

Sturdy beds for hard battlers

In an Olympics first, Athletes Village to have beds made of cardboard

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TOKYO
Tokyo Olympic athletes beware – particularly larger ones. The bed frames in the Athletes Village at this year's Olympics will be made of cardboard. Sturdy cardboard.

“Those beds can stand up to 200kg,” explained Takashi Kitajima, the general manager of the Athletes Village, speaking through an interpreter. Surely no Olympic athlete weighs that much.

Stronger than wood
“They are stronger than wooden beds,” Kitajima added. He also took into account the possibility of a wild room celebration after, say, a gold-medal victory. “Of course, wood and cardboard would each break if you jumped on them,” he said. The single-bed frames will be recycled into paper products after the Games. The mattress components – the mattresses are not made of cardboard – will be recycled into plastic products. The mattress is broken up into three distinct sections,



Recyclable: A cardboard bed that is to be used in the Athletes Village on display. ■AP

and the firmness of each can be adjusted. The idea was to use materials that could be remade after the Olympics and Paralympics. But the cardboard frames and supports should give the rooms a spartan look. Organisers showed off the beds and a few other furnishings on Thursday at their

headquarters. The entire Athletes Village complex will be completed in June. The Olympics opens on July 24 followed by the Paralympics on August 25. “The organising committee was thinking about recyclable items, and the bed was one of the ideas,” Kitajima explained, crediting local

Olympic sponsor Airweave Inc. for the execution. Organisers say this is the first time that beds and bedding in the Athletes Village have been made of renewable materials. The Athletes Village, being built alongside Tokyo Bay, will need 18,000 beds in 21 apartment towers.

More tennis stars join exhibition game

Proceeds from ticket sales to be donated towards bushfire relief

GENERAL

ANI
ATLANTA

Top tennis stars like Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Serena Williams will be playing an exhibition match to raise funds for Australia's bushfire relief. Apart from these three, Naomi Osaka, Nick Kyrgios and Stefanos Tsitsipas have also confirmed their availability for the match, CNN reported. The match will be played

on January 15 at Melbourne's Rod Laver Arena. The Australian Open Rally for Relief will be donating the proceedings from ticket sales to the bushfire relief efforts. Tennis star Maria Sharapova had also announced on Wednesday that she had left 10 signed pairs of her tennis shoes in her Brisbane hotel that members of the public could buy with a donation to the Australian Red Cross. “Brisbane, I have signed ten pairs of my tennis shoes, left them at the @BrisbaneTennisdesk at the Westin Ho-

tel, alongside a donation envelope for fire rescue efforts. They're yours to keep, we just ask you to donate AUD 300 a pair. All money going directly to Red Cross,” Sharapova tweeted. Sharapova and Novak Djokovic have decided to donate \$25,000 each for Australia's bushfire relief fund. **Warne's gesture** Earlier, former Australian spinner Shane Warne on Monday had announced to auction his Baggy Green cap to raise funds for victims of

devastating bushfires in Australia. Taking to Twitter, Warne made the announcement and posted a statement. “The horrific bushfires in Australia have left us all in disbelief. The impact these devastating fires are having on so many people is unthinkable and has touched us all. Lives have been lost, homes have been destroyed and over 500 million animals have died too,” Warne wrote. Wildfires have been raging across Australia for months.