

Colourful opening ceremony of 27th South-East Asian Games in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 Dec— An opening ceremony of the 27th Southeast Asian Games that Myanmar hosted for the third time took place at Wunna Theikdi Stadium, here, this evening.

With the aim of fostering friendship among South-East Asian nations and letting each country make known each other's cultures, the SEA Games are held every two years.

It is also a biggest sporting event of the countries in the region not only to highlight the policy of peaceful coexistence but also to show the sporting spirit, quality and dignity of South-East Asian countries.

Before the opening ceremony to be held under 14 agendas, vocalists entertained audiences with songs. Next, presenters talked about the sporting event which is the last time Myanmar hosted in 1969, competitions that will be included and medals presented in the present SEA Games, the meaning of the 27th SEA Games' motto, "Green, Clean & Friendship". Together with guests, officials and athletes, totaling around 30000, President U Thein Sein and wife, Laotian President Mr Choummaly Sayasone and wife, Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and wife, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, the Chief Justice of the Union, the Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, the Chairman of Union Election Commission, the Chinese Vice-Premier and the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, the Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Brunei, ministers of the People's Republic of China and ASEAN member countries, the Union ministers, the Chief Ministers of the regions and states, and the president of Asia Olympic Council attended the ceremony.

The President and wife presented gifts to the Laotian President, the vice premiers of China and Thailand, the Crown Prince of Brunei, ministers of ASEAN countries and the Chairman of Olympic Council of Asia.

Before the firework displays, a total of 1499 students entered the stadium and made performances. Likewise, Myanmar traditional musical performances were also presented at the opening ceremony.

After athletes from 11 countries entered the stadium behind the State band and took their designated places, the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was hoisted followed by the flag-raising of SEA Games federation and participants to the SEA Games.

First, Chairman of Myanmar National Olympic Committee Chairman of the leading committee for organizing the 27th SEA Games Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan gave an account of the 27th SEA Games.

On behalf of the President, Patron of the leading committee Vice-President U Nyan Tun made an opening address.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun said Myanmar takes pride for hosting the 27th SEA Games again after a 44-year pause since the host for 2nd SEAP Games in 1961 and 5th SEAP Games in 1969.

All global countries know that sports is a more effective diplomatic channel and the best way to showcase country's high integrity. The South East Asian Games Federation (SEAGF) holds the SEA Games with the aims of having regional amity, healthy and fitness, love of sports and sport spirits among the regional countries. The motto of the 27th SEA Games is “Green, Clean and Friendship”.

The 27th SEA Games Leading Committee and officials concerned have made the best possible preparations for the SEA Games and youth liaison volunteers are ready to offer the services to guests and sportspersons.

Those who come to the Games will see Myanmar's tradition and customs and the efforts for marching toward a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

In conclusion, he said he would like to express special thanks to those who get involved in the 27th SEA Games. Later, the Vice-President announced the opening of the 27th SEA Games.

Next, a torch relay of Myanmar former sports stars and Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu followed.

Then, archer Maung Wai Lin Tun ignited the main torch by shooting an arrow at it. Afterwards, music and dance performances depicting cultures of ASEAN countries including scenic beauty of Myanmar were presented accompanied by lighting and sound effects.

— MNA
