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Singapore men's captain Jason Ho serves against Brunei.



Indonesian Women's KATA team Karate-Do fighters take the gold.



Thailand men's basketball player goes for a basket in the game against Laos.

First gold medals of the 15th AUG handed out

Games in full swing throughout Chiang Mai

The 15th AUG went into high gear with games across the board; badminton, tennis, football, table tennis, futsal, beach volleyball, basketball, and sepak takraw with karate-do fighters earning medals already.

Stories and photos on center pages.



Sepak Takraw match between Thailand and Indonesia saw the home team win.



Thai women's beach volleyball team defends the ball against Malaysia.

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Rainbow of umbrellas unites in diversity in Opening ceremony

The multi-colored Bor Sang umbrellas uniting in one at the Opening show conveyed the togetherness of the Games and reiterated the theme song, "We Are One."

Although the colors are all different, they unite in one rainbow in harmony. In the Games, as in the rainbow, different nations, cultures and languages can unite in their diversity.

Bor Sang village is located in San Kamphaeng District, not far from the City and is renowned for its saa or mulberry paper hand painted umbrellas.

Rungchai Uttama, a worker at Bor Sang village said, "I feel so proud that they have used Bor Sang umbrellas in the Opening Ceremony and offer my praise for the organizing committee for this. Apart from aiding the community in their work, it promotes tourism in the region and is a channel for foreigners to be exposed to the arts and culture of the North." He added, "On this occasion, we would like to thank you that you have seen the importance of Lanna arts and culture and hopefully the audience was impressed by the beauty of Bor Sang."

"However," he concluded, "I would like to ask the government's help in marketing our umbrellas and helping us source materials and markets. If there is anything the villagers of Bor Sang can do to help promote events such as this then it will help broadcast the beauty and power of our umbrellas."

Mrs. Uangkham Panton, a member of the Club for senior citizens of Ban Bor Sang added that at present there is decline in the number of artisans because of falling incomes. She added that there is a concern that fewer of the young people will take up this art and that these skills will slowly disappear. She encouraged the government to help them market their products so as to increase incomes and attract young people back to this ancient art.

"However, if anyone wants to learn more about this art, the Ban Bor Sang club for senior citizens is happy to teach it. Interested people can come to house number 61, m. 3, Tambon Ton Pao, San Kamphaeng district, Chiang Mai."

(Story and Photo by Ms. Kanokrut Sasiroj)



Bor Sang artisans craft and hand paint their unique umbrellas.



Rungchai Uttama crafts umbrellas and fans in the village of Bor Sang.



The Opening ceremony featured a rainbow of saa paper umbrellas symbolizing the unity of nations under one.



Beautiful ladies carrying hand painted Bor Sang umbrellas perform at the Opening Ceremony.

The faces behind the show

Reflections from the participants in the Opening Ceremony



Deputy Minister of Education for Thailand **Suebaeng Promboon** believes that sports help both mind and body. "Education is not just studying, playing sports helps keep the body fit and in good health and teaches people the importance of cooperation. Education is useless if the body is not fit and the health is poor, athletes practice for years, so studying and sporting should go together," he said.

He added that the 15th AUG helps to further education by opening minds to a broader worldview and offering opportunities of friendship abroad, encouraging exchange," the Deputy Minister added.

He noted that these Games should help boost tourism to Thailand as athletes and coaches return home and spread the word of the hospitality they received in Thailand. He added that the Games had been very well organized and the cooperation good. He felt the Opening Ceremony was very nicely done, but added that he would like to ask athletes to help pass their sporting knowledge on to younger generations when they themselves finish.



Thai national volleyball player **Napaporn Kumson** said that she was really impressed by the Opening. "This is really the Northern culture," she said, "especially the clothing which is really unique. Chiang Mai is a tourism city so this will promote the city among our foreign visitors. It's a lovely city," she added.



Nattapong Niwan, one of the team organizing the Opening and Closing ceremonies said the team had prepared for three months for the show.

"From formulating the theme, seeking and selecting the performances from the schools, and then creating the three different shows with each series, presenting the genius HM the King, who cares so much for the people of Thailand, and then followed by the hilltribe shows, especially the Nong Hug and Nong Hoh mascots.

As one of the organizing committee, I could say that the Opening ceremony was very well done and we are proud of how it worked out. This has made our long practice worthwhile," he said.



Nonthiya Jiewbangpa, the singer of the theme song "We are One" said "I am very honored to sing the theme song for the 15th UAG. The first time I sang at an international event was at the ASEAN Games (Seagames) held in Chiang Mai many years ago. I am really proud to have been chosen to be the singer for the 15th AUG. Don't think we are rivals but that we are neighbors. So play fairly and with good spirits and do your best for the games, promote generosity and kindness. And I know the Thai hosts will do their best for their country as well."



Somjet Jinthapoon, a fourth year student at Maejo University was chosen as one of four to carry the torch and said, she was really proud to represent the country to light the cauldron.

"I would like to ask for all athletes to do their best at this AUG, in the best spirit and following the rules. They should be sportsmen and women at their best."



Panupong Nanthakan, a second year student at Maejo University was also one of the four athletes lighting the cauldron said he was pleased and honored to do so. "These Games will help the good image of our country, institutions and family."



Samart Khumsawat and **Sompong Katkeaw**, the most outstanding cheerleaders said that even though the ceremony was held at the gymnasium it was well done, particular the Bor Sang umbrella dance. "A dazzling display of the unique Northern Thai culture."

"However, I would like to ask all athletes to focus on doing their best, not only aiming to win medals. The games will always have those who win or lose, but the athletes also get moral support from the fans," they added.



Boonphak Panyatham, the marching band master of Dara Withayalai Academy said "I am feeling very honored to be assigned the performance at the Opening ceremony. We are happy with the songs played at this grand event, and the songs we have selected for this are the most appropriate for the 15th AUG."



Supanorn Sukhasassadi na Ayuthaya, a Thai track and field sportsman was really excited to take part in this, his first Games, adding that it is also his first time to Chiang Mai with its good weather and beautiful scenery.

"At the Opening ceremony, I was assigned to hold the Thai national flag for our team. I feel very proud and happy to see this impressive presentation. It was worth waiting for."



Nanthachat Anuwongjarern, the sign bearer for the Cambodian team, said she was really happy to be chosen and that she got this opportunity to make new friends from other nations.



Piyaporn Saisin, one of the performers at the Opening Ceremony from Sai Nampueng School said, on behalf of the performers, "I think the Opening ceremony was really spectacular, forging the good relationships with ASEAN members. I feel so honored and proud that Thailand is the host of the 15th AUG and I feel happy to be a part of this fantastic ceremony."



Kamraimas Khankaew, a dancer from Sai Nampueng School said she was so glad to be selected for the 15th AUG to show the generosity and kindness of HM the King and the loyalty of the hilltribes people. "I spent more than a month practicing for the Opening show," she added.

Story by: Chutimon Saowapha, Kan Kamolrat, Mr.Warunyoo Somnoi, Sathinee Chirakal, Muanfun Chaiphonban Ms.Jaruwan Phuaphan, Ms.Sawarot Mahawansu, Ms.Parinda Thanapalin, Ms.Nuttaporn In-Keaw, Ms.Wanwisa Buapakam

Photo by: Saran Dolpipatpong, Ransiman Sittipong, Mr.Pharunyoo Deekaew, Ms.Atitaya Kanjanatharn, Mr.Wongsakorn Nakgoen, Ms.Kanokwan Chantorn, Mr.Nuttaporn Panya, Mr.Kobkan Sampao

Beach volleyball gears up at CMU

The Men's doubles beach volleyball match between the Indonesians and Thais took place yesterday at Chiang Mai University with the Indonesian men's team number one beating the Thai men's team number 2. In the first set the Indonesians fought hard to take it 22:20 while the second set they won 21:12.

The second match saw Malaysian men's team number one beat Timor Leste in a closely fought 2 sets, 22:20 and 22:20. The third match saw Malaysian Men's team number 2 beat Singapore in two sets, 21:14, 21:8. For the last match of the morning the Thai Men's team number 1 beat the Lao Men's team number in two sets 21:15, 21:15.

The afternoon saw the women take the court with Thai Women's team number 2 beating Malaysian team number 2 in three hard fought sets: 21:18, 17:21, 15:13. The Singaporean Women's team number 1 lost to the Indonesian team 2 in two sets 11:21, 9:21.

The final match was between Vietnam and Singapore team number 2 with Vietnam taking the match in two sets, 21:6, 21:11.



Singaporean women attempts a block against the Indonesians in beach volleyball at CMU.

Story by Nuttaporn Inkaew
Photo by Rangsiman Sittipong

Sepak takraw teams take to the net

The opening match between Laos and Myanmar saw Myanmar lead at the beginning of the game but Laos fought back and equalized 18-18. In a closely fought ending, Laos beat Myanmar 22-20. The second set saw Laos win 20:14, and then Laos beat Myanmar for the first set with the scores of 22-20.

After the competition, Savalith Sengsath, the manager of the Laos sepak takraw team said they were very happy with the win and that it was a really exciting game.

The match between Malaysia and Indonesia saw Malaysia win in two sets, 21-15 in the first set and 22-20 in the second.

The next match was between Thailand and Myanmar where the Thais beat Myanmar in two sets. Malaysia beat Laos in two sets as well. The final match between Thailand and Indonesia saw the Thais win both sets easily.



The Indonesian team in yellow is seen here spiking the ball over the net while the Malaysians attempt to block.

Today's games start at 10 a.m. with the gold medal round taking place at 5 p.m.

Story by Mr.Nuttaporn Panya, Ms.Muanfun Chaiphonban, Ms.Sathinee Chirakal
Photo by Mr.Kobkan Sampao, Mr.Wongsakorn Nakgoen

Indonesia and Vietnam take 2 gold medals each

The first day of Karate-Do saw 4 gold medals available at North Chiang Mai University with both men and women's Team KATA and Individual KATA fighting.

In the KATA Individual Female, Vietnam's Pham Hoai Phouc beat Laos' Thaviphone Salichanh 3-0 and in the KATA Individual Male, Vietnam also snatch away the gold medal from Indonesia 3-0.

Indonesian's KATA Individual Male, Aspar Sesarria beat Vietnam's Nguyen Bao Linh 3-0 and in the KATA Team Female Indonesia won Vietnam 3-0.

Today there'll be the Individual KUMITE, at North Chiang Mai University starting from 9.30 a.m.

Story by: Kan Kamolrat, Krissanaruk Saeneevong Na Ayuthaya, Kanokrut Sasiroj.
Photo by: Jaturawit Decha.



Indonesian's KATA Individual Male, Aspar Sesarria in a fighting stance during yesterday's match.

Futsal teams take to the field

The opening match of the current futsal champs, the Thai team showed them to be in top form with a landslide victory over Malaysia with score 8-2.

The match was held at 700 Year Sports Complex, yesterday (dec 16 when the current

During the first half the Thais attacked the Malaysian team most of the time with Thai player, Jadet Punpoem, no 10 scoring. The Malaysians endeavored to equalize but the Thai team scored again at the 14th minute, in the meantime, Thai player Natee Jeepon number 8, received a yellow card. The Thais scored again in the 14th and again a minute later for another goal.

Another yellow card and another goal left the Thai team at 4-0 in the first half. The second half showed the Malaysian team getting their first goal when Mohd Ali Malat scored. After another yellow card, Thai player Sarawut Jaiech was sent off, but the Thais still managed to score two more goals leaving the score



Thailand in the yellow controlled the ball for most of the match.

at Thailand 8, Malaysia 2.

Indonesia had an equally unequal match against Brunei when they took their game 7-0. Today Malaysia will meet with Indonesia 1 p.m. and Thailand will face Brunei at 3 p.m. at the 700 Year Sports Complex gymnasium.

Story and Photo by Waranyoo Sornoi

Footballers take the pitch on the first full day of the Games

Thai footballers see victory again



The Thai football team played an attacking game at yesterday's win over Cambodia.

The Thai football team entered their second match against Cambodia coming off a win against Vietnam with a 5-1 win.

The first half saw the Thai team attacking continually with many golden moments but no scores. However, in the 39th minute Jiranat Nontagate produced the first goal shooting the ball in from a distance.

The second half saw the Thai team controlling the match with another goal for the Thai team in the 59th minute from Surachat Sareepim and just ten minutes later Surachat scored another goal.

In the 87th minute Aitipol Kaewkhiew got the first yellow card for the team. In the second half, Thai still controlled the game, and then in the 59th, Thais produced the second goal from the shooting of Surachat Sareepim, and the third goal for Thailand in the 69th minute by Surachat Sareepim, who made his second goal for him.

In the 87th, Aitipol Kaewkhiew, a Thai player got the first yellow card for the team adding extra time to the match. However, in the end, Cambodia failed to score again and Thailand beat Cambodia 3-0.

The first match yesterday (Dec 16), at the Prince Royal's College football pitch was between Myanmar and Malaysia. Myanmar edged Malaysia 1-0.

In the first half Myanmar produced the first leading goal by Chit Moe Oo in the 30th minute, and ten minutes later on the Malaysian players missed a golden chance, shooting a ball to the net, but it didn't make it in.

In the 45th minute Fahrul Razi Kamaruddin, the goalkeeper for the Malaysian team, received the first yellow card of the game, an argument ensued with the referee and he went was sent off.

In the 48th minute of the second half a second yellow card was given, this time to Myanmar player Htun Htun Zaw, who subsequently received another yellow card and was sent off with a red card. After that two more yellow cards were also given to Saiful Ridjuwan and Mohd Aizat Jaini of Malaysia. The final score saw Myanmar pipping Malaysia, 1-0 in what turned out to be a very argumentative game!

And the other match at the Montfort College, Laos Team beat Singapore in the last minute of the game with a 2-1 score. Laos is now leading Pool B with 6 points getting ready to play a match against Malaysia tomorrow.

Story by: Supakran Ruangdate and Supawan Unokdaeng
Photo by: Saran Dolpipatpong

Badminton sees its second day of matches

The second day of badminton saw four matches played, with both the men and women taking turns at Chiang Mai University's gymnasium.

The Indonesian men's team played Singapore in the morning, taking the match 5-0 while the Thai women's team lost to the Malaysians 2-3.

The first game of the team was played between Nugroho Andi Saputro of Indonesia and Guo feng Chen of Singapore, where the Indonesian player took the game 21:12 and 21:13. He was followed by Wifqi Windarto of Indonesia who beat Jia Hao Law of Singapore 21:15 and 21:16. The third was played by Andika Anhar of Indonesia who beat Kah Hwee Jarrod Tan of Singapore with the score 21:14 and 21:13, while the fourth game was a doubles match where Wifqi Windarto and Hendra Mulyono of Indonesia that beat Wei Ming Na and Wei Xun Ong of Singapore with the scores 21:10 and 21:15. The final match was between Andika Anhar and Mochamad Rizki Delynugraha of Indonesia who beat Jia Hao Law and Wen Bin Lionel Leow of Singapore with the scores 21:12 and 21:15.

The women's badminton saw Thailand versus Malaysia in the morning, where Thai player Chanida Julrattananmanee of Thailand lost to Julia Wong Pei Xian of Malaysia 15:21, 21:16, 20:22. The second set saw Malaysian player Daphne Ng Chiew Yen beat Thai player Pawita Isriyanet 21:13, 18:21, 21:16. The third singles match saw Kewalin Akarakulchai of Thailand beat



Malaysian women beat the Thais in badminton today.

Stephanic Shalini Sukumaran of Malaysia 24:22 and 21:7. The final doubles match between Kewalin Akarakulchai and Pijitjan Wangpaiboonkit of Thailand lose to Amelia Alicia Anscelly and Yeow Mei Xi of Malaysia in a tough match that went three sets, 8:21, 21:9, 13:21.

The afternoon's competition saw the Indonesian women's team beat Singapore 4-1.

The first match was between Linda Wenifanetri of Indonesia who beat Pei Xuan Toh of Singapore with scores of 21:5 and 21:6 while the match between Aprilia Yuswandari of Indonesia beat Siti Mastura Binte Rahim of Singapore with scores 21:7 and 21:14. The third match was between Keshya Nurvita Hanadia of Indonesia who lost to Li En Colleen Goh of Singapore with scores 12:21, 25:23 and 7:21.

The fourth match was a doubles match between Komala Dewi and

Ayu Rahmasari of Indonesia that beat Chuan Yan Melissa Foo and Qi Zhen Ang for two sets with the scores

21:9 and 21:10 and finally the last match was Keshya Nrvita Hanadia and Richi Puspita Dili of Indonesia who beat Wee Ting Amanda Chang and Li En Colleen Goh, with scores of 21:12 and 21:16.

The men's afternoon badminton matches between Thailand and Malaysia with Thailand taking Malaysia 5-0.

The first match was between Prinyawat Thongnuam of Thailand that beat Loo Yik Xiang of Malaysia with scores 19:21 and 11:21. The second match was between Pollawat Boonpan of Thailand who beat Muhammad Aiman Husin of Malaysia with scores of 18:21 and 16:21. The third match saw Pheerawut Sumretphol of Thailand beat Ten Dick Xiang of Malaysia, with the

score 13-21 and 16-21. The fourth match between Peerapong Juprathansuk and Sermsin Wongyaprom of Thailand beat Mohd Razif Ab Latif and Ten Dick Xiang of Malaysia 22:20, 17:21 and 23:25.

The final match was between Pheerawut Sumretphol and Jakkit Tuntirasin of Thailand who beat Sayed Hafezz Sayed Mohsi and Halif Asro Ramzi Sulaiman of Malaysia, with the scores 21:12/21:14.

Today's badminton will start at 10.00 a. m. The first women's teams to play will be Thailand and Indonesia while the Malaysian men will meet with Singapore. In the afternoon, the games will start at 2:00 p. m. with the Malaysian women team playing Singapore while the Indonesian men will play the Thai team.

Story by Ms. Kanyarath Chaichana

Photo by Mr. Saran Dolpipatpong

Indonesian tennis beats Singapore in the opening match

The Indonesian men's tennis players were in top form, and beat the Singaporeans in all three categories; Singles no. 1, Singles no. 2, and doubles at the tennis court in the 700 Year Sports Complex yesterday. (December 16).

For the Singles No. 1, Sunu Wahyu Trijiti beat Ngkang Ting Kenneth in two sets with the score 6-1, 6-1.

For the Singles No. 2, Aditya Harry Sasongko of Indonesia met Ong Jiang Xing Riche, the Singles No. 2 of Singapore and the Indonesian player took the two sets at 6-0, 6-0.

In the Men's Doubles match the Indonesian team showed their top form when the duo of Aditya Harry Sasongko, the Single No. 2 and Seno Hartono Suwandi beat Leong Wen Jun Joshua and Yu Hui Jian Kevin from Singapore in two sets with the scores 6-1 and 6-2.

Meanwhile, today (December



Aditya Harry Sasongko of Indonesia in yesterday's match against Singapore

17), there will be a match between the Thai men's team and Singapore at 10.00 a.m. at the 700 Year Sports Complex.

Story by Chutimon Saowapha
Photo by Romtham Srisukho

Men and Women's basketball takes to the court

The opening match at the 700 Years stadium yesterday (Dec 16) between the Singapore women and the Indonesians was a very tough and fun match. Indonesia led in the first quarter but then in the second quarter, Indonesia played harder and tougher and changed the tactic into focusing the game into the center of the court, with Mega Nanda Perdana Putri No. 14 and Gabriel Sophi a No. 15 controlling the game from the middle and able to go in for a score. The highest scorer for this game is Yunita Sugianto No. 7 playing the left guard position made 12 points for the Indonesian Team. The game ended with a win from the Indonesian team 47 points over Singapore 36 points.

The second match saw the old champions Thailand's Men's Team against Laos with a few of the Thai players currently playing on the national youth team. In the first quarter, a tough match could be seen where both teams were scoring with Thailand leading the game. In the remaining half the Thai team controlled the situation and won 82-31.

The final match between Laos Women's team and Thailand looked like a competitive match in the beginning of the game but later on Thailand changed tactics and began to



Indonesian's women's basketball team goes for a score in the game against Singapore.

pressure the Laos team, focusing on making 3 point shots. Muanfan Chalermwat, Saranya Chuinim and Namonchanok Doksaiyud excelled during the game and at the end of the game Thailand beat Laos with the score of 106-27 with Wilairatt Muttawarat as a top scorer.

Story and Photo by Pharyyoo Deekaew

First day matches for table tennis



Singaporean table tennis players in the Men's doubles serve to the Thai team.

The first day of table tennis matches for the men and women's teams took place at the gymnasium of Chiang Mai University.

Men's singles started at 10.00 a.m. Three matches were held with the results as follows:

Group A: Vietnam beat Malaysia 3-0

Group B: Thailand beat Laos 3-0

Group C: Singapore beat Brunei 3-0

In the afternoon, Women's singles were

held where Singapore beat Malaysia 3-1 and Thailand beat Laos 3-1.

At 5.00 p.m three men's doubles matches were played:

Group A: Vietnam beat Myanmar 3-0.

Group B: Laos beat Brunei 3-0 and Thailand beat Singapore 3-1.

Story by Ms. Wanwisa Buapakam

Photo by Mr. Puriwat Boonnak

15th ASEAN UNIVERSITY GAMES 2010 MEDAL STANDINGS

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Vietnam	2	2	-	4
2	Indonesia	2	1	1	4
3	Laos	-	1	2	3
4	Malaysia	-	-	3	3
5	Thailand	-	-	2	2
6	Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	0
7	Cambodia	-	-	-	0
8	Myanmar	-	-	-	0
9	Philippines	-	-	-	0
10	Singapore	-	-	-	0
11	Timor-Leste	-	-	-	0
As of December 16, 2010 20:00 hr		4	4	8	16



We are ready for the Games today

Assoc. Prof. Chaleo Boonyong, Thai Team Manager, Ten Pin Bowling.

"I'm very happy that Ten Pin Bowling is included in this year's ASEAN University Games. From the last Games' result, the Thailand Team did a very good job, took 5 Gold medals, 3 Silvers and 5 Bronze medals.

Most of our bowlers have been participating in the recent Asian Games and the National Games which has obviously created a lot of confidence for the team as a whole.

There are 5 countries participating in this year's games, with 3 countries partaking in all of the categories and events, which are Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore.

I would like to thank Assoc.



Assoc. Prof. Chaleo Boonyong

Prof. Dr. Thanarak Suwanprapis of the organizing committee of the Ten Pin Bowling for the great preparation for the Games and the warm reception and care for all the sportsmen, they are all are very impressed.

(Krissanarak Saeneevong Na Ayuthaya)

TEN PIN BOWLING (Update)

Date: December 17-21, 2010

Venue: UFO Bowl, Chiang Mai



Date	Time	Events
17 Dec.	10.00-13.00	Men's Single
	13.00-14.00	Lane Maintenance
	14.00-17.00	Women's Single
	17.30	Award Ceremony for Single Events
18 Dec.	10.00-13.00	Men's Double
	13.00-14.00	Lane Maintenance
	14.00-17.00	Women's Double
	17.30	Award Ceremony for Double Event
19 Dec.		Rest Day
20 Dec.	10.00-13.00	Men's Trios / Women's Trios : 1 st block
	13.00-14.00	Lane Maintenance
	14.00-17.00	Men's Trios / Women's Trios : 2 nd block
	17.30	Award Ceremony for Trios Events Award Ceremony for All Events
	18.30	Official Practice for short oil – long oil
21 Dec.	10.00-13.00	Men's Master / Women's Master : 1 st block 6 games (short oil)
	13.00-14.00	Lane Maintenance
	14.00-17.00	Men's Master / Women's Master : 2 nd block 6 games (long oil)
	17.00-17.30	Lane Maintenance
	18.00	Men and Women Step ladder Final
	18.30	Award Ceremony for Master Events

Ten Pin Bowling begins today



Jakkapob Dhatsuwan, the Secretary of the Bowling Committee, revealed after the General Technical Meeting to discuss on the rules and fixture of the game, that any team that wishes train can do so from 10 a.m. to noon, with a fixed schedule and 20 minutes to get acquainted with the lanes.

Today's game will begin at 10 a.m. with the medal presentation ceremony at 5.30 p.m. on the same day.

(Story by Sathinee Chirakal, Photo by Womgsakorn Nakgoen.)



Jakkapob Dhatsuwan

What's cooking!

We are in the 3rd day and the sporting event are getting more and more interesting, so let's see what's cooking today!

Three sports will compete for the gold medals today; Karate-Do is going for 7 Gold medals with the finals at 4 p.m. With great results from yesterday's games snatched away, they have already awarded 4 gold medals for both Individual and Team Events, shared between Indonesia and Vietnam, 2 medals each.

Sepak Takraw will see competition for 1 gold medal, for the Regu Category final at 5 p.m. with the expected final matches between Thailand and Malaysia, since both the teams won

most matches yesterday and are leading the table.

While Ten Pin Bowling Men and Women will also have their finals competing for the gold medal 1 for each today starting at 10 a.m. for the Single Events at UFO Bowl Chiang Mai.

Other sports seeing competition today include Badminton and Table Tennis at 10 a.m. and Beach Volleyball starting at 9 a.m., both at Chiang Mai University.

The 700 Years Sports Stadium will host Tennis at 10 a.m., while Basketball and Futsal will start at 1 p.m.

Beach Volleyball teams will take the net from 2 p.m. at Maejo University.

Unique Lanna traditions

Yi Peng or Loy Krathong

It's too bad the athletes and visitors of the 15th AUG didn't arrive in time for the Yi Peng festival here in Chiang Mai. Held on the full moon in November the Yi Peng festival was a fantastic display of giant lanterns, balloons, floating krathongs, parades, fireworks and of course a beautiful 'Miss Yi Peng'.

Benjapol Sithipraneet, from Lanna Lantern, noted that in the past farmers used baskets to cover candles in order to keep them burning when they went to their fields and from this ancient practice the modern day lanterns slowly evolved to finally be used as an offering for Buddha. Inside the lantern is a Pang Prateep candle, a small clay saucer filled with animal fat or beeswax and a wick.

Lanterns are constructed of bamboo sticks, which are wrapped with Sa paper or colored transparent sheets and decorated with fabric or bronze paper cut in elaborate patterns. There are 8 traditional Lanna lanterns; the Octagonal lantern, the Jar lantern, the Star lantern, the Tai lantern, the Hoo Kratai lantern, the Lotus lantern, the Phat Lantern, and the Animal lantern.

Lanterns are considered noble objects to show prosperity according to the legend in Phra Dharma Tesana 'Anisong Pang Pathit (Prateep)' scripture. Any-



The beautiful women of Chiang Mai compete for Miss Yi Peng, a coveted title here in Chiang Mai.

one who worships the Lord Buddha with a lantern during the Yi Peng festival will receive merit and live peaceful and happy lives.

Loy Krathong falls on the full moon night every year in November. On that day, Lanna people will pay homage to their ancestors with joss sticks and candles as called Loi Kamod, or Loi Fire a few days before reaching the full moon night.

People will clean their houses and temples to prepare for the sermon called 'Maha Chart Vetsandonchadok' and decorate the arches of their houses with coconut leafstalks, bananas tree, sugarcane, flowers and lanterns in front of their houses.

To Khom Loy, first a kite is re-

leased during the day, made of multi colored paper and during the night a small hot air balloon made of white paper fill the skies with light. It is believed that lighting from the lanterns is sent to Phra Ketkaew Julamane in the second heaven where Indra dwells.

During the full moon night, people will take "Sa Pao" or 'Krathong' to float on the river to send offerings to Narayana and bring blessings. Krathong are small floats constructed out of natural materials; bamboo trunks or even bread and then decorated with flowers. A one baht coin, a small lock of hair and fingernail clippings are then placed on the Krathong and a candle and three incense sticks are lit and the Krathong is then floated out into the river (or other body of water). People also write messages for the coming year on hot air balloons and then set them free to float away. The idea being that all the bad luck of the previous year is being released to float away. The skies filled with brightly lit lanterns and the waterways covered in glowing krathongs is one of the most beautiful sites in Chiang Mai and will give you another reason to come back to visit Chiang Mai again!

(Photos by Phitsanu Thepthong, Jittarporn Charasrum, Shana Kongmun)



Visitors flock to Chiang Mai to release the khom loy, hot air balloons.



A Krathong is made out of natural materials and decorated with flowers, incense and a candle, here the bad luck from the past year is floating away.



Lanterns light up the sky at Tha Phae Gate.



Parades take place every night during the three day festival, here fire dancers are seen performing in a parade.



The final night sees the Grand Parade where best floats and best performance awards are handed out. Lavish displays of Lanna culture with traditional costumes abound.

Doi Suthep

Revered mountain of Chiang Mai

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King Nu Naone of the Lanna Kingdom heard of the relic and asked for the relic instead, so in 1368 with King Dharmmaraja's permission, Sumanathera took the relic to what is now Lamphun, just south of Chiang Mai. The relic copied itself with one piece the same size and one slightly smaller. The smaller

piece was placed in a temple at Suandok while the other piece was placed by the Lanna King on the back of a white elephant that was then released to roam free. It headed due west, climbed the mountain then known as Doi Aoy Chang (Sugar Elephant Mountain), trumpeted three times and died at the site. The Lanna King ordered the construction of a temple at the site where

the final relic was enshrined.

Doi Suthep is named after a hermit monk who lived on the slopes of the mountain.

The first Chedi was built in 1383 and has expanded considerably since then to add more shrines. Great Naga dragons guard the staircase at the bottom of the hill, and the faithful (and energetic!) climb the 309 stairs to the top. A

tram is available for a fee for those unable to climb.

The center of the temple is the sacred square cloister area, where visitors can see the Lanna-style, copper-plated chedi topped by a five-tiered gold umbrella. It is considered one of the holiest areas in Thailand. Doi Suthep temple grounds shoes must be removed. Please be sure to wear polite attire, no shorts, no sleeveless shirts.

The views at the top are spectacular, as is the magnificent chedi built to house the Buddhist relic. Doi Suthep is popular not just for its magnificent and holy temple but also for the beauty of its natural surroundings.

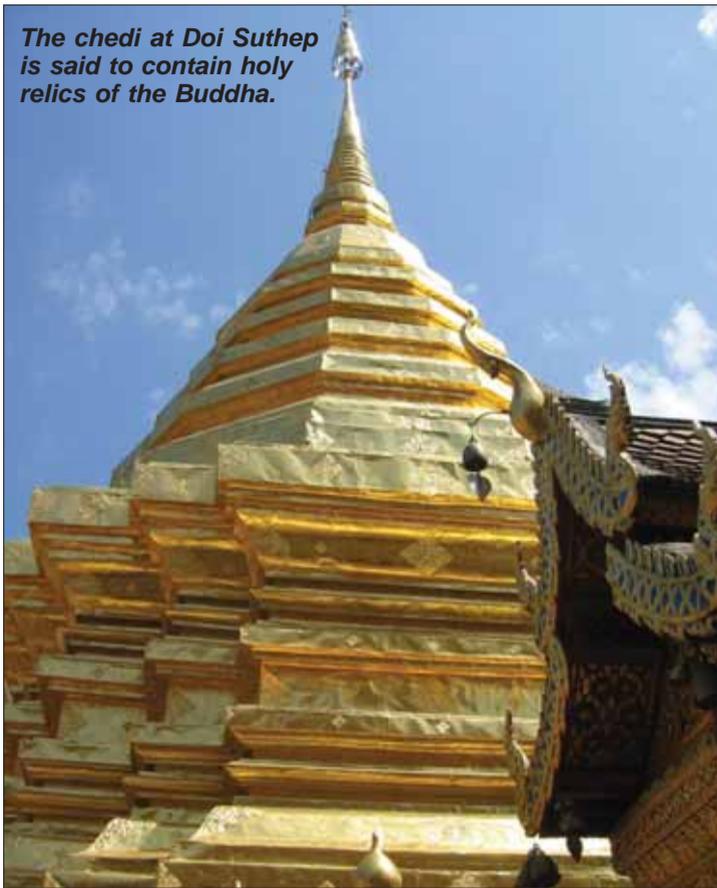
Doi Suthep and Doi Pui are part of the Doi Suthep - Doi Pui Na-

tional Park established in 1981 with an area of 261 km² that includes Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep temple as well as Phuping palace which is surrounded by the flower gardens that make Chiang Mai so famous.

The park contains deciduous forests on the lower slopes and evergreen forests above 1000 meters. The park is famous for its varied plant and animal life, with wild boar, macaques, more than 300 species of birds and a species of salamander that is only found in three other places in Thailand.

The drive up Doi Suthep is fairly easy and a visit to the mountain is on the "must see" list of things to do in Chiang Mai.

(By Shana Kongmun, Chiang Mai Mail)



The chedi at Doi Suthep is said to contain holy relics of the Buddha.



The jade Buddha image at Doi Suthep is a fantastic sight.



The bell tower at Wat Doi Suthep.

One of the most revered symbols of Chiang Mai, Doi Suthep (Doi means mountain in Thai) rises 1,676 meters above sea level and is one of a pair of twin peaks, the other, Doi Pui is slightly taller at 1,685 meters.

Legends abound about this mountain that sits perched above Chiang Mai but the abiding legend is of the founding of the magnificent temple, Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep. A Buddhist monk from Sukhothai had a dream where a god told him to go

to Pang Cha and look for a Buddhist relic. Sumanathera found a bone, which many claim was Buddha's shoulder bone at Pang Cha. The relic displayed magical powers, with the ability to glow and disappear, it could move itself and copy itself. Sumanathera took the relic to King Dharmmaraja who ruled Sukhothai but upon arrival the relic showed no magical abilities so the King told Sumanathera to keep it.

The view from the top of Doi Suthep is spectacular.

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Giant topiary, swans and zoos!



The fantastic topiary is found everywhere through the grounds.

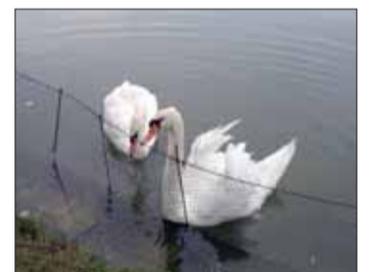
If you are looking for a fun day out, then may I recommend Horizon Village & Resort. Located about 10km from downtown Chiang Mai, on the Chiang Mai – Doi Saket Highway, Horizon Village offers a lot in its tranquil surroundings. Situated in a beautiful Botanical Garden, complete with giant topiary, the resort offers various activities such as massage, cycling, swimming, canoeing and paddleboats. It even has its own museum and zoo! I was quite surprised to see swans too, swimming happily on the lake. It really has to be seen to be believed.

The Tweechol Botanical Garden was established by Mr. Tweesackdi Sesawech and his wife, Chalarng Sesawech and was

started with the idea of it being a place to study the ancient ways of Lanna culture. It has four domes containing orchids, bromeliads, ferns, cacti and more. The manmade waterfall mimics the tropical ecosystem and humidity these plants need to thrive.

There is a palm garden with more than 107 varieties of trees from around the world, to the expert topiaries sculpted into fantastic shapes. There are rice paddy fields, an organic farm and a riding arena, this in addition to the paddle boats, petting zoo and finally the museum set in an old style house.

The collection is separated into 5 different rooms with photographs of the Lanna Princess who married King Rama V and silverware



Friendly swans looking for a treat!

and laquerware, a collection of military memorabilia including medals and ancient swords, Buddhist art and artifacts, antique agricultural tools and more.

Day visitors are welcome, but the resort has accommodation, as well as facilities for camping. For more information: www.horizonvillage.net. I particularly recommend checking out their botanical garden link: <http://www.tweecholbotanicgarden.com/>.

