

Securing the safety of China's showcase

By LI WENFANG
CHINA DAILY

GUANGZHOU — Up to 100,000 security personnel were deployed for the Nov 12 opening ceremony of the Guangzhou Asian Games, a local police chief revealed on Thursday.

"Nearly 40,000 security personnel were deployed at and around the site of the spectacular opening ceremony, and another 60,000 police officers, joined by military air units, were on duty across the province to ensure the safety of the event," He Guangping, deputy director of the Guangdong provincial public security department, said at a press conference.

He said the opening ceremony, which wowed a global audience with its eye-popping creativity, posed unprecedented security challenges — including being staged on a tiny island in the middle of the Pearl River and having the athletes arrive by boat.

As well, a record quantity of fireworks and incorporating the 600-meter landmark Guangzhou Tower into the festivities were major security concerns, along with the massive crowd

of spectators lining the banks of the river.

"Despite the unprecedented challenges, there have so far been no major security incidents at these games, thanks to arduous preparation," He said.

Hu Zejun, security chief for the games, vowed to continue the vigilance.

"We are constantly assessing the threat of terrorism and are fully prepared to deal with it," Hu said.

Meanwhile, security forces have checked all the games venues to get rid of potential fire hazards in the wake of a high-rise inferno that killed 53 people in Shanghai this week.

More than 600 firefighting experts have been dispatched to the venues and surrounding residential areas, and all workers at the venues have received training in fire prevention and suppression.

Li Dongsheng, head of the games security coordination group and a member of the Party committee of the Public Security Ministry, reviewed the firefighting force on Tuesday.

In April, the provincial police force launched a campaign for



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These security troops outside a soccer venue are part of a much larger number deployed throughout Guangzhou and surrounding areas to ensure the safety of the 16th Asian Games.

games security that saw more than 800,000 non-police personnel mobilized, He said.

A total of 128 checkpoints were established in surrounding cities and venues, manned by more than

3,600 police and 7,400 non-police security personnel. As of Tuesday, the checkpoints had turned up 1,740 criminal suspects, 207 wanted people, 1.98 million fireworks and 64,981 kg of hazardous chemicals.

Nuclear and chemical monitoring equipment and handling troops are also in place at the games venues. Emergency units are deployed and have conducted anti-terrorism and anti-hijacking drills.

MEDAL TALLY >>

through Thursday's competition

				Total
China	109	47	47	203
ROK	37	30	42	109
Japan	21	45	40	106
DPRK	5	7	11	23
Iran	5	5	11	21
Hong Kong	4	8	5	17
Kazakhstan	4	7	15	26
Chinese Taipei	4	5	20	29
Uzbekistan	3	9	10	22
Malaysia	3	3	4	10
Philippines	2	1	4	7
India	1	7	8	16
Singapore	1	4	2	7
Thailand	1	3	10	14
Indonesia	1	3	8	12
Jordan	1	1	0	2
Macao	1	1	0	2
Vietnam	0	9	10	19
Myanmar	0	3	1	4
Mongolia	0	2	6	8
Pakistan	0	1	1	2
Afghanistan	0	1	0	1
Kuwait	0	1	0	1
Laos	0	0	2	2
Lebanon	0	0	1	1
Tajikistan	0	0	1	1

24 HOURS >> HOW THE DAY PLAYED OUT

13:18 Four-time Olympic champion Kosuke Kitajima has pulled out of the men's 200m breaststroke because of a shoulder injury. Kitajima, who was expected to win the 50m, 100m and 200m treble, failed to finish better than fourth in his first two events. He told journalists he had carried the shoulder injury since August last year and would be returning to Japan for treatment.

13:54 Two-time Asian Games gold medalist and world No 1 Nicol David of Malaysia made an impressive start in the women's individual squash by beating the ROK's Park En-ok 11-3, 11-7, 11-6. She has progressed to the quarterfinals where she will play Dipika Rebecca Pallikar of India, who dismissed Gu Junyue of China in 23 minutes.

14:01 Favorite Japan fulfilled expectations and led the team rankings in eventing after dressage at the Guangzhou Equestrian Venue. Japan turned in a team score of 133.40. Thailand follows closely behind on 135.60. Japan has four rid-

ers in the top nine of the individual rankings, while Thailand has two. The ROK ranked third.

14:30 Two sailors are level on points in the race for gold in the women's Optimist class at the Shanwei Water Sports Center after Race 5 was abandoned by the international jury on Wednesday evening. Noppakao Poonpat of Thailand and Lu Yuting each have 12 points after Race 8. Singapore's Kimberly Lim Min trails the two with 17. The lowest number of points at the end of the competition decides the medals.

15:35 ROK shooters picked up three gold medals on Thursday to break its record for the most gold medals in one sport at the Asian Games. Han Jun-seop won the men's 50m rifle 3 positions individual event, meaning the ROK has garnered 13 gold medals in Guangzhou, a record for the nation. The previous record was held by its boxers in 1986, and taekwondo athletes in 2002, who each won 12 gold medals.

15:24 ROK's women bowlers regained their doubles supremacy in style when they filled the gold, silver and bronze positions but had to hand the bronze to China at the Tianhe Bowling Hall because of an Asian Games ruling that if one country wins all the medals at stake, it has to relinquish the bronze to the fourth-placed finisher. The ROK was the last country to surrender a medal in bowling, in the women's singles event at the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games.

19:36 A technical fault in the automated scoreboard on Range B caused the shotgun competition to be halted for several minutes on two occasions during the first series of men's trap qualification. Technical official Eric Li Tze Hoi of Hong Kong said such malfunctions were a common problem in competitions that used automated scoreboards.

19:41 China's Tang Dan put in another master-class performance and chalked up her sixth straight win in the women's

individual *xiangqi* event at the Guangzhou Chess Institute, as her teammate, Wang Linna, slipped one point behind the leader after drawing her Round 6 match. In what turned out to be a predictable victory, Tang handed Ayaka Ikeda of Japan her sixth straight defeat while Wang drew with Gao Yi-ping of Chinese Taipei.

19:53 China's Sun Yang set an Asian record of 14 minutes and 35.43 seconds in winning the men's 1,500m on the final night of swimming. Sun, whose best previous performance was eighth in the 1,500m at the Beijing Olympics, set a flying pace to shatter the hopes of his opposition after the first 400m, and finished the race just 0.8 seconds behind Grant Hackett's nine-year-old world record.

21:48 Pakistan came back from a goal down to beat Japan 8-2 in the men's hockey preliminary round at the Aoti Hockey Field. Japan drew first blood, with Kenji Kitazato scoring after just three minutes, but Pakistan's Fereed Ahmed struck back a minute later.



Today's forecast
Sunny

Max **28°C**
Min **17°C**
Source: weather.com

Hour by hour

