Color and culture open the games

The 16th Asian Games open in central Guangzhou on Friday in a blaze of pyrotechnics as China stages the biggest sporting gala since the 2008 Beijing Olympics.









CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

PETER PARKS / AFF

 $\label{lem:members} \mbox{Members of the Chinese team enjoy the opening ceremony.}$

Dancers perform on the huge stage in the glitzy gala.

LU HANXIN / XINHU

Audience members take part in warm-up activities before the ceremony begins.

KELSANG DAWA / XINHUA

Excited Guangzhou residents gather on the street to watch the spectacular fireworks show.

