



BIRTHDAYS

Born on Nov 22

Basketball

Aleksandr Pasivok
TKM 1985

Billiard sports

Brijesh Damani, IND 1982

Bowling

Remy Ong, SIN 1978

Boxing

Sultan Mohammed A.
Almuntashiri, KSA 1988

Cricket

Porntheera Olarigachat
THA 1995

Diving

Fuka Tatsumi, JPN 1993

Fencing

Seira Nakayama
JPN 1983

Gymnastics artistic

Kim Hee-hoon, KOR 1991

Judo

Ali Maloma, IRI 1981
Sarawut Petsing
THA 1990

Shooting

Ruslan Ismailov
KGZ 1986

Softball

Chueh Ming Hui
TPE 1984

Squash

Maria Toorpakai Wazir
PAK 1990

Taekwondo

Farkhod Negmatov
TKJ 1989
Paul Romero, PHI 1991

Wrestling

Kohei Hasegawa
JPN 1984

Weiqi

Wang Ming Wan, TPE 1961

Wushu

Eduard Golayang, PHI 1983

TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE

Although life at the Guangzhou Asian Games' Village is enjoyable for Rostislav Znamenskiy, a Russian physiotherapist with the Saudi Arabian delegation, he is missing his wife and four children. After meeting at the Chinese study center in the international zone of the Village, Rostislav shared a letter he had just written to his loved ones with Asiad Daily. Rostislav has bought special gifts for his children and can't wait to be reunited with his family.

Here is the letter from 'Slava' to his wife:

Dear Ira,

I am fine at the Asian Games in Guangzhou, but I miss you and our children very much!

In order to serve the athletes well, I work very hard and sleep for only three or four hours every day. No matter how tired I am, I just want to tell you that I love you and I miss you and the kids every single minute here in Guangzhou.

The life here is enjoyable and a lot of fun. The games are well organized and the Athletes' Village, where I live, is comfortable. The weather in Guangzhou is much warmer than Russia in winter, I can still enjoy the sunshine in November. And the people here are all friendly, always smiling and saying hello to each other.

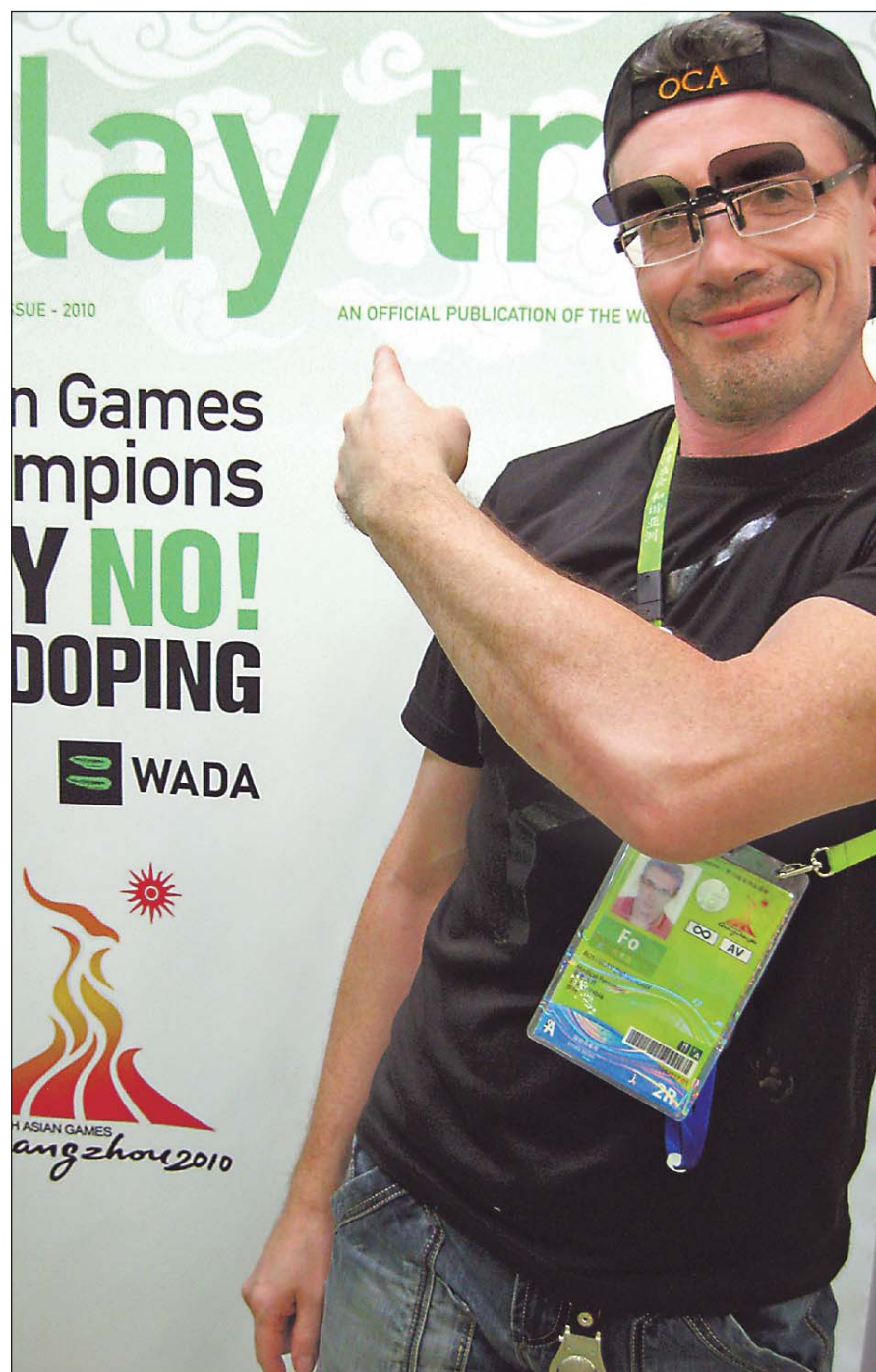
How are the children? I have bought gifts for them. Tell Igor that he will get a remote-control helicopter. It's so cool. For Valeriya and Veronica, I have prepared makeup packages for them, which are pretty popular among young ladies in China. And tell Valeriya to pay more attention to her studies. The economic courses in college will not be easy for her if she spends too much time on recreational or sports activities.

Being here, I finally have the chance to feel and learn Chinese traditional culture. There is a Chinese study center in the Athletes' Village and I have learnt to write all the family members' names in Chinese calligraphy. Using the brush pen is difficult, but interesting. I will take my handwriting back home so you can see it. It's a little illegible, but beautiful.

And I also want to tell you that China has developed very fast in recent years. The country changes year by year, and the people here are very friendly. It's definitely an unforgettable experience for me. But I am looking forward to coming home and I can't wait to see you! I will finish my work and go home on Nov 28.

OK, I'd better quit writing now. I miss you! Hope all is well at home!

Your loving husband,
Slava



SUN XIAOCHEN / CHINA DAILY

Rostislav Znamenskiy poses in front of an anti-doping billboard in the Athletes' Village.

Q & A >> Moosa Said Khalfan, sailor from Qatar



SUN XIAOCHEN / CHINA DAILY

Qatari sailor Moosa Said Khalfan's (left) afro hairstyle is making him popular at the Village.

Your hairstyle is so cool. You look like a hip-hop star. Where did you get it done?

Thank you my friend! Yeah, it's cool and I made it especially for the games before I left home. I like black people's rock music, so I told the hairstylist that I wanted an old school pop style. And they made this special perm for me. I like it and my friends say it is cool.

It seems that your unique hairstyle has drawn many people to take photos with you, no matter if you win a medal or not. How does that feel?

It feels really good, you know. People come and say hello and then ask for a photo. I didn't

win a medal, but it makes me feel like a superstar. It's very enjoyable.

Outside the competition, what do you do in your spare time?

I stay with my teammates during the breaks between competition. We usually play cards in our rooms or we just walk around the international zone seeking some fun. The most interesting thing I have seen so far is the paper-cut art. I saw an old man in the international zone. He used scissors to cut the paper and the paper became a dragon. It was amazing.

What have you gained from the

Asian Games?

Not everyone has come here able to win medals. Most of us are here to enjoy the competition and the experience here. The people are all friendly and I have made several new friends. We are here not only to compete, but also to experience the whole gala.

What are your plans for the rest of the day?

We are going to the international zone now. We are going to look at the shops and see if there is anything we want to buy. We will train later in the afternoon. Maybe we will come back to sleep for a while before that.