

WEATHER

Today's
forecast

Nanjing	24/29 Rainy
Suzhou	24/29 Rainy
Wuxi	24/29 Rainy
Yangzhou	24/30 Rainy
Xuzhou	23/29 Cloudy
Changzhou	24/29 Rainy
Nantong	23/29 Rainy
Lianyungang	22/29 Rainy
Huai'an	22/29 Rainy
Yancheng	23/30 Rainy
Zhenjiang	24/29 Rainy
Taizhou	24/29 Rainy
Suqian	23/29 Rainy

YOG DAILY
NANJING 2014
YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

The official English publication of the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games

Published daily by China Daily

Issue: 10

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PUMPED UP

Xu Shilin of China celebrates her 6-2, 6-3 victory over Akvile Parazinskaite of Lithuania on Friday to reach the women's tennis final where she will face Iryna Shymanovich of Belarus at the Youth Olympic Games. PHOTO BY WEI XIAOHAO / CHINA DAILY

Closing with a flourish

By CANG WEI

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The closing ceremony of the Youth Olympic Games will feature eight distinct parts and each will have a theme like "Five Continents' celebrations", "City of Youth" and "Tomorrow", said Chen Weiya, chief director of the opening and closing ceremonies.

There will also be colorful lighting, quality projections and various kinds of fireworks, Chen said.

"More elements about Nanjing, the city that has made such a great effort to host a great Games, will also be shown during the closing ceremony."

The ancient city walls of Nanjing, which were constructed between 1366-1386, will open their gates in spectacular fashion.

"The seven letters in the word Nanjing will become seven stages that weigh three to seven metric tons each," said Zhang Dongxin, chief executive director of the closing ceremony. "The cute mascot of the YOG will certainly join us to say farewell. About 100 mascots will carry paintings of children."

The works of art, which express



"More elements about Nanjing, the city that has made such a great effort to host a great Games, will also be shown during the closing ceremony."

CHEN WEIYA

chief director of the opening and closing ceremonies

the children's wishes for the city, the YOG and the future, were drawn by youngsters from the host city.

Also, 500 volunteers that provided services during the YOG will sing for the audience.

According to Zhang, about 1,200 people will take part in the perfor-

mance and staff at the closing ceremony will total 2,300, half of that at the opening ceremony.

Most of those 1,200 are from primary and middle schools and colleges in Nanjing, Zhang said, adding that some art ensembles from Nanjing and Beijing would also take part in the performance.

Performers from the Tagou Martial Arts School, who made an astonishing and spectacular acrobatic show at the opening ceremony, will show off their skills at the closing ceremony.

But Zhang refused to release any other information, except that the number of performers would be reduced from 520 to 200.

"We can assure you that there are no overlaps between the two ceremonies."

Four kinds of tickets are available for the closing ceremony and they are selling at 500 yuan (\$81), 1,000 yuan, 1,500 yuan and 2,800 yuan. Tickets can be bought on the YOG's official website or official Games' sales outlets.

"We have had a successful opening ceremony and we hope that the closing ceremony will also gain a high score," said Zhang.

Birthday party fun at media center

By ZHENG XIN

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Athletes, media workers and staff whose birthdays fall during the Nanjing Games celebrated their birthdays like never before at the Main Media Center on Thursday night.

More than 130 people were treated to live music performances, dances, snacks and the ice bucket challenge and also won prizes and gifts.

"It's once in a blue moon that I could celebrate my birthday during the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games," said Xiang Jiabo, a javelin thrower from Taizhou, Jiangsu province, who turned 17 on Aug 15.

"The dances and selfies with the other athletes from home and abroad were so much fun. The birthday party was a once in a lifetime experience."

"We didn't expect anything like this," said Juan Canadell, a senior host broadcaster, who celebrated his birthday on Aug 14.

"Each of us had birthdays during the Nanjing Games and we organized small, private parties with our colleagues and this is just fantastic."

Diosdado Estandarte, a cameraman for TV5 television from the Philippines, said this was his first time in China and everything was "spectacular".

The Nanjing Youth Olympic Games Organizing Committee also came up with the stand-out event of the evening, the ALS ice-bucket challenge.

Two mascots, or Lele, took the challenge first, followed by many athletes, media workers and staff.



At a birthday party for athletes and staff at the Games, several took the ALS ice-bucket challenge.

PHOTO BY ZHENG XIN / CHINA DAILY