

Games demonstrate China's 'soft power'

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari praised the Guangzhou organizers of the Asian Games, saying the effort reflected China's soft power on the global stage, state press said Sunday.

"The Guangzhou Asian Games is a great demonstration of China's soft power in the world," Xinhua news agency quoted the visiting Zardari as saying.

"THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE ASIAN GAMES WAS VERY IMPRESSIVE."

"The opening ceremony of the Asian Games was very impressive. This tells the world that China not only has growing economic power, but also (shows) the nation's culture, discipline and romance."

Zardari and his son, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, attended Friday's opening ceremony. Pakistan has sent 237 athletes to the games.

Aussie ref slammed as Malaysians see red

Malaysia coach Rajagopal Krishnasamy told Australian referee Ben Williams to seek medical help after the official red-carded three of his players in a stormy Asian Games clash.

Malaysia finished its 3-0 opening-game loss to China with just eight men on the pitch after Mahuli Jasuli and captain Safiq Rahmin were sent off in the 25th minute, followed by Subramaniam Sumindran's dismissal in the dying moments.

"I have never seen such a referee in the world before. I think something is wrong with him and he needs to have a medical check," raged Krishnasamy.

Rahmin was shocked by his red card, which was shown by Williams after the skipper protested Jasuli's expulsion.

"As captain, I was entitled to ask why my teammate had been sent off, but he flashed me a red card. Then I walked away and he pulled me up again. It was completely uncalled for."

Despite the defeat, Malaysia still went through as a best third-place

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Chinese hairdressers have had to brush up on international styles
XINHUA

A GOOD HEAD START

The hair salon in the Main Press Center is averaging about 20 coiffures a day, and the same operator is providing free washes and trims in the Athletes' Village.

A Guangzhou-based hairdressing and cosmetology school, which served the venues in Qingdao, Shandong province, during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, has dispatched 46 hair stylists to the two Asian Games venues.

In the months leading up to the event, the school familiarized the stylists with all the latest trends from participating countries and regions, said Sun Yuan, general manager for the school's Asian Games service.

Instructor Liu Yong did the distinctive styling for Chen Yibing, the famous Chinese gymnast.

Many foreign athletes have expressed their satisfaction with the service and are happy to pose for a photo with their stylist, Sun said.

team and will face Iran for a spot in the quarterfinals.

It will be Malaysia's first appearance in the second round since 1978, but the team's resources are stretched, with just 13 players available for duty.

"Can I be included in the team as well?" said Krishnasamy. "We have three injured and three red cards, and Iran will be a tough team."

Orange hair boosts paddler's confidence

Chinese table tennis star Liu Shiwen dazzled at the Asian Games on Sunday — and not just for her performance in helping hammer Tajikistan 3-0 in the women's team event.

Making her Asiad debut, Liu sported a new orange hairstyle in trouncing Amiri Sumayai 11-2, 11-5, 11-2 in their Group A mismatch.

"I change my hairstyle and appearance before every match," revealed Liu, 19, the world No 2.

"This time, I colored my hair orange, which makes me more confident."

China's women are favorites to win gold in team table tennis.

Olympic chiefs of Asia, US strike deal

Asian Olympic chiefs on Sunday signed an agreement to strengthen ties with their counterparts from the United States.

Olympic Council of Asia President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah signed the deal with Lawrence F Probst III, chairman of the board of the US Olympic Committee in Guangzhou.

Probst said the deal focuses on coaching and education and would involve cooperation on business development and athlete exchanges.

"We have been working together for the last few years and this is really just formalizing the agreement, being more specific about the ways that we are going to work together over the next four years and having something that we can both work towards for our mutual benefit," he said.

"It is obviously a growing and thriving part of the world, and we need to get to know the OCA better and figure out ways to work more closely together between our country and the OCA."