

WEATHER

Today's
forecast

Nanjing	22/29 Cloudy
Suzhou	22/29 Cloudy
Wuxi	23/29 Cloudy
Yangzhou	22/30 Cloudy
Xuzhou	22/31 Cloudy
Changzhou	22/30 Cloudy
Nantong	21/29 Cloudy
Lianyungang	21/30 Cloudy
Huai'an	21/30 Cloudy
Yancheng	22/29 Cloudy
Zhenjiang	23/29 Cloudy
Taizhou	22/29 Cloudy
Suqian	22/29 Cloudy

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LETTING ONE SLIP AWAY

Alexandre Lagarde of France breaks away from Bautista Delguy (11) and Hugo Domingo Miotti of Argentina in the men's rugby final of the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games on Wednesday. France won the title after beating Argentina 45-22. PHOTO BY WEI XIAOHAO / CHINA DAILY

Bach's love of selfies
breaking the ice

By SUN XIAOCHEN

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Since the second Summer Youth Olympic Games began, IOC president Thomas Bach has been busy meeting officials, visiting venues and examining event operations in Nanjing.

Still, that hasn't distracted the International Olympic Committee president from his new hobby of taking selfies — everywhere.

After urging youth around the world at the Games' opening ceremony to take selfies in a show of unity on social media, Bach was out and about taking selfies with athletes during his visit to the beach volleyball arena on Tuesday.

After watching a match between Canada and Latvia at center court, Bach walked down to the sand to meet and chat with the athletes.

The 60-year-old German presented the beach volleyball teams with pins as gifts, posed for a group photo and then took a selfie with them on his smartphone. Players from both teams signed and presented an official game ball to Bach



Beach volleyball players take selfie with IOC president Thomas Bach on Tuesday. PHOTO BY XINHUA

on behalf of the FIVB, volleyball's global governing body.

Bach's selfie initiative has helped him become more popular with the young athletes.

"It was my first time meeting him and, to be honest, I was quite nervous in the beginning," said Chinese beach volleyball player Yuan Lvwen, one of many athletes who met Bach on Tuesday afternoon.

"But after we chatted and took a selfie, I felt like the ice was broken. He is quite a kind and approachable old man," Yuan said.

Bach also praised the facilities at

the Nanjing YOG Sports Park.

"The venue is great," he said during his visit. "You have a wonderful atmosphere here. It is a fantastic environment. It is a very modern sport. It is a very easy-going sport. You can see how much the youth like it."

The president's interest in beach volleyball worked as motivation for Maria Fernanda Maida and Melanie Vargas from Bolivia.

"We feel really happy and emotional that he's here to watch the sport," Maida, 16, said after she and Varga beat the Chinese beach volleyball pair 2-0 in their third group match during the evening session.

Varga echoed her partner's sentiment, saying she gained an extra boost with Bach in the stands.

"His visit made it special for us. When he showed up, he made us very proud that our game interested him," said the 15-year-old.

Beach volleyball made its debut at the Youth Olympics this year in Nanjing. The inaugural Singapore YOG in 2010 featured regular indoor volleyball.

Boss awarded
honorary
professorship

By XINHUA

International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach was awarded an honorary professorship from the Nanjing Sport Institute on Tuesday.

The IOC president said he was delighted to receive such a prestigious award from an institution that truly understands and promotes the values of Olympism.

"It is in everybody's interest that we get the couch potatoes off the couch. We should make everyone aware that a healthy mind in a healthy body leads to healthy citizens in a healthy state," Bach said. "Your institution continues to innovate and has done wonderful work not only in this city, but also in the province of Jiangsu, nationally and internationally."

The NSI was founded in 1956 and has been producing athletes, sports educators and sports scientists of the highest caliber ever since. The school's alumni include 15 Olympic gold medalists and almost 100 world champions.

Situated on 40 hectares of land at the foot of the Purple Mountain in Nanjing, the NSI is one of China's largest athletic training bases.