



AUG SPORTS TODAY



15th SEAN UNIVERSITY GAMES 2010
CHIANGMAI THAILAND
15-23 December 2010

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Saturday 18 December 2010

Action continues in the Games



The Malaysian team takes the gold in bowling.

Yesterday was action packed with events across the board and gold medals handed out in several sports. Ten sports played yesterday around the city, from women's beach volleyball to karate-do and the exciting sepak takraw finals. Be sure to catch up on all the news on the center pages!



Laos beat Myanmar in 3 sets in yesterday's volleyball match.



Malaysia outscored Indonesia to win the game.



The Chiang Mai University gymnasium was an action packed arena today.

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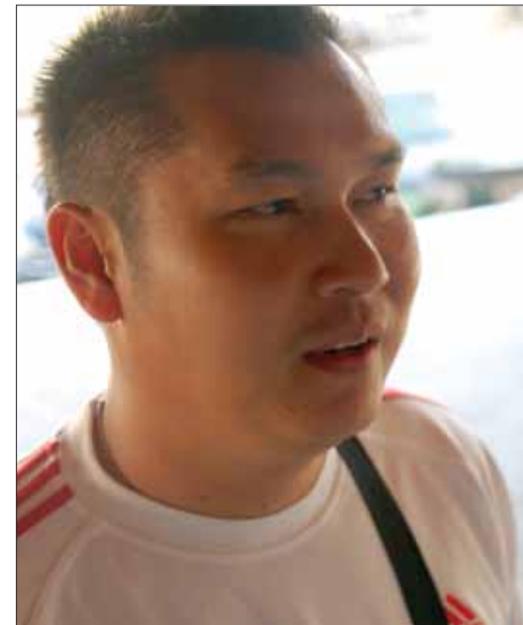
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Whaddaya think?

Athletes and coaches were quizzed today and had a few things to say about the state of affairs at the Games!



Runi Fathi -Singapore Tennis player said "I think breakfast and lunch is ok but it's too oily and it would be great if they put more vegetables and chicken because I like chicken. My favorite foods are Pad-Thai and fried shrimp"



Malik Tobias -Athletic Coach Malaysia said "About the food, I think the taste must change. Only the taste is too much salty they should put more chili. The transportation is good and the service as well."



Nino Pereira Hod from Timor Leste said "Food is ok not too oily and dessert is ok too. Maybe they should have more fruit and everything else is ok. Lastly, I really want to thank you for this chance and hope to be a member of AUG"



Wong Huey Lu - Ping Pong Player said "I like it here. The room is nice and also the service. People here are friendly but about the foods I think breakfast should be more various like noodles and different rice menu and lastly dessert is too sweet."

(Story by: Wipapan Na Nan, Chusawat Tunvanich / Photo by: Chusawat Tunvanich)

Colorful Thai cheerleading team

Spectators may have noticed the colorful characters dressed in outrageous clothes cheering on the teams at the ASEAN University Games. The pair chatted with AUG Sports Today.

Samart Khumsawat aka Mart Kaen Kuang, said that "Today I'm here at Chiang Mai University cheering at the various games in competition. I enjoyed cheering for Beach Volleyball, Badminton and Table Tennis. I have been having great fun especially with the participation from the spectators. Different feelings are experienced at different games."

Sompong Katkaew aka Loy Ngoa Paa, said that, "I'm very happy that Thailand get to host such great events like this ASEAN University Games as this is a good opportunity for us to tell the world how beautiful our



Samart Khumsawat (left) and Sompong Katkaew (right) encourage the athletes to do their best.

country is. I would like to pass on my words to all athletes that winning or losing is normal, we are here to provide you with

moral support so you can enjoy your games."

Story by: Kanyarath Chaichana.
Photo by Yossuntorn Sawasdee

Shots of the day



Faces of the Games



Muhammed Syafiq Rihwan About Malek - Malaysian silver medalist Bowler reveals that "in the past tournament at the Philippines, I have been preparing for this Games and has been practicing every day, I'm glad to be participating in this year's Games in Thailand and very happy with the result, I'm very proud to represent my country."



Annon Aromsarannon or Benz - Silver medalist from Thai Bowler's Team, "I have been preparing myself for almost 5 months, not really happy with the results, I could do better."



Savalith Sengsat - Laos Sepak Takraw Manager gave an interview after the Laos team beat Myanmar: "I'm very happy that our team could win that match, our players were a bit excited in the beginning as they were still adjusting to the game, our scores were following the Myanmar team, but then we played hard, no pressure and got away with the win."



Peerapong Jooprathansuk - Thai Badminton player also agree about the accuracy of the lineman, "it is very important for the game for the lineman to really concentrate and be close to the game at every shot, but overall I'm having a god time, really enjoy the game, gaining new experiences met a lot of new friends who share the same interest of Badminton. I'm really expecting a great outcome in the finals as I have been practicing hard for this tournament."



Nunmanut Chatchaisiri - Thai women gold medalist bowler, a 4th year student of Ramkhamhaeng University, said that, "I'm very happy to win this gold medal, I didn't really expect this, just enjoyed the game but proud that I did it. A little secret for this game is that you have to love and enjoy the game, practice hard and pay a lot of attention, with a set goal ten we will succeed. I have been bowling for the last 6 years, this medal has actually provided me with a moral support for me to keep on going. I would like to say to you all that bowling is a fun game, easy to play not to expensive as you may think, just concentrate and enjoy the game, then you will succeed."



Michelle Yeow Mie Xi - Malaysian women Badminton, "I'm 100% ready for the upcoming games, every time I am on the court, I always enjoy playing my beloved sports, learned a lot of techniques from my competitors, I am very confidence that I will win this tournament and go home with a gold medal, but on the top seat they only accept one winner, if I'm not up there, I'm OK with that and will even practice harder", said Michelle with a smile.



Suthep Chantaranusorn - Thai Sepak Takraw coach said that, "I'm quite satisfied with our team, we have been practicing hard at Sattahip camp, our players are the rising stars and we hope to come out with great results for the Thai fans."

Andhika Anhar - Indonesian talk of the court for his stunning Badminton skills and the way he beat the opponent reveals that, "I'm very confidence in this tournament, have great fun while playing on the court, happy to participate (we can see it from his smile while playing), the game it quite fair even though the lineman may miss a few of my shots, but overall it is very well organized."



By Yossuntorn Sawasdee, Netnaphit Thupajorn, Chotika Phetson, Thirarat Phutthawong, Nuttapon Panya, Muanfun Chaiphonban, Sathinee Chirakal, Kobkan Sampao, Wongsakorn Nakngoen, Netnaphit Thupajorn, Chotika Phetson, Thirarat Phutthawong.

Indonesia women win gold in Karate-do

Karate-do teams from Thailand and Indonesia succeeded in winning three gold medals a piece at North Chiang Mai University's gymnasium yesterday, December 17, 2010. The Indonesian coach is confident his team can win two more medals in the finals that take place today.

Yesterday's competition saw the first gold medal up for grabs in the Women's category of overall fighting gestures for the over 68 kg weight class. Indonesia beat out Thailand and Laos for the gold medal. Indonesia again took the gold for the over 61 kg weight class for women.

Thailand beat out Vietnam and Indonesia in the women's under 55 kg weight class for the gold.

In the Men's competition in overall fighting gestures, Thailand beat out Vietnam for the gold medal in the over 67 kg weight class. Winner of the under 84kg class, Suttichai Takhiao said he was very proud to add to Thailand's good reputation.

The coach for the Indonesian's



Thai women's karate-do won three gold medals yesterday.

women team, Christine Taroren, said she was satisfied with the results, "We have been preparing for these Games for 6 months. We hope to get another 2 gold medals in the competition," this in addition to the 3 gold, one silver and 3 bronze medals they have already won.

Story by: Kan Kamolrat, Krissanarak Saeneevong Na Ayutthaya

Photo by: Jaturawit Decha

Busy day for Badminton



Indonesia men won in a close fought 3 games to 2.

The Indonesian women's team was victorious over the Thais with four games to one and the Malaysian men soundly beating the Singaporeans in 5 games in the first half of a very busy day for the badminton players.

The first match of the morning between Linda Wenifanetri of Indonesia and Chanida Julrattanamee saw the Indonesian taking the match 2 sets to 1, while the second match also saw another Indonesian woman, Aprilia Yuswandari win two sets to one over Thai Pawita Isriyanet.

The next match saw the host country victorious when Kewalin Akarakulchai beat Ayu Rahmasari of Indonesia by 2 sets.

Women's doubles then took to the net when the Indonesian team beat Thailand by 2 sets to one in a close fought match. The final Women's doubles match saw the Indonesian women victorious over the Thais once again, taking the match in two sets.

The men were up next with Malaysian Men's singles player Muhammad Aiman Husin beating Guofeng Chen of Singapore in two sets. The next singles match showed Loo Yik Xiang of Malaysia also winning over Singaporean Jia Hao Law of Singapore in two sets.

The third match went to three sets with Malaysian Ten Dick Xiang winning the first set, losing the second to Kah Hwee Jarrod Tan of Singapore but ending victorious taking the third set.

The Men's doubles then took the court with Malaysia winning beating the Singaporeans in two sets. The Malaysians finished their winning streak in a two sets to one victory over the Singaporeans.

Play resumed in the afternoon with the Indonesian men meeting the Thais in a close fought 3 games to 2. Prinyawat Thongnuam of Thailand beat Hendry Mulyono in two sets while Nugroho Andi Saputro of Indonesia beat Pheerawut Sumretphol of Thailand in two sets. The third match saw Pollawat Boonpan of Thailand triumph over Mochamad Rizki Delynugraha of Indonesia in two sets. Both men's doubles match saw the Indonesian men take 2 out of 3 set, giving their team the win.

Women came up next with the Malaysians beating Singapore 5-0. The first match saw Julia Wong Pei Xian of Malaysia win two sets over Pei Xuan Toh of Singapore and in the second Daphen Ng Chiew Yen of Malaysia beat Siti Mastura Binte Rahim in two sets.

Stephanie Shalini Sukumaran of Malaysia took the third match against Li En Colleen Goh of Singapore in two sets.

The Malaysian women's doubles team managed to overcome the Singaporeans in three sets while the final doubles match was won in two sets.

In the 3 days of competition, the Indonesian men lead with 6 points, Thailand has 4, Malaysia has 2 and Singapore 0. The Indonesian women also have 6 points, Thailand again with 4, Malaysia 2 and Singapore 0.

Today's matches will see the Women's team for Indonesia meet Malaysia at 10 a.m. and the Indonesian men face the Thai men at 2 p.m. followed by Malaysia vs Singapore at Chiang Mai University gymnasium.

Story by Kanyarath Chaichana
Photo by Yossuntorn Sawasdee

Second day of Futsal sees Indonesia triumph in close fought game



Brunei goalkeeper conceding one of 12 goals to the Thai team.

The second day of Futsal at the Gymnasium 2 in the 700 Year Sports Complex saw Indonesia lose to Malaysia in a closely fought game with the first half ending tied 1-1. Indonesia played an attacking game and scored the first goal but Malaysia quickly equalized. The second half saw Malaysian Mohd Ali Malat score

within the first 4 minutes. Indonesia missed a golden chance to score but could not equalize and then fell behind when Mohd scored yet again. Indonesia fought hard, gaining another goal but despite their hard fought game couldn't make up the goals and lost 2 to 3.

Thailand met Brunei in the sec-

ond match of the day with champions Thailand beating Brunei in a lopsided game 12-2.

Today's match at Gymnasium 2 at the 700 Year Sports Complex sees Brunei play Malaysia at 1 p.m. and Thailand face off Indonesia at 3 p.m.

Story by Waranyoo Sornnoi
Photo by Isra Hongkham

Sepak Takraw Gold goes to Malaysia

Yesterday (December 17) was the second day of sepak takraw and the gold medal round.

The morning started with the Thai team losing to the Malaysians in the first set, but coming back strongly and winning the final two sets to overcome the Malaysians. The second match saw Indonesia beat Laos in two sets, 21:11, 21:17.

The third match saw Malaysia beating Myanmar soundly in two sets, 21:12, 21:11 and the last match of the morning saw Thailand play Laos in two sets, 21:14, 21:18.

The last games before the final saw Myanmar singles meet with Indonesia with Myanmar losing in two sets, in the other singles match, Thailand beat Malaysia 2-1.

Indonesia beat Laos in two sets while Malaysia beat Myanmar in two sets. Thailand took Laos in



Malaysia spikes the ball to take the Gold in Sepak Takraw.

two sets and Myanmar beat Indonesia in two sets.

Malaysia and Thailand met in the final round for with Malaysia winning 21-4, 21-9, grabbing the gold. Thailand took the silver and

Indonesia and Laos both received the bronze.

Story by Ms. Muanfun Chai-phonban, Ms. Sathinee Chirakal
Photo by Mr. Kobkan Sampao, Mr. Wongsakorn Nakngoen

Thai tennis team moves on to Gold medal round

With yesterday's cool temps and light rain postponing the matches, the tennis players had plenty of time to get ready for the matches at the 700 Year Sports Complex.

The Thai team, led by number 1 seed Peerakiat Siriluethaiwattana beat Singaporean Kenneth Ng Kang Ting of Singapore in two sets, with the scores of 6-0 and 6-3.

Thailand's second seeded male player Gittaboon Prahmanee broke Richie Ong Jian Xing's serve in two sets, 6-3, 6-3.

In doubles, Singaporean player Joshua Wen Jun of Singapore had to delay the match for ten minutes with an injury but upon resumption of play he and his partner, Ong Wei Ming, lost to the Thai men's doubles team of Adirek Khundanpinitwong and Warut Korkiatthaworn 3-6, 1-6.

The winning results of the Thai team pushed them into the gold medal round to be played today at 10 a.m. at the tennis court in the 700 Year Sports Complex.

Story By Chutimon Saowapha
Photo By Romtham Srisukho



The Thai tennis team forges ahead into the gold medal round.

Women's beach volleyball gets into high gear

The Indonesian Team 2, Fahrian Syam and Iputu Junior Thaw fought hard to beat Thailand Team 1, Ariti Anuruk and Rawepon Chamnithurakan in three sets, winning 2 sets to 1. While the second match in group B was between Laos Team 1, Sinthanou and Vilayvong, and Malaysia Team 2, Mumofaiz Putra Baborazak and Ng Kai Guan with Laos losing 2 sets to 1.

For the third match, in Group A, Laos Team 2, Khonephachick and Phonepaseuth lose to Malaysia Team 1's Kiew Chiong Ung Mohamap Fitri Bin Saliew in 2 sets.

Group A saw Timor Leste, Soares And Coata lose to Indonesia, Wayan Indrawan and M.Bastomi in 2 sets.

Afternoon's matches saw Singapore 2 lose to Malaysia 2, in 2 sets and Thailand Team 1 beat Vietnam in two sets as well. The last match of the day saw Thailand Team 2 beat Singapore in 2 sets.

Story By Nuttaporn Inkaew
Photo By .Rangsiman Sittipong



Thailand defender against Vietnam in a game that saw Thailand win in two sets.

Volleyball netters take to the court

Thailand Women's team met Singapore in the afternoon and Thailand won in 3 sets.

The Men's team saw Myanmar meet Laos with Laos winning the game in 3 sets. The next match was between Malaysia and Thailand with Thailand winning 3 sets to 1.

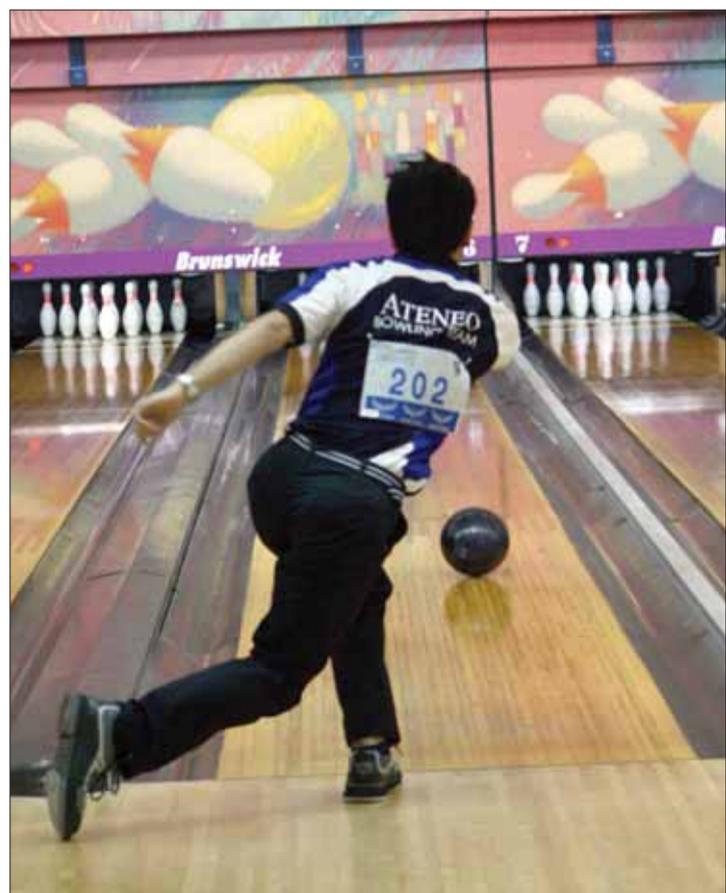
Story by Parinda Thanapalin, Jaruwan Phuaphan

Photos by Atitaya Kanjanathorn, Kanokwan Chantorn



Malaysian men defend against Thailand but lose 3 sets to 1.

UFO Bowling sees gold medal rounds



26 men from the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand competed in the medal round in the Men's singles Bowling at UFO Bowl

After 6 games Jayson Tubid of the Philippines grabbed the gold medal with a total of 1342 points with a strong showing in the first five games. Muhammed Syafiq Rihwan Aboul Malek of Malaysia took the Silver with a score of 1332 and Thai player Annoparom Saranont took the bronze with a total of 1324 points.

In the afternoons events 18 women took part in the competition and the Thai women's team was in top form and the singles Thai, Nummanut Chatchaisiri took the gold medal with 1246 points while the silver and the bronze both went to Malaysia.

By Netnaphit Thupajorn, Chotika Phetson

Photo By Thirarat Phutthwong

Strikes were the order of the day for the game's top bowlers.

Table tennis results from today



Laos women beat Malaysia in the final match of the day.

Chiang Mai University hosted the women's table tennis match between Singapore and Laos with Singapore winning 3-1. Vietnam lost to Thailand 1-3.

The Thai men's team beat Brunei 3-0 pushing them to the top of Group B. They will meet with Malaysia in the next round. Myanmar lost to Malaysia 1-3 and that set Malaysia as number 2 in Group A.

Singapore beat Laos 3-0 to be

number 2 of Group B and go to the next round to meet Brunei who is number 1 of Group A.

Today's matches will see number of Group A play number 2 of Group B and vice versa.

In the evening the Vietnamese women beat Singapore 3-0 while Laos beat Malaysia in the next match 3-0.

Story by Wanwisa Buapakam
Photo by Naran Dolpipatpong, Puriwat Boonnak

Basketball hoopsters



Indonesia women's team scoring in a lopsided game against Laos.

Women's basketball players saw their first match between Malaysia and Singapore with the Malaysians beating the Singaporeans in a hard fought match, 70-51. The second match of the day was between the Malaysian Men and Indonesia in a close fought game that saw Malaysia outscoring Indonesia 77-69.

The last match was between the Indonesia Women's team and

Laos and in a lopsided game Indonesia 83-33.

Today's matches at the 700 Years Sports Complex will start at 1 p.m. between Laos and Singapore-Women. At 3 p.m. the men will play, Indonesia and Thai and the final match will see the women play, Thailand and Malaysia.

Story by Kanokrut Sasiroj
Photo by Pharunyoo Deekaew

Get ready to see more of Chiang Mai

Since we all will have a 'Rest Day' tomorrow, why don't we give you a little glimpse of the 5 places that you will be visiting?

Pang Chang Mae Sa, you will see an elephant show where the elephants perform logging activities and other activities designed to show off their extreme cleverness. Young elephants begin learning at about the age of 4 and, given their high intelligence, learn rather quickly. Normally, by the age of 10 they are of a size and strength and training level to graduate to working, a mature Asian elephant can lift 700 kilograms and haul 200 tons for a kilometer without stopping. Mae Sa is located about 30 kilometers outside Chiang Mai in the Mae Sa Valley, a lush green valley populated not only by elephants but also orchid farms and resorts with fabulous gardens.

San Kamphaeng Hot Springs is next on the agenda. The Hot Springs are set in a beautiful green park and the water, which bubbles up from underground and streams around the park in various areas is generally around 100 degrees C. Not too hot to dip your feet in or even take a soak. The high sulfur content of the water is reported by many to be very therapeutic and is said to increase blood circulation giving a very reviving feeling. Or perhaps it's just the relaxing heat of the water, but it feels wonderful nonetheless. There are even eggs available for boiling in special tanks.

Bor Sang literally translates to umbrella village, was once just a small village where local families and artisans crafted parasols and umbrellas of saa paper made from the bark of the mulberry tree. This is the source of the beautiful um-



Tha Pae Gate is a good starting point to walk into the old part of the City for the shopping experience that is the Sunday Walking Street Market!

rellas used in the opening show. As the fame of Bor Sang's beautiful products grew, so did the village and the manufacturing of the umbrellas. Nowadays, Bor Sang has grown to include all kinds of handicrafts, from silk to silver but it is still famous for the beauty of its hand-painted silk and saa paper fans, parasols and umbrellas.

Baan Tawai is up next and be sure to save some room in your luggage for souvenirs as this is one of the premier handicraft

shopping areas in the country! Baan Tawai is most famous for its furniture but as a visit to the village will make clear there are plenty of other products to find. Wood carved products, tribal basketry, jewelry, paintings, silk, gifts, and small items such as lotions and soaps. The list goes on. Baan Tawai is a feast for the arts and crafts appreciator. There are plenty of interesting toys and hand-made gadgets for kids too, so you if you are looking for some

unique and authentic souvenirs to take home, Baan Tawai may end up being your one stop shopping center! There are also some pretty amazing sculptures made out of metal scraps (nuts and bolts etc). I'm sure even adults' jaws will drop at the gigantic metal "Predator" and "Alien" beasts.

With all the traveling done, we all will then proceed to Chiang Mai Night Safari, Hang Dong which is about 15 minutes away from the Phucome Hotel. There we will see all sorts of animals, from African to Australian to, of course Asian, in one of the largest Night Safaris in Asia.

When we all come back, we can chose to relax at our hotel or go into the city to experience the evening atmosphere of Chiang Mai City, and shop around or enjoy various local cuisine at the fabulous Sunday Walking Street, Thapae Road, traditional culture and ancient architectures could be seen. Walking around the city is very easy, as is grabbing a red songthaew (20 baht!) or tuk tuk (these you will have to bargain). And if you don't manage to enjoy all that Chiang Mai has to offer then you will just have to come back for another visit!

What's Cooking!

Today is the 4th day of the Games and there are 33 Gold medals on the plate for grabs from 7 different Games. AUG Sports Today is bringing you today's highlights for our readers to follow what's cooking today.

At Maejo University there are 9 Gold medals in Athletics up for grabs, starting from 9 a.m. and at the same time swimming will compete for 10 Gold medals, with the selection round in the morning and the final on the same day starting at 4 p.m.

Chiang Mai University will stage the final round of Badminton and Table Tennis for 2 Gold medals each. The Women's badminton final will pit Malaysia and Indonesia at 10 a.m. and the men's final will see Indonesia competing against Thailand at 2 p.m. Also Table Tennis' final will be at the same venue starting at 10 a.m.

At the 700 Years Sports Stadium's Tennis Center 2 gold medals will be fought for at the finals of both women and men's Team Events. At the Gymnasium, North Chiang Mai University Karate-Do will have its last day for both Individual KUMITE and Team KUMITE with the finals starting at 4 p.m. and with 6 gold medals. Ten Pin Bowling at the UFO Bowl will

see Men starting at 10 a.m. and women at 2 p.m. in the Gold medal round.

Other sports in their preliminary rounds competing today are Basketball and Futsal at 700 Years Sports Stadium at 1 p.m. Football after a one day break yesterday are back with more excitement at 2 venues; Prince Royal's College will host Cambodia vs. Vietnam at 1 p.m. and Myanmar vs. Singapore at 3 p.m. and Montfort College will host Malaysia vs. Laos at 3 p.m.

Beach Volleyball, with its growing popularity will be staged at Chiang Mai University starting at 9 a.m. for the men. The women's event will start at 2 p.m. with Malaysia Team 1 playing against Indonesia, Vietnam against Malaysia Team 2 and Thailand Team 1 against Singapore Team 2.

Maejo University will host Sepak Takraw for Doubles, starting at 10 a.m. with the following matches in sequence of the time, Indonesia vs. Thailand, Malaysia vs. Myanmar, Laos vs. Indonesia, Thailand vs. Malaysia, and Myanmar vs. Laos. Volleyball games start at 2 p.m. at Maejo University with women's games of Malaysia vs. Singapore, Men's Malaysia vs. Myanmar and Men's Thailand vs. Laos.

15th SEAN UNIVERSITY GAMES 2010 MEDAL STANDINGS

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Indonesia	5	2	3	10
2	Thailand	4	3	5	12
3	Vietnam	2	4	4	10
4	Malaysia	2	3	7	12
5	Philippines	1	0	0	1
6	Laos	0	2	4	6
7	Brunei Darussalam	0	0	1	1
8	Cambodia	0	0	1	1
9	Myanmar	0	0	0	0
10	Singapore	0	0	0	0
11	Timor-Leste	0	0	0	0
		14	14	25	53

As of December 17, 2010 20:00 hr



Huay Tung Tao Reservoir



Huay Tung Tao is a peaceful oasis not far from the city.

A short 15-20 minute drive out of central Chiang Mai, will take you to the scenic and relaxing Huay Tung Tao Reservoir. At just 20 baht per person you can enter the grounds at this beautiful manmade lake and enjoy a number of activities, or, if you prefer to relax, just do nothing at all. The water itself is apparently really quite clean, and is popular for swimming. There are also paddle boats, picnic areas, fishing, fresh food, massage, and even off road driving! There is also a camping ground for those who wish to stay over. If you feel like relaxing, then I suggest heading for one of the bamboo huts which are built on the lake. Someone will come and take your drinks order (and food, if feeling hungry) and bring it to you. There are also the occasional passing seller offering snacks, fresh fruit, and knick-knacks. I suggest dangling your feet over the edge and into the water to cool you down a bit. The water is surprisingly cool. Early mornings are a good opportunity for bird watchers. Early evenings are a great time to watch the sun set. The lake itself, and its surrounding land, was donated by the Royal Family to serve as a tourist destination. You will find it along the 121, just beyond the 700 Year Stadium. Enjoy!

(By Jane Doh)



Paddleboats, fishing, and swimming are all popular with visitors to the lake.



Small huts line the shores where you can order drinks, snacks, even meals or a massage!

Unique Lanna Events

■ From page 8

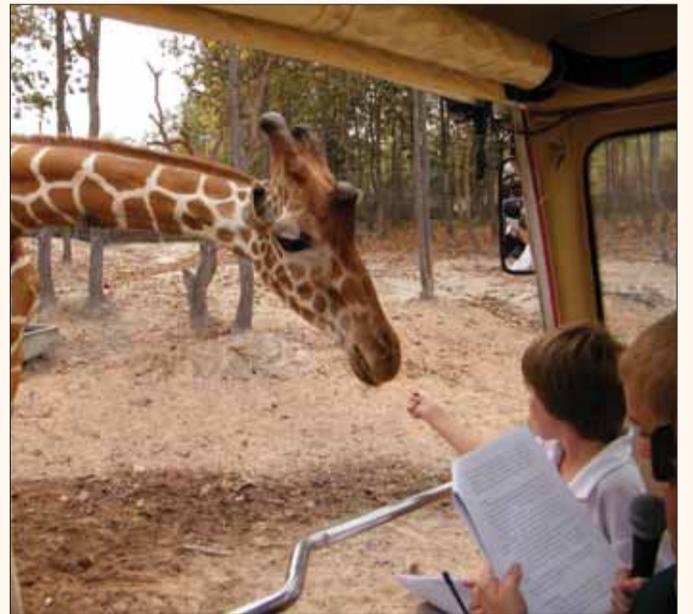
While the police are there keeping an eye on things, I can't report seeing a single fight breaking out during the day. I will admit to exhaustion after a day walking the streets splashing and being splashed and getting the occasional talcum

powder dabbed on my face, so can't say what the nights are like.

One very Thai moment occurred when a pickup truck loaded with a family in the back crept along the streets. A young man ran up to the truck, gave the old man in the back a very polite wai and the old man gently poured water over his shoulder.

Of course, seeing the policeman surreptitiously splash passersby was entertaining but the general good feeling, dancing, water spraying and mayhem of the party certainly does earn it, at the very least, top ten parties of the world and definitely a reason to book your return to Chiang Mai by April 13!

Chiang Mai Night Safari



Be sure to sit next to the guide with the food so you can hand feed the animals!

Our Singaporean visitors may be surprised to find the Chiang Mai Night Safari of interest as they also have an excellent one located there, but the one in Chiang Mai is considerably larger, two times but others might enjoy visiting the world's third nocturnal zoo and seeing animals when they are most active, at night! Located at the base of Doi Suthep, the Night Safari is easily reached from town.

The Night Safari is divided into three zones; the Savanna Safari Zone is for animals whose habitat is in the African savanna. This zone includes about 34 species and over 320 animals such as wildebeests, giraffes, white rhinoceroses and zebras.

The Predator Prowl Zone contains the carnivorous animals and has approximately 27 species and over 200 animals such as tigers, lions, Asiatic black bears, and crocodiles.

The Jaguar Trail Zone is a walking trail around the 1.2 km Swan Lake. This zone has over 400 animals of beautiful and

rare 50 species of smaller animals in an environment of enchanting flower gardens. Animals in this zone include white tigers, jaguars, and capybaras, clouded leopards, fishing cats, Brazilian tapirs, squirrel monkeys, miniature horses, and crowned cranes.

If you go in the evening, the guided trams start around 7:45 p.m. but if you go a bit earlier the walk around the lake is quite lovely. Be sure to eat dinner before you go tho. The evening is topped off by a beautiful laser show.



The Night Safari tries to include many different species of animals.



Make sure your tram driver goes nice and slow so you can get some great shots.

Unique Lanna Events

Songkran: The best reason to come back in April

The Thai New Year's Festival is not unique to Chiang Mai as it is celebrated all over Thailand but it was believed to have originated in the North. It's not even uniquely Thai as our neighbors have similar celebrations for the New Year celebrated in April but the Songkran festival in Chiang Mai on April 13 is famous around

the country and the world for its fantastic party atmosphere.

A popular website, askmen, recently ranked Songkran in Chiang Mai as one of the top ten wackiest and funnest festivals in the world. Coming in at number 7, Chiang Mai fell behind number one, La Tomatina Festival in Buol, Spain. According to the writer, a



Elders receive good fortune as water is poured over their hands.



Chiang Mai residents pass on good fortune by gently pouring water over the shoulders of their elders.



Games are set up for kids to play as well.



Making merit on Songkran is an important part of the festival.

food fight involving tomatoes was more fun than a water fight. Seems messy and red to me!

Songkran in Chiang Mai is the biggest street water fight in Thailand and can last for six days or more. While the date is set for April 13, water will be thrown for at least 3 days, and in some places, six. This was my first Chiang Mai Songkran and I have to say, it was far better than some tomato throwing festival!

The word Songkran comes from the Sanskrit *samkranti*, meaning astrological passage as the date was originally set according to the lunar calendar and falls on the vernal equinox, but the date is now fixed. Until 1888 the Thai New Year changed at Songkran and then was fixed at April 1 when Thailand changed to the western calendar and changed

their new year to January 1. However, you will note that the Thai calendar still uses a different year, this year being 2553, counting from Buddha's enlightenment.

Songkran, which takes place in the hottest month of the year, April, was originally a time to pay respects to one's elders by capturing the water used to cleanse the Buddha images on this day and then using it to gently pour over the shoulder of the elderly in a blessing of good fortune and health.

This has evolved to a far more rambunctious festival where people (generally) good-naturedly splash water on passersby. On Songkran day, the streets of Chiang Mai literally come to a standstill as people load up their pickup trucks with barrels of water and cruise (or rather creep as the traffic is rather amazingly packed) the streets splashing

and spraying people with water. People stand on the sides of the roads splashing and spraying with water guns. I confess to buying a turtle shaped backpack water reservoir and a non-lethal water gun and spraying people. Huay Kaew Road turns into a huge block party where bands are set up on both sides of the street and huge water cannons spray water over the dancing crowds.

Somehow, the traffic manages to creep through, car by car, with partygoers squeezing in so the cars can pass single file. It sounds like chaos, and it is. But I confess that it is also a great lot of fun. There is drinking, and the drunk driving can be a problem, but if you stay near your accommodation and walk then it's actually just a whole lot of fun!

■ Continued on page 7



Everyone joins in the water fun on Songkran.



Squeezing through the crowds in the streets, the atmosphere remains friendly.

