

Commemoration of the 96th anniversary of Pa-O National Day observed



Daw Mar Mar Khaing reads the message during the commemoration of the Pa-O national day in Thaton Township, Mon State. **PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS**

THE State level commemoration of the 96th Pa-O National Day is being held yesterday at Kyauk Yay Dwin village in Mon State's Paung Township.

The aim of celebrating the national day is not to forget the Pao history, literature, culture and language and to create greater awareness of the progress towards a federal democratic union, Khun Shwe Thin, chairman of Mon State Pa-O Literature and Culture Association, said at the ceremony.

Khun Chit San Win, an organizer of the occasion, explained how the Pa-O National Day occurred.

According to the Pa-O history, people annually commemorated the birth of Pa-O King Suriya Chanda that fell on the Full Moon Day of Tabaung by offering their first collection of crops at the Shwe Sar Yan Pagoda in Thaton that was built by the King who was born 2600 years ago. The

event later changed into National Day, which is an annual event in Shan, Mon and Kayin states and Bago and Yangon regions where the majority of Pa-O people are residing.

During the ceremony, Thaton Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Mar Mar Khaing read out the message sent by the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Members of parliament in Mon State, departmental officers, local residents including Kayin and Mon people attended the occasion where Pa-O dancing groups entertained with traditional dances.

In Kayah State, the commemoration of the Pa-O national day is held in Padar Nyay village in Loikaw Township.

After the official ceremonies, the chief minister of Kayah State donated Ks.one million to spend on the events held on national day. In Kayin State, the State level commemoration is held at

Yay Kyaw Gyi village in Hpa-An Township. The event will be held four days from 27 February to 2 March with sport competitions, Pa-O cultural contests and entertainment.

National day is celebrated at the township and village level across Kayin State. Shan, Mon, Bamar and Kayin people also participated in the celebration of national day.

In Danyingone Village, Kayin State's Hlaing Bwe Township, the ceremony to mark national day was observed with similar official ceremonies. Attendees proudly salute the national flag and Pa-O flag, senior officers read out messages sent by the State Counsellor, Minister for Ethnic affairs, and Kayin State's Prime Minister.

Pa-O students who passed the matriculation exam in the academic year of 2016-2017 were also awarded prizes.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Rakhine Traditional Shite-Thaungmyaut or sand pagoda festival to be held

RAKHINE traditional Shite-Thaungmyaut or sand pagoda festival was held many years ago. So, the traditional festival is held in order to preserve the traditional culture. The Rakhine Cultural Association has held the Shite-Thaungmyaut festival annually.

"The festival is held as a memorial to the ancient Rakhine Kings. People that attended the auspicious event made donations during the festival. The Rakhine traditional Shite-thaungmyaut festival will be held in a stately style"

said the chairman of Rakhine Culture Association U Kyaw Zan Maung.

The Shite-Thaungmyaut festival is one of the famous festivals that occur in Tabaung. The festival is held on the full Moon Day of Tabaung. The water level in the rivers and streams goes down so islands of sand emerge from beneath the water. So the sand pagodas on the broad sand banks along the river are built. The sand pagodas are washed away when the tide is high —Myanmar Digital News ■



People participate in the sand pagoda festival held annually. **PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS**

More visitors come to Kyaiktiyo than last year

THERE are many visitors and tourists who pay homage at the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda on the Full Moon Day of Tabaung according to an administrator from the pagoda.

"We are government staff from Nay Pyi Taw and we came to pay homage to the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda since there are four national holidays. We rushed to have a seat on the car traveling from Kim Moon Camp to Kyaiktiyo Mountain. So ad-

ministrators from the pagoda should arrange transportation for visitors systematically during these holidays" said a staff member from Nay Pyi Taw.

Fare from the Kim Moon Camp to the Kyaiktiyo Mountain is 2000 Ks for one person and there are a total of 150 shuttle buses. This year there were many more visitors who pay homage at the Kyaiktiyo Pagoda than last year. —Myanmar Digital News ■



Kyaiktiyo Pagoda also known as Golden Rock pagoda crowded with pilgrims on the Full Moon Day of Tabaung. **PHOTO: MDN**

Illegal fish farming lakes on farmlands to face action

FARMERS who misuse farmlands to practise fish farming will face legal action under section 20 of the Farmland Law, said U Han Tun, Yangon Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forest and Energy.

At the sixth regular meeting of the Yangon Region Hluttaw held yesterday, U Hla Toe of Kayan Township constituency (1) raised a question on the action being taken against illegal fish farming lakes on farmlands. Further, he called for the development of exclusive zones for the fishery and livestock sectors.

The Yangon region minister replied that the licence for fish farming, granted under the

Freshwater Fisheries Law, can be revoked at any time if the licensee is found to defy the provisions of the law. Farmlands are designated for growing crops only. However, if farm owners are found digging the land to create fish farming lakes, the authorities will take action against them under section 20 of the Farmland Law, said U Han Tun.

According to statistics provided by the Kayan Fishery Department, some 733 fish farmers in Kayan Township are working commercially on 6,540 acres. Nearly half of them are also engaged in farming. In a bid to enhance fisheries enterprises, the Yangon region government is

implementing a scheme with the Myanmar Fisheries Federation to adopt advanced farming methods. This scheme also includes a feasibility study to create a live-stock research zone in Kayan Township, noted U Han Tun.

Some 30,000-40,000 tonnes of fish from Kayan are sent to Yangon Sanpya market daily. There are five private hatcheries, as well as two hatcheries owned by the fisheries department, in Kayan. These hatcheries produce some 20 million fish larvae.

The licence fee imposed on a fish farming lake is Ks3,000 per acre, with the yearly revenue is valued at some Ks20 million. —GNLM ■