felt that I was not in peak condition, so my goal was just to reach 58s. It's still not the right time for me to have too high an expectation, so I don't have ideal



I hope Rikako Ikee enjoys her trip to the Hangzhou Asian Games in China. I told her before that I will 'see you next year (in Paris)'."

Zhang Yufei, on her pool rival and friend, Japan's Rikako Ikee

results, but I have tried my best," said Ikee.

"When I was in the second 50 meters, I could hear the loud cheering

from the stands. I know that sound was not all for me, but I found it encouraging."

And the Japanese star is impressed by Zhang's performance at the Games, adding that: "She has ridden the momentum since day one, breaking the Asian Games record, too. I wish I could ask her how she can swim so fast."

Ikee was the brightest star in pool at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games. As an 18-year-old back then, she was named MVP for bagging six gold medals. However in 2019, Ikee was diagnosed with leukemia. It has not been easy for the star to return to the pool, and she has struggled to reach her peak.

So, when Ikee stood on the podium in Hangzhou for winning silver in the

women's 4x100m freestyle relay on Sunday, the Japanese star received a warm reception from the crowd.

"On the first day of the Asian Games, I knew that I couldn't compete at my former level, but that it would be great as long as I could improve a little bit day by day. As I'm here already, I want to seize the chance and feel the atmosphere of the Games," said Ikee.

And speaking of her future goals, Ikee added, "I swam like I had nothing to lose. My training has been focused on my performance in the 50m event. I could not practice enough for 100m. I will prepare better for my 100m swim at Paris 2024. I want to take advantage of the next six months as much as possible and train to be effective."

By **SUN XIAOCHEN** in Hangzhou
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He reads books, he plays chess, yet he punches the heaviest in the ring.

Finding inner peace through quiet hobbies has helped Indian heavyweight boxer Sanjeet Kumar reach an even state of mind in his approach to his day-to-day business of participating in one of the fiercest combat sports.

Win or lose, the ambitious pugilist with a strong build finds solace in reading, meditation and playing the strategic board game. And that's probably how he will recover from his latest setback in the ring at the 19th Asian Games.

"I will learn from this, get better and come back stronger for the next bout," Sanjeet said after getting eliminated in the round of 16 of the men's 92kg category at the Hangzhou Gymnasium on Wednesday.

Although landing a few combina-

tions in the opening round, Sanjeet was outpunched 5-0 by world championship bronze medalist Lazizbek Mullojonov of Uzbekistan, who put up a dominant display and kept Sanjeet at bay throughout the three-round fight.

The defeat to the 2022 super heavyweight Asian champion denied Sanjeet's attempt to secure direct qualification for next year's Paris Olympics, which will be offered to each of the finalists in Hangzhou.

The 26-year-old southpaw, however, refused to let any loss deter the pursuit of a dream Olympic appearance.

"Sometimes I am doing good, sometimes I am doing bad. This is what's interesting in boxing," said Sanjeet. "Some crazy mistakes I made in one bout will help me fight better in



Sanjeet Kumar

making the direct qualification quota offered in each of the men's seven weight classes at the Asiad, two more world qualifying tournaments, scheduled for spring and early summer next year, will provide a second chance to make it to Paris.

Like many other Indian boxers or wrestlers, Sanjeet was born and raised in underprivileged conditions. He picked up the gloves at the age of eight, influenced by his cousin San-

jeet, a boxer fighting at the national level.

For those like Sanjeet, who fall short of

the next. It's not done yet. I will have my time and I will win an Olympic medal for my country."

Squaring off against 2016 Olympic silver medalist Vassiliy Levit of Kazakhstan in the final bout, underdog Sanjeet delivered a statement fight by throwing a flurry of punches as soon as the clock started ticking, subduing the two-time world championships bronze winner with a split decision win.

His progression took a hit, however, when he suffered a bicep tear in his left hand during the 2019 World Mili-

tary Games in Chinese city Wuhan, forcing him to pull out of the Asia-Oceania Olympic qualifiers for Tokyo 2020.

The fact that no Indians have qualified for the Olympics in his weight category has further fueled Sanjeet's hunger to make it to amateur boxing's highest stage.

Although his Hangzhou exit is another setback on that path, Sanjeet's positive mindset, developed through reading inspirational sports autobiographies, has kept him at peace.

"A strong mind sharpens punches," he said.

"These books force you to strive for perfection in everything. Sometimes we think that we will do this and that before training, but then find we cannot complete all the tasks. But once you train your mind, then the process becomes easier," he explained in an interview with olympics.com



Top: Jinhua has a rich cultural heritage and Li Qingzhao (1084-1155), widely recognized as China's greatest female poet, lived there in the later part of her life. **Middle and Above:** In modern times, the enterprising spirit of the locals has made the name of Jinhua far more widely known. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Visitors get a kick out of Jinhua

As well as the sepak takraw and football competitions of the 19th Asian Games, the city has plenty to offer away from the arena



Wuju Opera, which is listed as a national intangible cultural heritage, is the oldest local opera in Zhejiang and the second largest opera genre in the province. BAO KANGXUAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

By MA ZHENHUAN in Hangzhou
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To the south of Hangzhou, capital city of Zhejiang province, lies Jinhua, a city of seven million inhabitants.

Standing in the center of Zhejiang province and connecting neighboring Jiangxi, Fujian and Anhui provinces, Jinhua has historically been an important port along the Xin'an River and a key commercial center in the region.

During the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, Jinhua once served as a crucial trading post through which salt and silk were sold to neighboring provinces, and lacquer and porcelain were imported.

In modern times, the enterprising spirit of the locals has made the name of Jinhua far more widely known.

Yiwu, a county-level city with a permanent population of a little more than 1.86 million and often dubbed the "world's capital for small commodities", is under the administration of Jinhua.

Figures from Yiwu's commerce bureau show that the city sells more than 2.1 million types of products, ranging from daily use items to sports-related goods, to over 230 countries and regions, with some 65 percent of its goods designated for export.

In fact, much of the merchandise sold during the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou is made in Yiwu.

As a co-host city of the ongoing Games, among the sports Jinhua will host is sepak takraw and football.

A centuries-old sport, sepak takraw is believed to have been influenced by an ancient form of the Chinese game *cuju*, in which a group of players would kick a ball among themselves and aim to keep it in the air for as long as possible.

Modern sepak takraw is immensely popular in Southeast Asia. Also known as "kick volleyball", it is played by using the feet, knees, shoulders and head to touch the ball.

Close to Jinhua's Huhaitang Lake, described by locals as the "green lung" of the city, stands Jinhua Sports Centre Gymnasium.

The dynamic wavy lines of the building's architecture and the glittering water of the lake combine to present a perfect blend of vitality and tranquility.

The shell-shaped gymnasium, with a 5,800 capacity, holds massive appeal for local sports fans. It is the venue for sepak takraw, where six gold medals are up for grabs.

Locals have reaped manifold benefits from the hosting of the Games, since venues such as the gymnasium can be accessed free of charge, or at a nominal cost, for over 12 hours every day.

According to official statistics, some 1.8 million residents visited the venues to take part in sporting activities between January and July this year.

Apart from the competition venues, one of the Asian Games' five sub-villages is located in Jinhua.

Featuring a landscape garden that showcases local architecture, the sub-village provides a wide variety of services, including accommodation, catering and fitness facilities, among others.

Distinctive architecture is only a small part of Jinhua's rich cultural heritage.

Li Qingzhao (1084-1155), widely recognized as China's greatest female poet, lived in Jinhua for a period of time in the later part of her life and composed some of the most memorable poems about the place, including *On Bayong Tower* and *To the Tune of*

"Spring in Wuling".

As well as these verses, a sure way to blend in like an authentic Jinhua native is to watch and enjoy Wujia Opera, which is a national intangible cultural heritage, the oldest local opera in Zhejiang and the second largest opera genre in the province.

Commonly known as Jinhua theater, Wujia Opera is some 500 years old and is the combination of six famous vocal tones — the high-pitched tone, the Kunqu opera tone, the *luantan* (literally "random pluck") tone, the Huiju Opera tone, the *tanhuang* (a local folk opera art) tone and the *shidiao* (popular local ditties) tone.

Mei Lanfang (1894-1961), one of the foremost masters of Peking Opera,

once praised Wujia Opera as "the father of Peking Opera".

Of the more than 300 Chinese operas that are still being actively performed nationwide today, Wujia Opera is particularly noted for its rural origins. To many, it is "a living fossil" of the art form.

As well as opera, Jinhua has ample leisure and recreation activities on offer.

In Dongyang city, for example, sits "China's Hollywood", the Hengdian World Studios, the world's largest film and TV base, where visitors can try their hand at acting and being in the spotlight, just like the stars, by enjoying an immersive filmmaking experience.

Meanwhile, Wuyi county is an ideal place to be refreshed and revitalized.

Billed as a "city of hot springs", Wuyi covers an area of 1,577 square kilometers and boasts 13 hot springs. In total, the hot springs are believed to provide more than 24,000 metric tons of water a day — more than enough to dip into and bathe away a day's fatigue.

After drying off, there are plenty of epicurean delights to refresh the palate.

With some of China's most tasty organic tea found in Jinhua, as well as mouth-watering hams and a host of other delicacies, visitors can be forgiven for enjoying themselves too much.



From top: Bayong Tower, Wuyi (which is billed as a "city of hot springs"), and Hengdian World Studios are among the most popular destinations for visitors to Jinhua. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Streets ahead

True to its edgy roots, skateboarding's youthful verve is a breath of fresh air

By **XING WEN** in Hangzhou
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Deeply rooted in the vibrant tapestry of street culture, skateboarding is a refreshing departure from the conventional sports that dominate the stage at the Asian Games.

The exhilarating street finals at Hangzhou's Qiantang Roller Sports Centre on Sept 27 underlined just how unique this sport is within the realm of the continental sports gala.

Beneath the blazing sun, athletes donning loose, short-sleeved shirts and pants crafted and executed their own brand of tricks and maneuvers on the quarter pipes, handrails and assortment of other obstacles.

Whether triumphant or grappling with gravity's relentless pull, the athletes could always rely on the spectators' unwavering support, with each routine greeted with a symphony of cheers and applause.

It seemed that in the presence of these fearless, unyielding young athletes, who fear neither falls nor failures, everyone momentarily set aside allegiances to their national teams.

Instead, they united behind the competitors in a show of solidarity that reflected the sport's long-standing mantra: "One more try."

Both the skateboard street and park competitions in Hangzhou have introduced a wave of fresh, youthful faces to the world. Nine-year-old Filipino Mazel Paris Alegado, who competed in the women's park, is the youngest participant at the Games.

At her tender age, Mazel's motivation for embracing skateboarding is refreshingly uncomplicated and persuasive — she does it simply to have fun.

"I wasn't really nervous, I was really excited about it," she said about preparing for such a big tournament.

Mazel resides in the United States but trained in Portugal in preparation for the Games in Hangzhou. Her skateboarding journey began when she was a mere 5-year-old.

"I like skateboarding because it's really fun," she said. "You can hang out with your friends, and you can be any person you want."

She's already dreaming about one day competing in the Olympic Games, but acknowledged that she has a considerable amount of practice ahead of her to reach that level.

All the athletes selected for the Chinese skateboarding team were

born after the year 2000. The youngest is 13-year-old female street skateboarder Cui Chenxi, who is also the youngest athlete in the entire Chinese delegation at this year's Asian Games.

The skateboarding prodigy showcased her extraordinary talent by claiming the women's street title on Sept 27, becoming China's youngest-ever Asian Games gold medalist.

Until Wednesday, that title had belonged to 15-year-old skateboarder Chen Ye, who won the men's park event on Monday.

Cui is dreaming big for next year's Paris Olympics.

"First I will concentrate on getting there, then I can make a big attack," she said.

Injuries are pretty much unavoidable in skateboarding, but the pitfalls of the sport have yet to deter Cui.

"When I started skateboarding, I thought it was great fun. Later, I realized people sustain a lot of injuries while doing it. But that is where the spirit of skateboarding lies," she said.

Allied to her courage, Cui displays calmness and composure beyond her years.

"My dad advised me to stay relaxed, savor the competition, and demonstrate my skills," she said of her cool-



I like skateboarding because it's really fun. You can hang out with your friends, and you can be any person you want."

Mazel Paris Alegado, nine-year-old skateboarder from the Philippines, the youngest athlete at the Hangzhou Games



ness under pressure. "As long as I give it my all, I won't have any regrets."

China's Zeng Wenhui finished runner-up behind Cui in the street final. At 18, Zeng is already considered a seasoned rider, having represented China at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

Her experience in major competitions has equipped her with the ability to remain composed — a skill she hopes to pass on to her younger teammates.

"When you're in the midst of competition, mental factors can affect you," Zeng explained, "but then you simply release those distractions and focus on delivering your absolute best."

Margielyn Didal is a well-known skateboarder in the Philippines thanks to her victory in the women's street competition at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games. On Wednesday, she was surpassed by the sport's new breed and finished eighth.

Afterward, the 24-year-old was magnanimous about missing out on a medal, but admitted she felt something of a generation gap due to the mandatory protective gear for competitors aged under 18.

"Skateboarding transcends age. I don't feel old because I still have a playful spirit. I just want to have fun," she said. "But it's a bit strange for me because everyone is wearing helmets and knee pads now, and I feel a bit left out in that regard."

A Grand old culture

400

ITEMS ON CULTURAL HERITAGE LIST

Culture flows through the water corridor, which plays a significant role in enhancing communication between the southern and northern parts of China. More than 400 items found along the Grand Canal are on the national-level list of intangible cultural heritage.

It links several major waterways across the country, including the Yangtze, Huaihe and Yellow rivers, and runs through the municipalities of Beijing and Tianjin, besides the provinces of Hebei, Shandong, Henan, Anhui, Jiangsu and Zhejiang.

Source: China Grand Canal Museum



The ancient Chinese built two great engineering wonders: the Great Wall and the Grand Canal. Though the Great Wall's function in military defense has faded over time, the Grand Canal remains a crucial conduit of cultural communication.

The Grand Canal, which consists of three sections (Suitang Grand Canal, Beijing Hangzhou Grand Canal and Zhedong Grand Canal), is a flowing epic of transformation. The artificial waterway runs more than 2,000 kilometers from north to south across the vast eastern plains of China.

It is about 16 times the size of the Suez Canal in Egypt and 33 times longer than the Panama Canal, the world's second- and third-largest man-made waterways. "It bears witness to the remarkable and early development of hydraulic engineering," the UNESCO website states.

In ancient times, the Grand Canal served as the main artery for grain transport and every kind of economic and cultural exchange. It also facilitated the time-consuming journeys of laborers and materials for the construction of the Forbidden City in Beijing, the imperial city of the Yuan (1271-1368), Ming and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties.

Now, it has inspired the name of Chenchen, one of the three mascots of the ongoing Asian Games. Chenchen, derived from the Gongchen Bridge, which spans the Hangzhou section of the Grand Canal, is colored blue to represent science and technology.

The Hangzhou section of the canal stretches a total length of 39 kilometers, which is home to 11 of the canal's total 58 historical sites. It enters the city from Tangqi ancient town in Yuhang district, travels through Gongshu and Shangcheng districts, and finally flows into the Qiantang River from the Three Gorges Ship Lock.

Visitors are recommended to take a boat trip on the ancient waterway to enjoy some of its unrivaled scenery as well as the fascinating landscape of Jiangnan water town.

Besides the activities on the water, three neighboring places along the Canal — Dadou Road Historic District, Xiaohuzhi Street, and Qiaoxi Historic Street — are recommended for a leisurely walk.

Hangzhou's development and the Grand Canal have been inextricably intertwined for hundreds of years





Postal souvenirs leave their stamp

By LI YINGXUE in Hangzhou

Many people attending the 19th Asiad are literally putting a stamp on their memories of the event, as they form long lines outside temporary post offices of the Hangzhou Games Village to buy commemorative envelopes and postage stamps.

These limited-edition items feature such Games icons as the mascots, Congcong, Chenchen and Lianlian.

The first run of stamps were released following the Games' opening, with 400 sets available at the Athletes' Village, 200 at the Technical Officials' Village and 200 sets at the Media Village, said Xie Zhengyun, a staffer at the Media Village's temporary post office.

"People started lining up around 7 am," Xie said.

"We were ready. The quantity of the commemorative envelopes for the opening ceremony was limited throughout the village, and they were very popular. Previous events had demonstrated strong demand for such commemorative postal souvenirs. Therefore, we were very proactive in preparing ... so sales have gone smoothly."



Commemorative stamps and envelopes are in demand at the village. ZHANG WEI / CHINA DAILY

Ultraviolet-light activated anti-counterfeiting images include such distinctive Hangzhou landmarks as the three pools mirroring the moon, Leifeng Pagoda and Gongchen Bridge. Those for the envelopes issued to commemorate the opening ceremony feature depictions of the torch tower and fireworks.

The design shows how Hangzhou has integrated technology as the Games' host city, said Jin Yang, assistant manager of village transportation and logistics.

Jin's colleague, Xia Chuan, plans to mail these envelopes to his hometown, Chengdu, Sichuan province.

"I hope to send them to my family to share the beautiful moments of the Hangzhou Games so they can join in the experience," he said.



By LI YINGXUE in Hangzhou
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Media workers reporting on the 19th Asian Games have been given the opportunity to embark on nighttime tours of Hangzhou's canals and enjoy views of the moon from Sept 28 to 30, to celebrate China's Mid-Autumn Festival.

Moon gazing is a traditional way to celebrate the festival, which is one of the most important dates on the lunar calendar.

But participants of the hour-long "Yaoyue (Inviting the Moon)" cruise can also enjoy the sparkle of the cityscape's lights reflecting in the water, listen to ancient songs performed by a classical ensemble and try their hand at making mooncakes. Skilled chefs have been brought onboard to teach guests how to create the seasonal pastries that feature symbols conveying such themes as reunion, lotuses and "I love Hangzhou". Participants also receive handicrafts embroidered with images of rabbits gazing at the moon.

Other cultural activities organized by the Hangzhou Asian (Para) Games Media Village's service center include the live performance, *The Most Memorable Hangzhou*; immersive tours of the China

National Archives of Publications and Culture's Hangzhou branch; a contemporary adaptation of the opera, *Butterfly Lovers*; and the painting exhibition, *The Way Is Infinite: Centennial Retrospective Exhibition of Zao Wou-ki*.

Organizers in Hangzhou and the Games' co-host cities — Zhejiang province's Ningbo, Huzhou, Jinhua, Shaoxing and Wenzhou — prepared 30 itineraries for domestic and international media. Themes include economics, history and ecology.

Hangzhou has designated 10 routes, such as those exploring the natural splendor of the Xixi National Wetland Park and the Tracing the Origins of Chinese Civilization tour of the Liangzhu Museum and Liangzhu Archaeological Site Park.

Thanks, and farewell

Asiad Daily would like to acknowledge the contributions of the publication, Hangzhou Asian Games, the official Chinese-language news source of the eponymous event, on Sept 29, the date of its 12th and final edition, which coincides with China's Mid-Autumn Festival.

