

**SPORT
IS COMING
HOME**
(JUNE 5-16)



**28th SEA
GAMES**

Singapore revs up in red for SEA Games

Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC first to dress up as organisers strive to get country in the mood for region's biggest sports event

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With 40 days to go before the start of the 28th South-east Asia (SEA) Games here, Singapore is set to be dressed for the region's biggest multi-sport event.

Yesterday, Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC became the first housing estate to be part of the "Paint the Town Red" movement, which will see community spaces in the area decked out in red.

From blocks of flats to lamp posts and public transport, residents will see red almost everywhere they go, as organisers drum up support for the Games, which will be held here from June 5 to 16.

Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, grassroots adviser to Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC, launched the movement yesterday witnessed by a crowd of 600 athletes, grassroots leaders, and residents at Pasir Ris Street 51.

He said: "Having some 30 of our athletes living right here in Pasir Ris-Punggol makes the Games more meaningful and exciting for our residents.

"I know our sprinter Calvin (Kang) and his family, the Sheikh Alau'ddin family who are silat exponents, and I've watched our hockey player Haseef Salim mature since the Youth Olympic (Games in 2010).

"I hope more Singaporeans will support and cheer on our athletes. Let's come together as Singaporeans to celebrate the extraordinary, and our national spirit."

The Games is of even more significance as it coincides with Singapore's 50th year of independence.

The Paint the Town Red movement is a key part of the Singapore SEA Games Organising Committee's (Singsoc's) efforts to ramp up hype ahead of the event, which is returning to the Repub-

lic for the first time in 22 years.

Over 300 buses and more than 250 taxis have been wrapped in red.

In addition, over 2,000 lamp posts all over the island will also be wearing the colour.

Posters and billboards of key national athletes living in the respective neighbourhoods – like sprinter Kang and footballer Faris Ramli in Pasir Ris-Punggol – have also been put up at areas like bus shelters.

Sembawang will be next to join the movement and, by the end of May, 13 other residential estates

will also follow suit.

The hosts are expected to field a contingent of around 700 athletes for the biennial Games – the biggest in Singapore's history – and they will be gunning to surpass the record 50-gold haul achieved the last time the Republic held the event in 1993.

Around 7,000 athletes from 11 nations will do battle at the Games, which will feature 36 sports and 402 events contested.

Toh Boon Yi, Singsoc's chief for community and corporate outreach, said: "Beyond the neighbourhoods, we are also going to

dress up other areas in Singapore in SEA Games colours.

"Singapore will busk in the vibrant atmosphere and Singaporeans will feel the pulse of the Games.

"We also call for Singaporeans to wear red throughout the Games as an expression of support for our athletes."

"We are 41 days to the Games and there will be many community engagement activities coming up.

"Our message is clear: We are ready. Come support our team at the Games."



RED TIDE: Silat exponent Sheikh Ferdous, floorball players Jowie Tan and Sharifah Bariyah, and sprinter Calvin Kang pose on two of the 250 taxis that have been wrapped in red as part of the "Paint the Town Red" movement. PHOTO: ZAOBAO



WIN: Two pairs of PUMA Match 74 tennis shoes worth \$129 are up for grabs this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF PUMA

TNP-PUMA SEA Games contest

In partnership with German sportswear company PUMA, The New Paper will be giving away PUMA boots and shoes to its readers in the lead-up to the 28th South-east Asia (SEA) Games from June 5-16.

This week, we will be giving away two pairs of PUMA Match 74 tennis shoes, worth \$129 and available at PUMA retail stores and selected wholesalers.

PUMA entered the world of tennis soon after the company was established and launched its first professional tennis shoe, the Match, in the 1960s.

Throughout the '70s and '80s, PUMA released a series of performance-enhancing tennis shoes, worn by top players such as Guillermo Villas, Martina Navratilova and Boris Becker.

PUMA signed on Becker in 1985, and the then-17-year-old went on to win the Wimbledon that same year.

This year, PUMA celebrates the 30th anniversary of Becker's unforgettable victory at Wimbledon by putting a new spin on the iconic Match 74 shoes.

To stand a chance of winning the Match 74 tennis shoes, go to tnp.sg/seagamescountdown and answer a simple question.

The closing date is Thursday, April 30. Two lucky winners will win a pair of shoes each and they will be notified to collect their prizes.

LAST WEEK'S CONTEST

Last week's question for the first TNP-PUMA SEA Games contest was: When was the last time Singapore reached a football final at the SEA Games?

The answer is A) 1989.

Below are the two winners who will each receive a pair of PUMA football boots. They will be contacted to collect their prize.

Winner 1: Abdul Razif

Winner 2: Jonathan Cai Junlong