

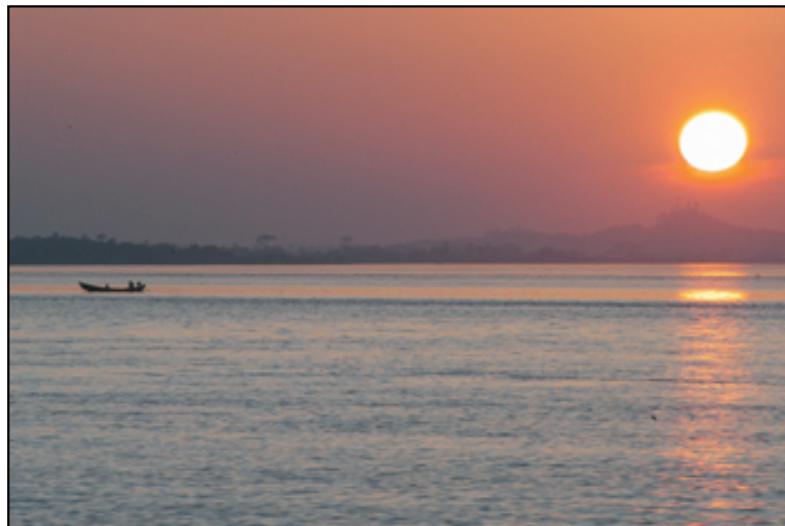
YAMANYA , A PLACE OF MON



March 19 is the Mon State Day. Mon State, Which we also call Yar Ma Nya, is one of the seven states in Myanmar. The beautiful scenery of its landscape, its wondrous cultural and traditional heritage and its invaluable fine arts make it becoming extraordinarily interesting place. It also possesses bountiful varieties of natural resources.

Mon State is situated on the Sittaung river delta. It is surrounded by Bago Division in the North, Kayin State in the East, Thailand and Tanintharyee Division in the South and the Andaman sea and gulf of Martaban in the West. There are many small islands along the coastline of Mon State and the well-known ones are those of Grand island, Kyet Thun island, Kalagoke island, Warr

island and Nat island. Although it lies between the parallel mountain ranges, there are also vast plains such as Mawlamyaing Plain and Thahtone Plain. In the northern part of Mon State, the river mouth of Sittaung River flows into Martaban gulf.



A number of rivers and creeks flows through the state, most of which are ended up in the Martaban gulf. The Great Thanlwin River which is the longest river in our country also passes through the state to flow into the Martaban gulf. It has a population of 2.3 millions and the majority are Mon and Myanmar. Other races like Kayin, Rakhine, Kachin, Shan and Paeye also reside in the state. The common language is Mon of course, yet Myanmar language is also spoken. Buddhism is the state's common belief.

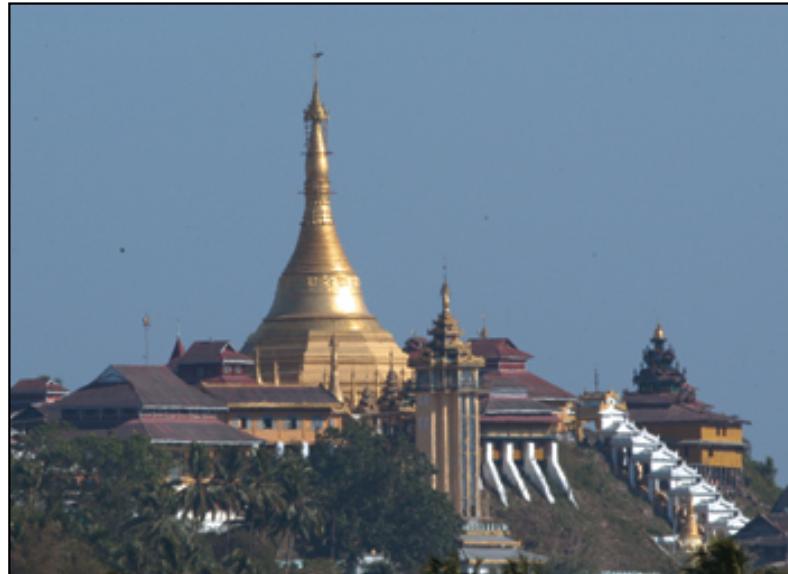
Once, Ya Ma Nya had been a very glorious kingdom of lower Myanmar. King Anawrattha of Pagan and King Manuhar of Thahtone (the great Mon King) were contemporary rulers as well as rivals. Besides, the Terawara Buddhism first reached to Thahtone and then spreaded out all over the country afterwards. May be, that is why Mon people are very religious. Mon literature which flourished along with Mon civilization contributes the grandeur of Mon history. It is also learnt that Parli pittaka were translated into Mon language first, then into Myanmar language. The culture heritage of Mon which is preserved from time to time throughout many centuries shows how magnificent the ancient Mon dynasty was.



Ferry at the jetty

There are many interesting places in Mon State including the world's famous Golden Rock Pagoda, Kyaik Ma Yaw Pagoda, Kyaikkamie Pagoda, Zin Kyaik Hill and Setsae Beach. The remains of the ancient city of Thahtone is also an interesting site in Mon State.

Another fascinating attraction of this particular state is its availability of a variety of delicious fruits such as durian, mangosteen, rambutan, pineapple, pomelo, avocado and djenko bean. Mon durian is the best in the country as well as pineapple from this part is said to be the sweetest. Apart from the fruits, various kinds of vegetables and crops are also grown there including corn, nuts, sunflower, pulses, sugarcane, coconut, palm, coco, rubber and nipa palm. Its total cultivation area is about 3 million acres which comprises approximately one hundred thousand acres of rubber cultivation.



Kyaikthalan Pagoda, Mawlamyein

As it has a long coastline, its products include dried fish, fishpaste and salt. It also yields antimony and other useful rocks. There are many state-owned industries in Mon State. The most famous industries are Sittaung sugar plant, Beelin sugar plant, Mupon ceramic factory, Than Phyu Za Yat rubber plant, a tyre production factory near Thahtone, a power plant near Mawlamyaing and the Mawlamyaing dockyard.

Mon State celebrates its day on 19th of March every year. Other renowned festivals of the state are the Golden Rock Pagoda Festival, Chaung Sone Guest Festival, Kyaikkamie Sand Pagoda Festival and Oil Offering Ceremony of Mawlamyaing Bar-auk cloister.



Not only the locals but also the foreigners and tourists come to visit these festivals. Nowadays, it is hardly difficult to visit Mon State because of much smoother transportation. There are highways as well as railways.

We can also use the riverine route. Again, if we prefer flight, it is possible because there is an airport in Mawlamyaing as it is the third capital of Myanmar. New bridges have emerged in the region due to the government's encouragement in order to smoothen the public transportation.



Greeny mountains, beauty of Mon state

These bridges give us a great deal of benefits- we can reach our destinations easily within a short period of time. Construction of new bridge that links Mottama to Mawlamyein, Thanlwin Bridge is now underway that could make Mon State more accessible which in turn promotes regional business as well as tourism sector..

By crossing over the new bridges in Mon State we can fully enjoy the beauty of nature and the freshness of its atmosphere. So why don't we give ourselves a chance to visit a place of Mon national, Yamanya.



Construction of Thanlwin Bridge crossing Thanlwin River underway

