

## Black market doing big ticket business

Scalpers are doing a brisk business at Asian Games venues, with tickets to see Chinese badminton superstar Lin Dan costing more than the price of entry to watch iconic hurdler Liu Xiang.

Black market tickets for Lin's gold medal singles victory on Sunday went for as much as 5,000 yuan (\$750), far outstripping the 1,600 yuan that touts were asking for Wednesday's 110m hurdles final, the Yangtze Evening News said.

Lin played in a much smaller venue, however, while the 5,000 yuan price was for a ticket with a 600-yuan face value, the report said.

Scalpers were asking 1,600 yuan for tickets with a face value of 80 yuan to watch Liu run at the 80,000-seat Aoti Main Stadium.

More than 2.3 million tickets have been issued for the Asian Games, with about half of them given away to sponsors and other organizations linked to the event, Guangzhou's Yangcheng Evening News reported.

In an effort to fill the stands, organizers have urged those with free tickets to pass them on to friends or games volunteers if they decide they do not want to attend the matches, the paper said.

But apparently a lot of those tickets are falling into the hands of scalpers. Last week, Guangzhou police arrested 196 scalpers who allegedly were trying to sell more than 1,300 tickets, the paper said.

## Tennis spectators part of the show

Spectators shared some of the spotlight during the women's singles semifinal between China's Peng Shuai and Japan's Kimiko Date Krumm at the Aoti Tennis Center on Sunday, in ways that were annoying and delightful.

The conversation and movement of thousands of fans on hand to support Peng had the umpire calling for quiet several times before the players could serve.

The announcer and volunteers also repeatedly reminded the spectators of proper etiquette.

This wasn't the first time that overly-exuberant fans had disrupted big tennis match in China. At the Beijing Olympic Games, China's Li Na shouted "Shut up!" to spectators in her match against Dinara Safina in the semifinals. Li then lost the match.

As for the lighter side, the mobile video camera that randomly panned the stands during



SAM YEH / AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Koji Wada of Japan (left) competes against Mongolia's Khuchit Nergui on Sunday. Japan won 55-0.

## MONGOLIANS UNDAUNTED AFTER ASIAN GAMES

Mongolia was outscored 195-0 in the men's rugby sevens group stage, but coach Dashdendeov Gansukh was still thrilled with his team's Asian Games debut.

Mongolia has played in a 15-a-side Asian Games Rugby Union before it was cut from the program.

The team made its first appearance in the sevens in Guangzhou and was the only one not to advance to the quarterfinals.

Not that it worried Gansukh.

"We are very happy," he said. "It was really hard to prepare for this tournament as it's already below-zero temperatures in Mongolia and we don't have the facilities that are available in more developed countries."

"But we learned so much from this tournament and these guys are the future of Mongolia rugby. What they learned here they can teach the next generation."

Gansukh hopes to build a successful sevens platform in Mongolia, setting the scene for his country's future rugby union success.

Three of the current team, captain Khosbayar Ganbold, Gansaikhan Enhkbat and Delgerkhuu Tsegmed, have played union in Hong Kong, Korea and England respectively. And Gansukh played for Cardiff University in Wales for eight years.

But Gansukh said the transition to sevens calls for more speed, because pace proved to be the team's biggest handicap.

"In Mongolia, our national sport is wrestling, so that's why we have such strong forwards. But I think we need to find some sprinters as sevens is much a faster game," he said. "We need to get the guys to be fit."

the breaks showed some surprised fans on the big screen.

Before the start of the third set, the camera caught a young couple just when the girl was kissing the boy's cheek. When she discovered it was being shown to everyone in the stadium, she was too shy to face the camera and hid in her boyfriend's arms as the audience erupted in laughter. The camera then shifted to a middle-aged man who, apparently inspired by

the previous shot, kissed the cheek of the guy sitting next to him.

## Media copycats hit Asiad Town

Several student reporters from Beijing high schools began a four-day stay in the Asiad Town last Saturday, emulating the real media personnel by reporting on their favorite events.

About 30 teens dreaming of careers in journalism visited IBC and MPC and enjoyed eating alongside accredited journalists.

"It was like being a real reporter and I felt so excited about this event," said Bai Shanwen, president of the Beijing Student Press Association. "We prepared our questions for the champions."

The teen press group later interviewed three female Chinese gold medalists, including Luo Wei, who

## WHO'S SAYING WHAT...

"I want to log on to Facebook and say sorry to Indonesia."

Archer **IKA ROCHMAWATI**, after her exit from the women's event.

"I had a good dream while flying from Korea to China. My dream was about when I was crossing a bridge in my car. I got out and saw below a carp fish the size of a dolphin which swam to me. I believe the dream was the reason why I won the gold medal."

Badminton mixed doubles gold medalist **SHIN BAEK-CHEOL**, on his bizarre dream which he interpreted as a premonition that he would be successful.

"20km race training is boring, 50km is even more boring. We used to tell jokes whilst training to make us happy."

China 20km winner **WANG HAO**, on her team's training methods.

"Maybe dyeing my hair purple brought me good luck."

Chinese Taipei's **CHIANG HUI-CHUAN**, after hitting a home run to beat softball favorite Japan.

"Since I'm not well, the acupuncture needles help me to lessen the pain so I can concentrate on my game."

Korea chess player **LEE SEU-LA**, on having acupuncture needles in her head.

"He dislikes talking."

Kazakh team official **MURATBEK VASIMHAHOV**, on wrestler Marat Karishalov's shyness.

"I am not a robot."

Japan tennis player **KIMIKO DATE KRUMM**, on why she won't be taking part in the 2014 Asiad when she will be 44.

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sent her best wishes to the potential reporters and said she was looking forward to seeing them at future events.

"The regular reporters were so busy that they ignored us as we were passing by," said Fan Dafang, 16, a member of the students group organized by the teen press association.

"I believe even the most delicious food in this world couldn't satisfy the hunger and fatigue of these journalists — but that hasn't changed my dream of being a real reporter one day."