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President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho pay homage to the Buddha before donating 'soon' (day meal) to the Members of the Sangha. **PHOTO: MNA**

President and First Lady share merit for martyred leaders on 71st Martyrs' Day

ON the 71st Martyrs' Day, a donation ceremony was held at the Nay Pyi Taw Council Office Zabuthiri Hall yesterday morning, and merit was shared for the leaders who sacrificed their lives for the country. The ceremony was attended by President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho.

The ceremony was graced by Reverend Sayadaws and Sanghas, led by State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Maharahtaguru Maha Visutarama Zaygone Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddantaka Vithara. Also present at the ceremony were Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Myo Nyunt and wife Daw Htay Yi, Union Election Commission Chairman

U Hla Thein and wife Daw Aye Thida, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union Ministers, Union Attorney-General, Union Auditor General, Chairman of Union Civil Service Board, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Central Bank of Myanmar Governor, Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander, Deputy Ministers, Deputy Attorney General, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee members and their spouses, Permanent Secretaries, Directors General, invited guests and officials. **SEE PAGE-2**



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of General Aung San, pays tribute to General Aung San and Martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pays tribute to Bogyoke Aung San

Tens of thousands pay respects to Martyrs at Mausoleum on 71st Martyrs' Day

AT an event for the 71st Martyrs' Day held yesterday at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi laid a wreath at the monument of her father, Bogyoke Aung San, and paid silent homage.

The State Counsellor would be one of at least 100,000 in Yangon who came out yesterday to pay their respects to Bogyoke Aung San and the seven other leaders of the pre-independence government, and one bodyguard —Thakhin Mya, U Ba Cho, U Razak, U Ba Win, Mahn Ba Khaing, Sao San Tun, U Ohn Maung and Ko Htwe—all of whom were

assassinated 71 years ago.

Present at yesterday's event at the Martyrs' Mausoleum near the northern gate of Shwedagon Pagoda were 71st Anniversary of Martyrs' Day Convening Central Committee Patron Vice President U Myint Swe, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, **SEE PAGE-10**

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Secretariat, Bogyoke Aung San Museum jammed with visitors on Martyrs' Day

THOUSANDS observed the 71st Martyrs' Day yesterday at the Secretariat, the colonial-era building where Myanmar's national hero General Aung San was assassinated in 1947, along with eight other martyrs.

A throng led by Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe gathered at the mon-

ument, where the names of the Martyrs were inscribed, and observed two minutes of silence at 7am as the flag was lowered to half-mast in tribute to the fallen martyrs.

The room where General Aung San and his fellow Martyrs were assassinated were shown to the public through CCTV.

The building, which is more than 100 years old, is in the process of being restored.

A picture of the room, complete with tables and chairs arranged as they were at the time of the assassination, 71 years ago, was also shown to visitors.

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President and First Lady share merit for martyred leaders on 71st Martyrs' Day

FROM PAGE-1

First, President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho paid homage to the Buddha image in the hall and offered fruits, flowers, water and oil lamps.

Next, the President, First Lady and guests received the Five Precepts from State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Maharahtaguru Maha Visutarama Zaygone Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddantaka Vithara and listened to the Metta Sutta recited by the Sayadaws.

Later, President U Win Myint and wife Daw Cho Cho pro-

vided offertories to the Zaygone Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddantaka Vithara. This was followed by the offering of donations to the Sanghas by Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Myo Nyunt and wife Daw Htay Yi, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and wife Daw Aye Thida, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Sein Win, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Kyaw Tint Swe and Dr. Aung Thu, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr.



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho offer 'soon' (day meal) to Members of the Sangha yesterday at a Martyrs' Day ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Myo Aung and their wives.

After listening to the sermon delivered by the presiding Sayadaw, the President, First Lady and guests shared merits

gained with the fallen martyrs.

At 10.37 am, the President, First Lady and guests observed two minutes of silence honouring the martyred leaders.

At the end of the ceremony, the President, First Lady and guests offered 'soon' to the Sayadaws.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Ministers and Yangon Region Chief Minister offer meals to Sanghas at the Yangon City Hall on the 71st anniversary Martyrs' Day. **PHOTO: MNA**

71st Martyrs' Day ceremony held at Yangon City Hall

A TRADITIONAL ceremony for offering meals and sharing merits to fallen leaders was held yesterday at the Yangon City Hall on the 71st anniversary of Martyrs' Day.

Present at the ceremony were Union Ministers, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, deputy ministers, Yangon regional ministers and their wives, YCDC secretary and members, departmental heads, representatives of political parties and invited guests. First, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Chairman of State

Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maharahtaguru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabivamsa and listened to the recitation of the Metta Sutta.

Later, Union Ministers, Yangon Region chief minister and the deputy ministers offered offertories to the Sangha, listened to the sermon delivered by Thanlyin Minn Kyaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Panditha Bhaddanta Sandhima Bivamsa and then shared merits gained to Bogyoke Aung San and the fallen leaders.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Secretariat, Bogyoke Aung San Museum jammed with visitors on Martyrs' Day

FROM PAGE-1

The Parliament building in the same compound was opened to visitors.

The building will be open to the public until 21 July.

Meanwhile, the General Aung San Museum in Bahan Township was also crowded with visitors yesterday.

During the three-day special opening to public, from 19 to 21 July, to mark the 71st Martyrs' Day, the public was not allowed to visit the first floor of General Aung San's residence as the historic house could not withstand the weight and constant foot traffic of the crowds.

The rooms on the first floor were shown on an LED board in the compound of the house.

Officials said the public will be permitted to visit the first floor of the residence after 21 July.

The building, which is 97 years old, is structurally too weak to support a large number of visitors. The historic building will be renovated in the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year.—Hein Htet Lin ■



Bogyoke Aung San Museum crowded with visitors. **PHOTO: MNA**



Students visit the Secretariat in Yangon on the 71st anniversary Martyrs' Day. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and invited guests receive the Five Precepts given by Ashin Viriya (Dhamma Bheri) at her residence in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi offers 'soon' to Sanghas in memory of Martyrs

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi offered 'soon' (day meal) to Sanghas at her residence at No. 54 University Avenue Road in Bahan Township, Yangon yesterday morning in memory of her father, Bogyoke Aung San, and other martyred leaders.

The food offering was received by 15 Sanghas led by Taungzun Sayadaw Ashin Viriya (Dhamma Bheri). Present at the event together with the State Counsellor were Vice President U Myint Swe and wife, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and wife, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Le-

gal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann and wife, Union Peace Commission Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win and wife, Deputy Minister for the Office of the President U Min Thu and wife, National League for Democracy patron U Tin Oo and wife, relatives and friends.

Before the donation to the Sanghas, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and invited guests received the Five Precepts given by Ashin Viriya (Dhamma Bheri). Following this, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and guests shared merits of their good deeds and offered meals to the monks.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor offering 'soon' (day meal) to Sanghas at her residence in Yangon yesterday in memory of Bogyoke Aung San and other martyrs. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Multi-religious prayer service for National Leader Bogyoke Aung San

IN commemoration of the 71st Anniversary of Martyrs' Day, a multi-religious prayer service was held in memory of Bogyoke Aung San at the residence of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Bahan Township at 3.30 pm yesterday.

First, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and representatives of various faiths observed a two-minute silence in honour of Bogyoke Aung San, followed by welcoming remarks by the State Counsellor.

Later, Myanmar Hindu Federation Women Group joint

secretary Suganthi, Chief Convener for the Islamic Center of Myanmar Al Haj U Aye Lwin, Jewish religious leader U Sammy Samuels, Baha'i Faith Federation member U Tin Zaw Min and Vice-chair of the Myanmar Council of Churches Bishop U Myat San prayed for Bogyoke Aung San in their respective religious rites, followed by Rev. U Kyaw Nyunt, who delivered a prayer.

Those present at the ceremony then spoke words of virtues according to their religious teachings, and the ceremony



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi prays for national leader Bogyoke Aung San and other martyred leaders together with other religious leaders at her residence in Bahan Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

came to a close after Father Edward Sein Myint gave a blessing. After the ceremony, the State Counsellor posed for a documentary photograph together with the guests.

Present at the ceremony were Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr. Shwe Hlwan, Daw May Yin Htun, wife of the Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, Deputy

Minister for the Office of the President U Min Thu and wife Daw Lwin May Thein, personnel responsible for various religions and invited guests.— Myanmar News Agency ■

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71st Martyrs' Day ceremony held at NLD headquarters

IN honour and memory of the Martyrs, led by Bogoyoke Aung San, the 71st anniversary of the Martyrs' Day ceremony was held at the headquarters of the National League for Democracy (NLD) in Bahan Township yesterday morning.

Before the ceremony began, a minute's silence was observed by members of the central executive committee of the NLD, the public and students at 10.37 am, the time at which Bogoyoke Aung San and the Martyrs were assassinated. Later, the ceremony began by saluting the national flag of Myanmar, Bogoyoke Aung San and martyred leaders and observing an eight-second silence for those who sacrificed their lives for the democracy movement.



NLD members hold 71st anniversary of the Martyrs' Day ceremony at their headquarters in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

Next, Chairperson of the ceremony, NLD Central Executive Committee secretariat member U Nyan Win, delivered an opening speech and member of the NLD central executive committee U Thein Oo read the

71st anniversary of Martyrs' Day announcement and messages.

The ceremony was attended by members of the NLD central executive committee, Deputy Speaker of the Yangon Region Hluttaw U Lin Naing

Myint, Yangon Region minister for electricity, industry, and roads and communications Daw Nilar Kyaw, veteran politicians, diplomats, members of the NLD and other invited guests.

"Martyrs' Day ceremonies are now being held not only at the Martyr's Mausoleum but also in townships throughout the whole country in memory of the Martyrs who sacrificed their lives for independence and for the public. Young students in Myanmar should have such a spirit from a young age itself," said Deputy Speaker of the Yangon Region Hluttaw U Lin Naing Myint.

The NLD released a nine-point announcement at the ceremony, it is learnt.—Zaw Gyi ■

Security forces, TNLA clash in Namhkam, Shan State

A Tatmadaw column conducting area clearance work in Namhkam Township, Manwun village tract in northern Shan State clashed with about 30 Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) armed personnel on the afternoon of 11 July, resulting in at least eight deaths and one injury, according to government sources.

One member of the Tatmadaw was wounded slightly, and eight bodies of TNLA person-

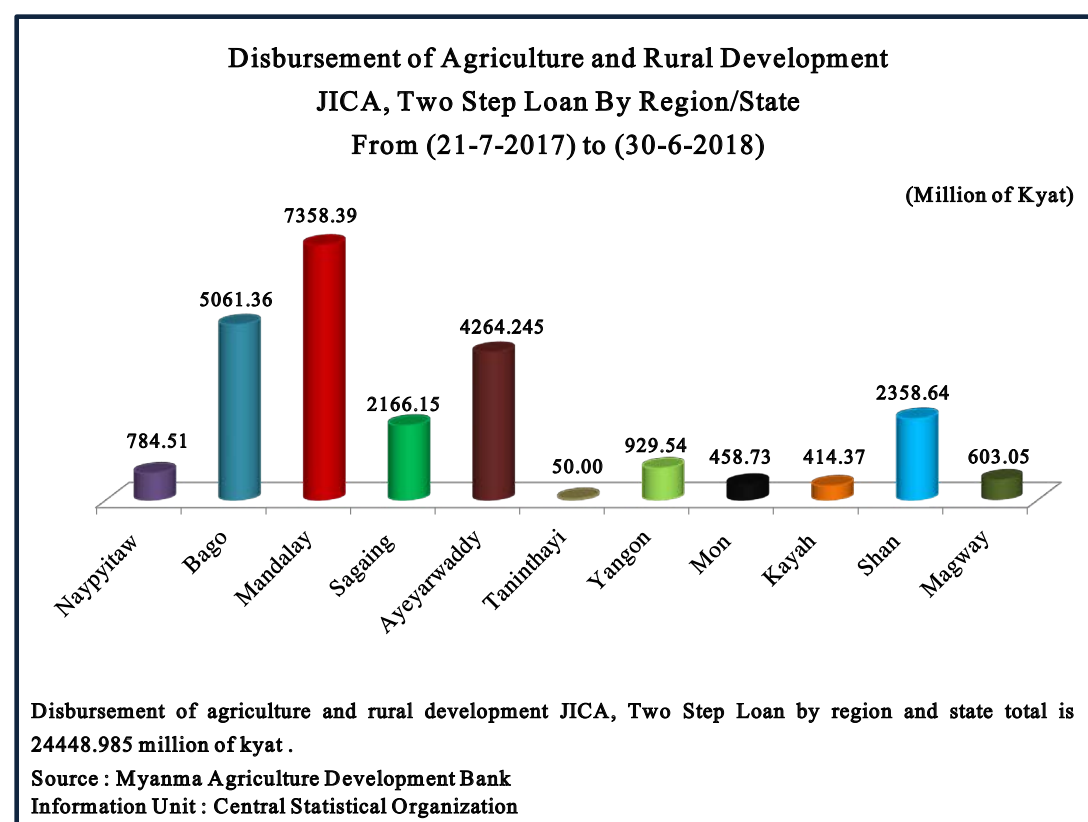
nel were recovered from a light truck that crashed down into a ravine. Three weapons were also recovered from the Toyota Hilux Double Cab that had been carrying at least 11 people. The eight bodies, five female and three male, were dressed in TNLA camouflage uniforms.

Two M-22 rifles, one M-21 rifle, 8 magazines, 132 bullets, eight sets of equipment and three hand grenades were recovered from the site. The bod-

ies received a proper burial that same afternoon, according to government sources.

Further investigation revealed that the Toyota Hilux was owned by New Day Asia Mining Company, which had been granted mineral exploration rights in Mantung Township. U Sai Kyaw Aye and three others from the company were reportedly in the vehicle when the incident occurred. According to military sources, they were

travelling in the Toyota Hilux on 11 July to buy provisions in Namhkam when TNLA armed personnel hitched a ride. When the clash between the Tatmadaw and the TNLA occurred, U Sai Kyaw Aye and U Sai Pe Win were both wounded on the arm and the leg. They were being treated in a hospital in Mansi, China according to a news release from the Tatmadaw True News Information Team.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Drugs seized in Momauk

YABA, heroin powder and opium were seized from the house of two women in Momauk Township, Bhamo District, Kachin State, on 18 July.

Acting on a tip off, police searched the house owned by Daw La Phine Ywe, 75, and Daw Lwan Kyu, 47, at 7-mile Aung Myay village, Momauk Township, and found 3,200 Yaba tablets, heroin powder weighing 2.25 grams from 12 small plastic bottles and opium weighing 124 grams and Ks200,000, which was received from the sale of drugs, and one mobile phone from their room. Police have filed charges against both suspects.—Win Naing (Kachin Land) ■

State Counsellor: Only by remembering country's history, one learns what to do and what not in future

Interviewed by Khin Maung Htwe, Win Win Maw, Nanda Win
Photo by Zaw Min Latt, Ye Htut

IN his incomplete autobiography, he wrote of dreaming as a child to gain independence for the coun-

try by using the power of "live mercury", an alchemist's weapon in Myanmar folklore. He went through a politician's life from secretary of Dobama Asiayone to father of the Tatmadaw Thirty Comrades, and at the age of 32, was assassinated on 19 July 1947. It's the 71st anniversary of the day

on which Myanmar's independence architect Bogyoke Aung San and leaders were felled.

It was due to the martyred leaders, led by Bogyoke Aung San, that the Republic of the Union of Myanmar became a sovereign state in the world.

True to the saying "Martyrs

never die", national leader Bogyoke Aung San and the other martyred leaders have not been forgotten by the people of Myanmar.

The public came to pay respects in remembrance of Bogyoke Aung San and other martyred leaders at the 2018 71st anniversary

sary Martyrs' Day observance.

As per tradition, Bogyoke Aung San's daughter, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and union-level officials came to the Martyrs' Mausoleum yesterday to pay their respects. Myanmar News Agency conducted an interview during this time.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

THANKS to the public for coming to pay their respects, and in remembrance of the history of our country. Only by remembering the history of our country, can we learn lessons on what to do and what not in the future.

I don't need to say whether to remember or forget. People will remember what they must not forget. If something ought to be forgotten, they will forget it. I have no right to say what to remember and what to forget. This is a personal decision of all. What we ought to note, what we ought to remember. It is the duty of each individual as a citizen to correctly decide what to forget and what to remember.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat

WHENEVER it is Martyrs' Day, we remember and honour those who have given the ultimate price for our country's independence. I always resolve to follow and carry on the process of the martyred leaders. New generation need to know how lives were sacrificed to retain the sovereignty of our country.



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

I foresee all of us striving in unity toward the united, peaceful and developed country, envisioned and attempted by martyred leaders, led by Bogyoke Aung San. How will the new generations do to develop the country? How will they achieve peace and tranquility for the country? How will they make the country united? They will have to strive for this. They will have to do this thoughtfully. They should not do it on their own different ways. If there is unity, everything will progress. We need to look at other countries and think. Another thing is to have a united and fair mind. Without being fair and doing things as we want, it will be impossible. We need to gauge it this way.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than

MARTYRS' Day is a day when we honour those who gave their lives for our country. If we love and cherish the Martyrs, we need to listen to what they said and follow the process set by them. Only then can we love and cherish the Martyrs. Martyred leaders, led by Bogyoke Aung San, gave their lives for the good of the country. Future generations have a duty to fulfill their wishes by following



the process set by them and listen to the Martyrs' words to develop the country.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko

TODAY is the 71st anniversary Martyrs' Day. Ethnic nationals and the people are happy that this day is celebrated in such a way. Due to the selfless acts and sacrifice of the martyred leaders, independence was gained after a hundred years of being a colony. We stand proudly in the world as an independent sovereign country. We owe a lot to them. But during the 71-year period, there were times when facts about the martyrs were dimmed. It reached a stage where the new generation could have forgotten about Martyrs' Day and the martyred leaders. When a new democratic government came into being in 2010, the day was held as a union-level event and biographies of the

martyrs resurfaced.

Biographies about the leader of the martyrs, national leader Bogyoke Aung San, started to be written after independence, around 1950-51. It stopped in 1958 and was not permitted to be published. Throughout 1958, 1960 and 1962, and after 1988, permission to publish it was not granted. The work of writing a biography of Bogyoke was also stopped halfway and forgotten. On the second term of a democratic government, I took upon the duty as Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture as well as chairman of the Myanmar Historical Commission. The Myanmar Historical Commission was reformed as necessary. After it was reformed, historians said there is a biography of Bogyoke that was partially done and forgotten. So it was written for completion and is almost 100 per cent completed.

ed. It has been submitted to the leader of the country, the State Counsellor. After some required editing, it is ready for publishing. It is written from historical, political, military and social angles. I'd like to say that this is ready. The biography of Bogyoke does not only represent Bogyoke Aung San, but represents all the martyred leaders who sacrificed their lives for the country. On the other hand, since 2012, a biographical movie about Bogyoke Aung San was being prepared. After five years, this was suspended due to many reasons. As I was assigned to start this after taking up the duty of the Bogyoke Aung San biography movie work committee chairman, we are conducting the necessary preparations. Five meetings have already been held. Donations totalling more than Ks1.2 billion was also received. If required, more donations will be

collected. Director Min Htin Ko Ko Gyi will submit the script in the sixth meeting scheduled for the end of July. After the script is submitted, the work of making the movie can be started.

Actors like Ko Kyaw Kyaw Myo and Sayamalay were accommodated in national theatre, and necessary trainings and teachings are given.

The making of the movie is expected to start soon, by the end of July or early August. Evidence and historical facts for the biography were obtained by contacting relevant defence, home and information ministries. The history of Bogyoke is the history of the Tatmadaw. Bogyoke's history is the country's history. It is an important work, and I'm honoured and happy to take up this duty.

Talking about Martyrs' Day, essay writing and painting com-



petitions related to Martyrs' Day were being widely conducted again throughout the country. The National Museum (Yangon/Nay Pyi Taw) is also displaying grandly about Martyrs' Day. Arrangements are being made for students to visit the museums. In other words, the ministry is striving towards making the new generation know of the efforts of the martyrs to gain the country's independence.

Families of Martyrs pay tribute to fallen leaders



U Ye Aung Than, nephew of U Aung San Oo, son of General Aung San, pays tribute to General Aung San and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of General Aung San, pays tribute to General Aung San and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



Family members of Thakhin Mya pay tribute to Thakhin Mya and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



Family members of Deedok U Ba Cho arrive at the Martyrs' Mausoleum to pay tribute to Deedok U Ba Cho and martyrs. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



Family members of Mahn Ba Khaing arrive at the Martyrs' Mausoleum to pay tribute to Mahn Ba Khaing and martyrs. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



Family members of Mahn Ba Khaing pay tribute to Mahn Ba Khaing and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



Family members of U Ba Win pay tribute to U Ba Win and martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

Families of Martyrs pay tribute to fallen leaders



Family members of Mongpon Sawbwa Sao San Tun arrive at the Martyrs' Mausoleum to pay tribute to Mongpon Sawbwa Sao San Tun and martyrs. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



Family members of U Razak arrive at the Martyrs' Mausoleum to pay tribute to martyrs. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



Family members of U Ohn Maung arrive at the Martyrs' Mausoleum to pay tribute to U Ohn Maung and martyrs. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



Family members of Yebaw Ko Htwe pay tribute to martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

Diplomats, political parties pay tribute to fallen leaders



Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Vikram Misri lays a wreath as a tribute to martyrs. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



Representatives of ethnic political parties pay tribute to martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

Vaccinations keep children healthy, save lives

LAUDING efforts made by countries to save more and more lives through immunization, including during public health emergencies, the World Health Organization recently called for further acceleration of efforts to reach the nearly five million unvaccinated children in WHO’s South-East Asia Region.

“It is critical to identify who are missing vaccinations and reach them with life-saving vaccines. Equity and improving vaccination coverage is the key to preventing resurgence of diseases, especially the ones eradicated with painstaking efforts, and for further reducing diseases and deaths among children,” said Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia, inaugurating a recent three-day meeting of the Immunization Technical Advisory Group in New Delhi.

Myanmar’s urban immunization intensification is targeting 29 townships, while many countries in the region are also making impressive efforts for vaccination.

The WHO South-East Asia Region records about 37 million births every year, and of them over 88 per cent are now getting three doses of diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT) vaccines annually, an indicator of basic vaccination coverage.

Myanmar aims to achieve the goals and milestones of the National Immunization Program, which includes achieving zero polio cases, eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus, eradicating measles and controlling rubella and congenital rubella by 2020.

As part of the efforts for reaching its goals, the country conducted a nationwide immunization campaign during the second year in office of the incumbent government against 11 childhood diseases. Meanwhile, health care services together with medical check-ups were provided to over 8.7 million school children in the country. Deworming of students was also conducted twice in basic education.

As a result, every child has a chance to get vaccinated through the government’s nationwide immunization program. These are vaccines against Japanese Encephalitis, rotavirus that causes diarrhea, and the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) that can cause cervical cancer.

With increasing numbers of children suffering from Japanese Encephalitis, Myanmar has successfully launched a nationwide immunization campaign aimed at protecting 12.6 million children from the ages of 5 months to 15 years across the country.

Mapping hard-to-reach areas and populations, addressing social and cultural and other barriers to access immunization services, and closely monitoring these activities for progress, should be among our immediate priorities. Growing political commitment, stronger partnerships, and the relentless efforts of thousands of health workers and vaccinators are collectively helping save millions of lives in the region. With continuing efforts, even more lives can be saved. Thanks to vaccines, dangerous diseases are quite preventable today. For the health and well-being of your children, and the community in general, please have them vaccinated. ■

Centenary Birthday of Sayamagyi Daw Kyan, writer researcher

Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

THE Centenary Birthday of Ma Kyan, writer researcher, was most fittingly celebrated on the 10th waning of the first Waso 1380 ME (Saturday, 7 July 2018) at 1pm at the Sarpay Beikman Hall in downtown Yangon. Ma Kyan, in good health and spirit, personally graced the occasion with her presence.

Leading organizers of this event were writers Thura Zaw, U Aye Cho (M.A.), Aung Moe Saung and December Mon. Friends and fans of Ma Kyan are preparing to publish an anthology of essays about her to be titled, “Centenary History — Devi” [ရပြည့် သမိုင်းခေဝီ].

The writer of this article was bound to be present at that ceremony for many reasons. Firstly, though Ma Kyan was eleven years his senior in age, she happened to be his pupil in the M.A. class at the Department of Modern History and Political Science, University of Yangon, from 1954 to 1956. Secondly, she and the writer were the two most junior tutors in the Department of English when Professor U Myo Min advised them to transfer to the Department of Modern History and Political Science, where there was the prospect of promotion, unlike his own department where many junior staff were blocked from promotion. Professor U Ba Nyunt willingly accepted Ma Kyan and the writer, as not only his own department was extending but also another department, i.e. the Department of the Far East History, would be opened, where U Kyaw Thet, a doctorate degree holder from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, was to become its professor. So she and the writer met at Professor U Ba Nyunt’s department, but in two different positions. She was a tutor and a pupil in the writer’s class of Political Science. The writer, as a lecturing tutor, had to take the lecturing duty when Professor U Ba Nyunt was abroad to attend academic conferences.

The writer came to learn about his pupil Ma Kyan, who later came to become his colleague in historical research at home and abroad and in writing of Myanmar history and compilation of the official biography of Bogoyoke (General) Aung San.

Ma Kyan told the writer some exciting events of her own life. She hailed from a town named Taungpy, situated at the border of Rakhine State, and near Pyay. She was a Rakhine Myanmar and a well-educated daughter of a middle-class family. She joined the Kyaukpyu Post Office as a clerk. Due to her integrity and efficiency in financial accounts, she was promoted as an accountant in that office. Not long after that promotion, her integrity and courage were challenged by an unexpected and exciting event. After Myanmar regained independence in 1948, the entire country was plunged into insurgencies. Government offices and public facilities were attacked, looted and destroyed. Kyaukpyu was no exception.

One late afternoon, a group of insurgents rushed into Ma Kyan’s Kyaukpyu Post Office and,



at gunpoint, ordered her to surrender all the cash to them. Ma Kyan calmly said, “At gunpoint, I have but to surrender. I’m a faithful Government servant. If I give cash to you with my own hands, I’ll be cooperating with you in this crime. So, take these keys and open the safe and get the cash by yourselves.”

When the insurgents had taken the cash, Ma Kyan made a demand to them.

“You have got what you wanted. Now please comply with my request. I have to prove to my boss that the cash in the safe has been taken away by insurgents. So as a proof, sign a letter saying that you have taken the cash on this day, date and hour.”

It was incredible, but the insurgents did sign the letter, before taking away the cash from the Kyaukpyu Post Office. Here we could not but admire Ma Kyan’s integrity and courage, but also the integrity of the insurgents. At gun point, Ma Kyan, a lady, had the courage to demand the insurgents to sign a letter saying that they took away the cash as a proof. The insurgents were honest enough to sign the statement that they took the cash.

Many years passed by, and Ma Kyan, after she got an M.A. degree, became an assistant lecturer at the Far East History Department. When the Myanmar Historical Commission was formed by Prime Minister U Nu, under the chairmanship of Sithu U Kaung, and later, under Mr. G.H. Luce and U Pe Maung Tin, Ma Kyan was recruited as a Senior Research Officer [S.R.O.]. Later, she was joined by Dr. Daw Yee Yee, who had obtained her doctorate degree from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. But she was many years junior in age to Ma Kyan. These two ladies had two commonalities. Firstly, both of them love history, research and writing. Secondly, the two had remained single. To use the typical English word for single women is ‘spinster.’

Before the industrial revolution in the late 18th century, England was an agricultural country. In the country side all males were involved in farm or field work. All females were occupied in their daily chores. Spinning the wheel to get good fine thread for weaving takes hours the whole day. As females did that job, their minds were also spinning when they would get a lover or a life partner. If a single woman had got more than one lover, her mind was spinning whom she should choose. If she failed to decide but got lost in spinning, her age gradually advanced and she became an ‘old spinster.’ In Myanmar, old spinsters are called ‘apyogyi’ အပိုကြီး who later got married to Lubyo Gyi [old male bachelors] or who would adopt her nephews, nieces or pet animals to accompany her in her life.

“The writer met Ma Kyan and Dr. Daw Yee Yee in London from 1956 to 1960. The writer was a Ph.D. student at the London School of Economics (LSE) and Political Science, London University. The two apyogyis Ma Kyan and Daw Yee Yee were at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University. While living within the means of our allowances, we tried to cook our daily meals. So we usually meet at the butcher’s or slaughter house, fish store or green grocery shops when buying vegetables. Sometimes we would meet at tea or coffee shops, like A.B.C. or Lyon’s Corner. On Sunday, we would meet at cinema halls that sold tickets at a discount for students. On other days, we would meet at second-hand bookstores at Charing Cross, Oxford Circus or Piccadilly Circus.

When the writer returned home with a Ph.D. degree from LSE, he became a lecturer. The two apyogyis became Senior Research Officers.

Another round of a cycle of change came, when the writer was appointed the Director General of Fine and Performing Arts, and a year later, the Director General of Myanmar Historical

Research Department. The two posts were held simultaneously but was paid only one salary.

Here, as the DG of Myanmar Historical Research, the writer met the two apyogyis or single ladies Ma Kyan and Dr. Daw Yee Yee. They both insisted the writer not to use ‘spinster’ or ‘apyogyi’ when addressing their names. The writer willingly accepted their insistence adding, “of course you still have time for marriage.” The writer was married with five children by then.

At the 100th Birthday celebration of Ma Kyan on 7 July at the Sarpay Beikman Hall, we met Ma Kyan in good health and in good spirit. The writer has noticed that history professors, lecturers and researchers live long lives.

Buddha had said that there are four major factors in causing death (1). Kama [your own doing] (2). Sitta [mind] (3). Udu [Climate] and (4). Ahara [food]. Though nothing is permanent, one can prolong one’s life if one can avoid the above mentioned factors.

Whenever the writer calls Ma Kyan in a directly-translated English word ‘Miss Remainder’ or ‘Miss Left-Behind,’ Ma Kyan said the spelling of my name is မြန် not ကျန် “ရသန်ကြန်” not ”သင့်ကျန်” ကြန် not ကျန် ကြန် meaning, ‘full of good features.’ “ကျန်” means remainder or left behind. Ma Kyan is ‘full of good features and not the remainder or left-behind.’ Teasingly, the writer told her that Ma Kyan, therefore, still has the chances to marry and she would jokingly reply, “Of course, why not even at this age of 100?”

H.E. Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint graced Ma Kyan’s Centenary Birthday celebrations at the Sarpay Beikman Hall on 7 July, not only with his presence but also with his inaugural speech remarks, in which he said that people involved in historical research, writing and compiling Burmese dictionary, encyclopedia Birmanica and Myanmarsar, and Historical Commission live long lives. The writer agrees with his remark. History Professor Dr. Kyaw Thet lived beyond 80, his wife Mary Kyaw Thet beyond 90, Professor U Ba Nyunt beyond 80, and his wife Daw Ohn Khin 100 years. U Thein Han (Zawgyi) beyond 80, his wife 100 years. Dr. Ohn Khaing was beyond 80, Dr. Than Tun 83, and the writer himself is now 89 years. An old student of the writer came up to him and said “Sayagyi, I’m sure you’ll also live up to 100 years. We now honour Daw Kyan with the title ရပြည့် သမိုင်းခေဝီ, you will surely get to ရပြည့် သမိုင်းခေဝီ 100 years old Devi - so keep it up”.

For an hour and a half, greetings, homages, presents, cash and kind showered upon Ma Kyan, in the same way rain was pouring outside. Ma Kyan shed tears of delight and appreciation.

The Birthday cake was cut and shared, with everyone joining in the chorus, ‘Happy Birthday to you.’

The evening TV program covered that event in full. Long live Ma Kyan! ■



၂၀၁၈ ခုနှစ်၊ ဩဂုတ်လ (၁၁-၁၂-၁၃) ရက်၊ (စနေ၊ တနင်္ဂနွေ၊ တနင်္လာ) နံနက် (၉) နာရီမှ ညနေ (၅) နာရီအထိ မန္တလေးတက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်တန်းတိုင်း ကျင်းပမည်ဖြစ်သည့် သုတေသီ သိပ်ဆင်နွှဲနိုင်ပါသည်။

Weather bureau: Low-pressure system could cause flooding in Hinthada and Bago townships

ACCORDING to observations made yesterday afternoon by the Meteorology and Hydrology Department, a low-pressure weather system over the northwest portion of the Bay of Bengal persists, resulting in a vigorous monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

The department has warned people who live near the river bank and low-lying areas of Hinthada and Bago townships to take precautionary measures, as the water level of Ayeyarwady River at Hinthada Township and the water level of Bago River in Bago Township are each one foot below the danger level.

Rising waters may reach

dangerous levels over the next two or three days, according to the observations of the weather department.

Yesterday, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department forecasted increasing rainfall in coastal areas.

There will be rain showers or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and neighboring areas. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along the Myanmar coast. The surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 m.p.h and the wave height will be some 9-14 feet off and along the Myanmar coast. —GNLM

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 19th July, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30)hrs M.S.T today, A low pressure area has formed over the Northwest Bay of Bengal. Monsoon is vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 20th JULY, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kachin, Northern Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, (Eastern and Southern)Shan and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (100%). **STATE OF THE SEA:** Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (9 -14)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong to vigorous monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th JULY, 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th JULY, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR Mandalay AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th JULY, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).



People pay tribute to Martyrs' who were assassinated 71 years ago at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon on the 71st Martyrs' Day yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

Tens of thousands pay respects to Martyrs at Mausoleum on 71st Martyrs' Day

FROM PAGE-1

71st Anniversary of Martyrs' Day Convening Central Committee Chairman Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Central Committee Vice Chairman Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, senior Tatmadaw officers from Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, Yangon Command Commander, Deputy Ministers, Hluttaw representatives, 71st Anniversary of Martyrs' Day Convening Central Committee and work committee members, departmental officials, families of the martyrs and invited guests.

Before the laying of the wreaths, the State Counsellor, the 71st Anniversary of Martyrs' Day Convening Central Committee Patron Vice President U Myint Swe, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker

U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing cordially greeted the families of the Martyrs.

After greeting the families, U Myint Swe, U T Khun Myat, Mahn Win Khaing Than, U Htun Htun Oo, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Union Ministers paid tribute to the Martyrs by placing wreaths in front of the monuments of the Martyrs.

At that moment, the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was lowered to half-mast, the guard of honour paid tribute with a multiple gun salute and a military bugle sounded the Last Post. A two-minute silence was observed to honour and pray for



(1st row, left to right) Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat, Vice President U Myint Swe, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pay tribute to Martyrs at the Martyrs' Mausoleum yesterday. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**



Representatives of the War Veterans Organization pay tribute to Martyrs at the Martyrs Mausoleum yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

Bogyoke Aung San and the martyred leaders.

Following the ceremonial tributes, on behalf of Bogyoke Aung San's son U Aung San Oo, nephew U Ye Aung Than and daughter of Bogyoke Aung San State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and families of the Martyrs also laid wreaths in front of the monuments.

Yangon Region Chief Minister and regional ministers, Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw, Hluttaw representatives, representatives from political parties, associations, UN agencies, European

Union and foreign embassies then paid tribute to Bogyoke Aung San and the Martyrs.

Among the organizations and associations that laid wreaths and paid tributes were Myanmar War Veterans Organisation, Myanmar Fire Services Department, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanma Motion Picture Asiayone, Myanmar Music Asiayone, Myanmar Thabin Asiayone, Myanmar Artists and Sculptures Asiayone (Central), Myanmar Writers Asiayone, Myanmar Journalists Association, Myanmar Press Council, Myanmar Women's Affairs

Federation and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

A total of 51,071 persons from the public paid their respects on 71st Martyrs' Day at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon. A few kilometres away in Bahan Township, 20,213 members of the public visited Bogyoke Aung San Museum, while 19,726 members of the public visited the Ministers' Office, also known as the Secretariat, in Botahtaung Township, where Bogyoke Aung San and leaders were assassinated.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Turkey ends 2-year state of emergency, seeks to keep some powers

ISTANBUL — Turkey's state of emergency which was imposed after the failed 2016 coup came to an end on Thursday, but the opposition fears it will be replaced by even more repressive legislative measures.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared the state of emergency on July 20, 2016, five days after warplanes bombed Ankara and bloody clashes broke out in Istanbul in a doomed putsch bid that claimed 249 lives.

The measure, which normally lasts three months but was extended seven times, ended at 1:00 am on Thursday (2200 GMT Wednesday), the state-run Anadolu news agency said, after the government decided not to ask that it be extended for an eighth time.



The Turkish government has proposed new legislation which would enshrine key elements of the state of emergency into law, allowing the state to ban certain protests and bar individuals on security grounds. **PHOTO: AFP**

The state of emergency saw the detention of some 80,000 people and about double that number sacked from jobs in public institutions. The biggest purge of Turkey's modern history has targeted not just alleged supporters of

Fethullah Gulen, the US-based preacher blamed for the coup, but also Kurdish activists and leftists.

The former leaders of the opposition pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) -- Figen Yuksekdog and Selahattin Demirtas -- are still languishing in jail following their arrest in November 2016 on charges of links to Kurdish militants.

Same measures, different name

During last month's presidential election campaign, which he won, Erdogan pledged that the state of emergency would end.

But the opposition has been angered by the government's submission of new legislation to parliament that apparently seeks to formalise some of the harshest

aspects of the emergency.

The bill, dubbed "anti-terrorism" legislation by pro-government media, will be discussed at commission level on Thursday and then in plenary session on Monday.

The main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) said the new measures would amount to a state of emergency on their own.

"With this bill, with the measures in this text, the state of emergency will not be extended for three months, but for three years," said the head of the CHP's parliamentary faction, Ozgur Ozel.

"They make it look like they are lifting the emergency but in fact they are continuing it," he added. —AFP ■

19 drown, dozens missing as migrant boat sinks off Cyprus

NICOSIA (CYPRUS) — At least 19 migrants drowned and up to 30 were missing Wednesday after their boat sank in the Mediterranean off the north of Cyprus, local security forces said.

The boat was carrying 150 people, reportedly Syrians, when it went down off the coast of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot-controlled portion of the island, which is only recognised by Ankara.

More than 100 people were rescued in a joint operation by Turkish Cypriot and Turkish coastguards after the boat sank off the village of Gialousa (Yeni Erenkoy in Turkish) on the panhandle Karpas peninsula. At least 19 drowned and between 25 and 30 were still missing, the Turkish Cypriot security forces (GKK) said in a statement.

The Turkish coastguard said in a statement that the accident took place 30 kilometres (18 miles) off the shore of northern Cyprus. It said that 103 survivors had been rescued.

One was taken by helicopter to Cyprus in grave medical condition, the GKK added.



Map locating the site of a migrant accident off the coast of Cyprus. **PHOTO: AFP**

The other 102 were taken by boats to the port of Tasucu in Turkey's southern Mersin region where they arrived Wednesday evening, Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency said.

The 19 bodies of the dead were also taken to Tasucu for autopsies. One of the survivors was a three-year-old child, while a woman who drowned was pregnant, the *Hurriyet* newspaper said.

Search efforts were underway to recover the missing with commercial vessels also taking part, according to reports. Turkey's DHA news agency said those on board the vessel were Syrians seeking to go to Europe but this had yet to be confirmed.

'Cemetery for refugees'

Cyprus, some 160 kilometres (100 miles) from Syria's coast, has not seen the massive inflow of migrants experienced by Turkey, Greece and Italy although asylum applications have risen sharply.

According to the International Organisation for Migration, 47,637 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea up to July with only 47 entering Cyprus. In the same period, 1,404 people lost their lives in the crossings, mostly those trying to cross from Africa to Italy or Malta. Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops invaded and occupied the northern third of the island in response to a Greek military junta-sponsored coup.

"The Mediterranean must stop being a cemetery for refugees," Turkish Cypriot president Mustafa Akinci said after the disaster.

Turkey has however been one of the hubs for migrants and refugees fleeing Syria and other trouble spots like Afghanistan and Iraq.

More than a million people, many fleeing the war in Syria, crossed to European Union member Greece from Turkey in 2015 after the onset of the bloc's worst migration crisis since World War II.

Turkey struck a deal with the EU in 2016 in an effort to stem the flow of migrants, and agreed to take back illegal migrants landing on Greek islands in exchange for incentives including financial aid. — AFP ■

Syria rebels agree to surrender zone bordering Golan



A picture taken from the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights shows smoke rising after unidentified air strikes inside Syria on 18 July 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

BEIRUT — Syrian rebels have agreed with government backer Russia to the negotiated surrender of a sensitive southwestern zone bordering the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, a monitor said Thursday.

Quneitra is a thin, crescent-shaped province that lies along the buffer zone with the Israel-occupied Golan to the west.

Rebels have held most of the province and the buffer for years but would hand over their territory as part of the surrender deal, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

"The deal provides for a ceasefire, the handover of heavy and medium weapons, and the return of government institutions to the area," said Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman.

Syrian police forces would take over current opposition

territory in the buffer zone, he told AFP.

Those that refuse the terms of the agreement would be granted safe passage to opposition territory in northern Syria, he added.

A member of the rebel delegation to the talks confirmed to AFP that a deal had been reached for government forces to enter the buffer zone but said it was unclear when it would be implemented. State news agency SANA said it had preliminary information on a deal for the army to return to its pre-2011 positions in the area, but did not provide more details.

The deal, according to the Observatory, does not include Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, a jihadist-led alliance that holds territory straddling the provinces of Quneitra and neighbouring Daraa. — AFP ■

Google hit with record-breaking EU fine

BRUSSELS — The EU hit Google with its biggest ever fine Wednesday, imposing a 4.34 billion euro (\$5 billion) penalty on the US tech giant for illegally abusing the dominance of its operating system for mobile devices.

Brussels accused Google of using the Android system's near-stranglehold on smartphones and tablets to promote the use of its own Google search engine and shut out rivals.

The decision, which follows a three-year EU investigation, comes as fears of a transatlantic trade war

mount because of President Donald Trump's decision to impose tariffs on European steel and aluminium exports.

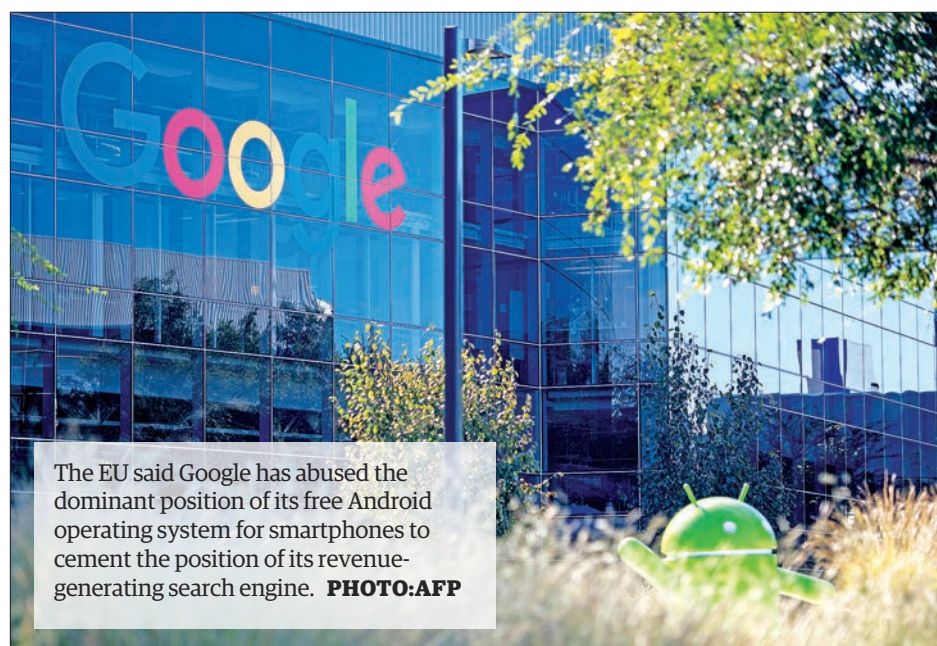
"Google has engaged in illegal practices to cement its dominant market position in internet search," EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said as she announced the huge fine.

The new sanction nearly doubles the previous record EU antitrust fine of 2.4 billion euros, which also targeted Google, in that case for the Silicon Valley

titan's shopping comparison service in 2017.

Denmark's Vestager ordered Google to "put an effective end to this conduct within 90 days or face penalty payments" of up to five percent of its average daily turnover.

The Google decision comes just one week before European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker is due to travel to the United States for crucial talks with US President Donald Trump on the tariffs dispute and other issues.—AFP ■



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Dated 20th July 2018

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UK police identify Novichok suspects as Russians

LONDON — British police believe that they have identified the suspects who carried out the Novichok nerve agent attack on a former Moscow double agent and his daughter and that they are Russian, the Press Association reported Thursday. "Investigators believe they have identified the suspected perpetrators of the Novichok attack through CCTV and have cross-checked this with records of people who entered the country around that time," a source with knowledge of the investigation told PA, the British domestic news agency.

"They (investigators) are sure they (suspects) are Russian," the source added. Scotland Yard police headquarters refused to comment on the report when contacted by AFP.

Ex-Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia collapsed in the southwestern English city of Salisbury on March 4 after being exposed to the nerve agent Novichok. Both have since recovered.

Britain blamed Russia for the poisoning of Skripal, a former military intelligence colonel who was jailed for betraying Russian agents to Britain's MI6 foreign intelligence service.

He left Russia for Eng-



British reports say the police believe the suspects who attacked a former Moscow spy and his daughter with the deadly Novichok nerve agent in the southwestern city of Salisbury are Russian. PHOTO: AFP

land in a 2010 spy swap.

Russia has strongly denied involvement in the Skripal attack, sparking a diplomatic row that has led to tit-for-tat diplomatic expulsions between Britain and its allies and Moscow. Murder probe

Two Britons fell ill in June after being exposed to Novichok. Experts are seeking to establish whether the toxin was from the same batch used against the Skripals. Charlie Rowley, 45, and his 44-year-old partner Dawn Sturgess, collapsed at his house in Amesbury, a town close to Salisbury, within hours of each other on June 30. Sturgess died on July 8, while Rowley has regained consciousness and is in stable condition. The Sturgess death is being investigated as murder. PA said inves-

tigators believe Sturgess was exposed to at least 10 times the amount of nerve agent as the Skripals came into contact with. Police have said it was detected in a "small bottle" at Rowley's house. Rowley's brother Matthew told the BBC that the 45-year-old had told him the Novichok was contained in a perfume bottle. Investigators are working to the theory that Sturgess sprayed Novichok straight onto her skin, the PA source said.

Analysing samples

An inquest into the death of Sturgess was to open on Thursday at Wiltshire and Swindon Coroner's Court in Salisbury.

In English law, inquests are held to examine violent, unnatural or unexplained deaths. They set out to determine the

place and time of death as well as how the deceased came by their death, but do not apportion blame.

The inquest will be formally opened but then adjourned to a later date.

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons said its inspectors had collected samples in the Amesbury case and returned to the organisation's headquarters in The Hague on Wednesday to begin analysing them.

The OPCW said in a statement that it had received a request from Britain on Friday to provide technical assistance. They deployed a team to "independently determine the nature of the substance" alleged to have resulted in the death of Sturgess and the poisoning of Rowley. "The OPCW team collected samples. The samples will be sent to two OPCW designated laboratories and once the results of the analysis are received, the report will be submitted to the United Kingdom," it said. Police have recovered more than 400 exhibits, samples and items as part of the investigation into the death of Sturgess. "Searches are still expected to continue for several weeks, if not months," Scotland Yard has said.—AFP ■

‘It was a miracle’: Thai cave boys describe two-week ordeal

CHIANG RAI — It was meant to be a fun excursion after football practice, but it turned into a life-threatening, two-week ordeal for a group of youngsters trapped in a cave with rising waters and no apparent escape route.

When coach Ekkapol Chantawong led twelve members of his “Wild Boar” youth football team into the mouth of northern Thailand’s Tham Luang cave complex on 23 June, he thought they’d be no more than an hour.

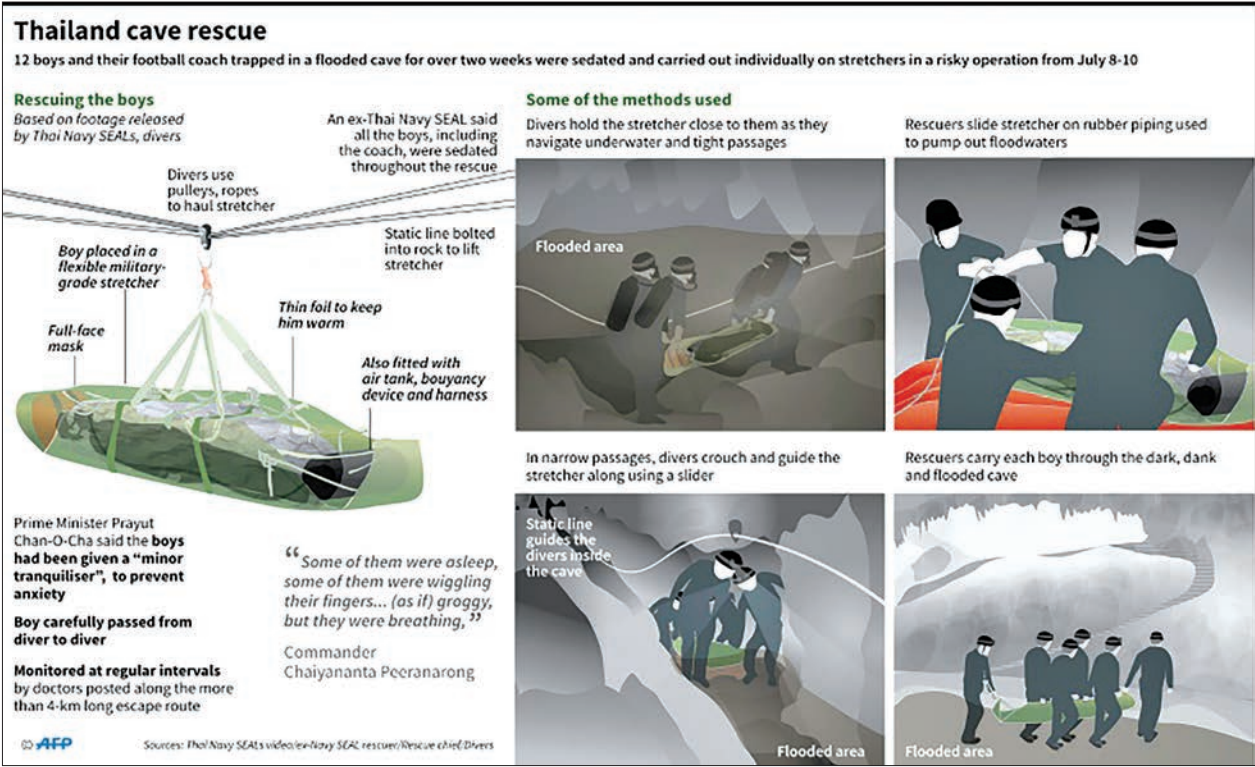
“We didn’t have anything with us, no food,” he recalled at a press conference on Wednesday where the now world famous team recounted their harrowing ordeal and miraculous escape in their own words for the first time.

One of his pupils had a tutor class to get to later that evening. And besides, Ekkapol thought, the team often explored the complex after practice and knew its meandering tunnels well.

Thailand’s wet season was just around the corner — a period of monsoonal downpours that often floods the cave — and there were already pools of water inside the mouth.

A sign outside the cave warned against entry during the monsoon. But the kids were keen to have an adventure.

“We were discussing whether we wanted to explore the cave and,



Thai cave rescue. PHOTO: AFP

if so, how we would have to swim,” the 25-year-old coach, a much-loved mentor to the boys, recalled. “It would be wet, it would be cold. Everybody said yes.”

The team, aged 11 to 16, left their bikes and football boots near the opening of the cave before one of the boys waded into the water. The rest followed.

Trapped in the dark Had the heavens not opened, the Wild Boars would have been home by mid-afternoon.

Instead a sudden deluge forced them deep inside the cave as floodwaters rushed through the entrance and steadily rose up the walls.

That fateful decision sparked one of the most remarkable, touch-and-go cave rescue operations in history.

It brought Thai Navy SEALs and international cave diving experts together to pull off the fiendishly difficult task of first locating the missing boys and then extracting them through miles of flooded passageways, as a breathless world looked on.

One former Thai Navy SEAL, Saman Kunan, died when his air ran out during a resupply mission.

Trapped in the dank, pitch-black darkness, the boys had no idea whether anyone was even coming for them — let alone that

they had generated non-stop global headlines.

“I was really afraid that I wouldn’t be able to return home,” 13-year-old Mongkol Boonpiem, recalled.

Fortunately they had a fresh water supply.

“We drank water that fell from the rocks,” Pornchai Khamluang, the 16-year-old boy who first waded into the water, told reporters. “It was clean and tasted like any drinking water.”

As the hours turned into days, the boys did what they could to keep their spirits up — coach Ekkapol, who spent some years in a local monastery as a Buddhist monk,

taught them how to meditate to keep calm and preserve air.

They had little concept of time but the first time they went to sleep they prayed, Ekkapol said.

‘Miracle’

Calm camaraderie saw them through but there were moments of terror.

The rising floodwaters kept pushing the group deeper into the cave. At one point they started trying to dig their way out, a futile illustration of their desperation in a cave system buried under hundreds of metres of limestone.

“We used rocks to dig

out the cave wall,” said Phanumas Saengdee, 13. “We dug three to four metres”.

Eventually the team settled on a small muddy ledge some four kilometres inside the cave, figuring all they could do was hope someone would find them.

Salvation came on day nine in what to the boys seemed like the most unlikely of forms. The team heard voices but the language they were speaking was not Thai.

Two British cave diving experts, who had spent days battling the flooded passages, had finally located the stranded group.

Adul Sam-on, 14, was the only member of the Wild Boars who could speak English.

“When he (the diver) emerged from the water I was shocked that he was British,” he recalled. “It was a miracle, I was frightened and I asked him ‘Can I help you?’”

In video of the scene that was captured by one of the diver’s bodycameras and later broadcast around the world, the bedraggled boys, dressed in mud-caked football kits, could be seen thanking their rescuers.

“Many people are coming. Many, many people,” the diver reassured the boys.

They were no longer lost or alone. The rescue mission was on.—AFP ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (105 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (105 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD0101N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD0101N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/ AWPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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'Equalizer 2': first sequel for Denzel, director Fuqua

HOLLYWOOD—Like the Dark Knight without the gadgetry or Deadpool without the snark, The Equalizer is an avenging angel, delivering justice from the end of a steel-capped boot for those who have a problem and nowhere else to turn.

The character, former black ops operative-turned-vigilante Robert McCall, was made famous by the late British actor Edward Woodward, who played him on 1980s TV as a cross between Jack Reacher and a mildly irritated actuary.

Denzel Washington took over the part in filmmaker Antoine Fuqua's big screen version in 2014 and reprises the role in "The Equalizer 2," out in the United States on Friday.

Incredibly, this will be the first sequel ever undertaken by Washington or Fuqua, who have made a combined 60 movies — four together — over four decades.

"When I did 'one' I didn't think about 'two' because I think you would fall into a dark hole. You never know you're going to get a chance again and you've got to leave it all on the field," Fuqua



(L-R) Actors Ashton Sanders, Denzel Washington and Melissa Leo co-star in director Antoine Fuqua's "The Equalizer 2". **PHOTO: AFP**

told AFP.

"I just gave it all I had on the first one, and that's that movie. When it came up about 'two' I said, 'Let me read it to see — if you didn't know anything about (number) one, and this was a movie on its own, would it hold up?' And it did."

'Dark angel'

"The Equalizer 2" sees McCall — an outwardly ordinary man with devastating combat skills — coming to terms with grief, reading Marcel Proust and working as a Lyft driver, while beating up baddies by night.

His past catches up with him and he ends up in a deadly game of cat and mouse, pitted against an adversary he was least expecting. For Fuqua, part of the franchise's appeal lies in its repurposing of the ancient mythology of the "dark angel" meting out brutal justice for the downtrodden in a world that usually denies them the privilege.

In the violent conflict between McCall and his enemies, the movie articulates its resonant central dilemma: how can people be held to account for their transgressions when the very concept

of morality is under threat?

"Our moral compass says you should pay for what you do in life, and that's what separates us from animals," Fuqua said.

"The people who have lost their way feel like it's just shit people do to one another and that it doesn't really matter or have any consequences. That's not a good thing and that's a bad place to be, because then you have no moral compass and your humanity has been lost."

The film's supporting cast includes Bill Pullman, Melissa Leo and Ashton Sanders, the 22-year-old rising star who won acclaim for his performance as the teenage Chiron in 2017's best picture Oscar winner "Moonlight."

Role model

Sanders plays Miles, a young man who lives in McCall's building in Boston and looks up to him as a mentor.

Lacking a positive role model, Miles looks like he might be getting into the kind of trouble that could soon put his life in danger, or even end it, when McCall steps in.

The student-mentor relationship came naturally, says Sand-

ers, since he and Washington, 63, clicked immediately.

On the shoot, Washington would offer his protegee the benefit of his nearly 40 years of showbiz experience.

"I remember being on set that first week, and just being super-nervous, psyching myself out when I didn't need to," Sanders told AFP.

"We were in between takes, and Denzel comes out to me, sees me across the room and he's like, 'Hey I noticed you over here -- what's going on?'"

Sanders says he explained his problem and Washington simply reminded him he'd been picked based on his audition, that he had already shown he was good enough.

"That was the first week and I wasn't trusting myself over something that had nothing to do with acting," Sanders said, flashing a grin at the thought of the confidence boost Washington gave him.

"It just intervened, like got in the way of what I was trying to create. That's something that I still carry with me to this day." —AFP ■

Baptism at sea for first women to join France's nuclear subs

ILE LONGUE (FRANCE)—Drinking a bowl of seawater followed by a glass of champagne, four French officers stood out during the traditional "baptism" to mark their inaugural submarine patrol: the first women to join a crew in the country's nuclear-powered fleet.

"I'm proud to have become part of the submarine family," said Harmonie, a 27-year-old security specialist on Le Vigilant, after returning from her first 10-week mission on the sub.

"I'm ready to go out again," she added.

France has become just the third country to bring women on-board its nuclear-powered subs, which operate much longer and isolated missions than traditional vessels, after the US and Britain.

And officials hope the four women will inspire others to join them.

"The navy needs recruits. Today women make up 15 percent of its ranks, they're an asset for us and we want to keep recruiting them," said Captain Christian Houette, command-



The Vigilant, one of France's four nuclear-armed submarines, recently saw its first female crew members for a 10-week mission. **PHOTO: AFP**

er of the four nuclear-powered, nuclear-armed subs in France's dissuasion force, based on the Ile Longue peninsula near the western city of Brest.

The nuclear subs were the last element of the French navy to exclude women, reflecting concerns about the sacrifices required for long missions, as well as difficulties in adapting personnel quarters in such tight spaces.

"Some crew members were a bit reluctant, with questions that were largely practical, they

wanted to know if it would disrupt their routines: sleeping quarters, bathrooms..." said Mathieu, second-in-command on the Vigilant.

Like most crew members, he could give only his first name in line with navy rules.

Officials also had to take into account the concerns of sailors' wives, Mathieu added, diplomatically. "In the end, their integration has been extremely smooth. Having proved their qualifications, these women have earned their place aboard in the same way as any other sailor." —AFP ■

Giant Jeff Goldblum statue erected in London

LONDON — A 25-foot statue of actor Jeff Goldblum in his open-shirted and reclining pose from "Jurassic Park" has been erected here to celebrate the film's 25th anniversary.

The statue, a homage to the character of Dr Ian Malcolm played by Goldblum in the 1993 Steven Spielberg directed film, was built and erected by subscription service Now TV.

"Twenty five years ago, 'Jurassic Park' (and one of the best moments in movie history) was born. A quarter of a century later, we introduce you to #JurassicJeff," a Facebook post from Now TV stated.

The statue, weighing 150.2 kgs, is situated at Potters Field Park which is on the banks of the River Thames near Tower Bridge. It will stay at its spot until July 26, according to CNet.

The 65-year-old actor took to Instagram to praise the statue and said it deserved "10/10 GOLDBLUMS!". The actor had recently opened up about shooting the iconic scene and revealed that it was not scripted.

Talking to reporters, Goldblum had said, "I don't think it was in the script. It's supposed to be Costa Rica, right? So things are hot and I'm sure I'm in some sort of fever. So all the logic is that we got to get some of these wet clothes off immediately. As I remember, I don't think anybody fought me on that."

He returned to the franchise with a cameo in "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom", which released last month.



Actor Jeff Goldblum. **PHOTO: PTI**

"Jurassic Park", directed by Steven Spielberg, hit cinemas in 1993 and quickly became the highest-grossing film released worldwide up to that time. It also featured Sam Neill, Laura Dern and the late Richard Attenborough. —PTI ■

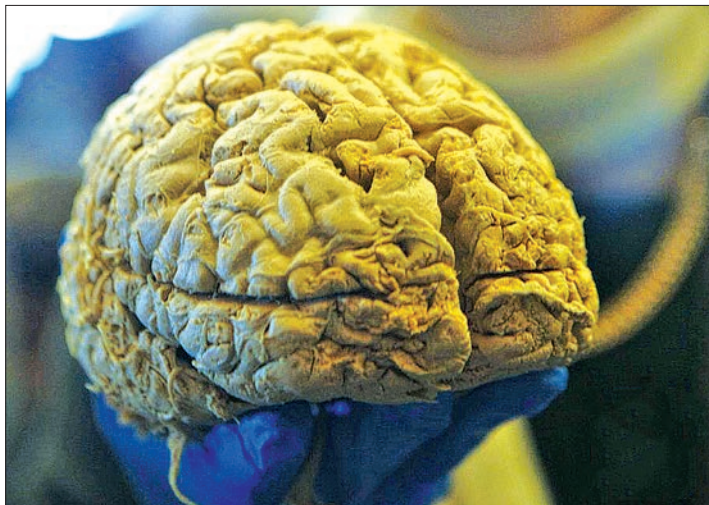
Protein key component in irregularly excited brain cells

CHICAGO— Researchers at the University of Illinois (UI) have identified a key protein involved in the irregular brain cell activity seen in autism spectrum disorders and epilepsy.

Using a mouse model of Fragile X syndrome, the most common inherited autism disorder, the researchers discovered a molecular mechanism involved in the inability to regulate excitability. The protein p53, well-known in cancer biology as a tumor suppressor, is present in higher-than-normal levels in irregularly excitable neurons.

In an earlier study, the researchers found that p53 in neurons breaks down when normal neurons are at a higher excitable state. In the new study, researchers found that p53, which doesn't break down normally in Fragile X neurons, triggered a cascade of reactions that interfered with the normal signal to return to a calmer state.

"We don't yet know all the parts of this cascade, but we did find that p53 interferes with another important protein, Nedd4-2, that is associated with epilepsy," said Nien-Pei Tsai, a UI profes-



A resident takes a look at a human brain specimen at the Brain Health Fair held at Vancouver Convention Centre in Vancouver, Canada on 15 April 2016. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

sor of molecular and integrative physiology who led the new research. The researchers tested the cellular effect of reducing the protein by knocking down the p53 gene in their mouse model. They also inhibited the protein in neurons grown in cell culture with a drug used in cancer research to see the effect in communications between groups of neurons and one-to-one synaptic connections.

"We found that in both cases, removal of the p53 protein and inhibition of the protein,

the connections between synapses and groups of neurons were able to return to a normal, stable state," Tsai said. "These findings show a previously unknown, and very strong, role that p53 is playing in irregular brain cell function." The findings, which have opened new avenues for understanding the factors that contribute to these developmental disabilities, have been published in the journal *Human Molecular Genetics and Neuropharmacology*. — Xinhua ■

Aussie scientists use radio waves to track space junk

SYDNEY— The same radio transmissions that Australians listen to in their cars will now be used to track space junk in the earth's orbit, in an Australian first technique launched in the State of Western Australia (WA) on Thursday.

Space junk is a term for "all the bits and pieces left over from all the rocket launches over the last four decades, which have accumulated in the Earth's orbit," project lead scientist, Prof. Steven Tingay from Curtin University told Xinhua.

Using radio telescopes at the Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory in outback WA, and existing FM transmissions from around the country, scientists can track the reflections off objects in space.

"Obviously those FM transmissions make their way to our car radios and that's how we listen to music and whatever," Tingay explained, "but a lot of that radio wave energy is transmitted into space, and a very small fraction of it is reflected off space junk."

"We can detect that reflected signal with our radio telescope

and track where it is in the sky, using that information to give some level of warning about possible collisions."

Space junk collisions are a very expensive concern for any operation with technology in use in the earth's atmosphere.

"Back in 2009 there was a very impressive collision between two very large objects," Tingay said, "one was an old non-operational Russian satellite and one was an active communications satellite."

The objects, which were travelling at over 42,000 km per hour, were destroyed and thousands of pieces of new debris were scattered into Earth's orbit.

While conventional optical methods for tracking space debris are only possible at night and without cloud cover, radio waves can be used at all times of day and regardless of weather.

By utilizing FM signals which are already there, the method saves money and acts as an early warning system for the trillions of dollars worth of technology in Earth's orbit which we rely on for our daily lives. — Xinhua ■

In China, yellow robots deliver snacks to your home

BEIJING — Along a quiet residential street on the outer edges of Beijing, a yellow and black cube about the size of a small washing machine trundles leisurely to its destination.

This "little yellow horse" is an autonomous delivery robot, ferrying daily essentials like drinks, fruit and snacks from the local store to the residents of the "Kafka" compound in the Chinese capital.

Equipped with a GPS system, cameras and radar, the robots are seen by their creator as the future of logistics in China, where he says one billion packages will eventually be delivered every day.

Travelling at a less than overwhelming three kilometres (two miles) per hour — a slow human walk — the robot has room for improvement, said one customer as she removed a packet of nuts from its bowels.

"The weak point is that it cannot deliver directly to the door like a human," said the customer, who does not live on

the ground floor.

"But it's still quite practical. The robot delivers relatively quickly," she said.

The robot takes advantage of Chinese consumers' love of cashless payments and smartphone shopping.

China is the world's biggest online shopping market with more than half of its population making at least one smartphone purchase per month, according to professional services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers. This compares to 14 percent in the rest of the world.

Whether buying electronics or toilet paper, avocados or clothes, Chinese are used to simply tapping a button on their smartphone and getting a home delivery — sometimes several per day. To get a delivery via the "little yellow horse", the customer selects the desired products, taps in the address and pays via their phone. The supermarket staff place the items in the robot, and the robot bustles off.

One billion packages

Liu Zhiyong, founder and CEO of Zhen Robotics, which manufactures the robot, sees a bright future for his yellow creation.

"At the moment, there are 100 million packages delivered every day in China. It will be one billion in the future," Liu told AFP.

"There will not be enough humans to make the deliveries. We need more and more robots to fill this gap in manpower. And to reduce costs," added the CEO.

These costs are especially high in the last kilometre of a delivery, where precision is key and a customised service is required to get the product to the front door.

At the moment, the yellow robots in the Kafka compound have little to trouble them, moving along a wide pavement with no obstacles — and no cars.

Weighing 30 kilograms (around 65 pounds) and with a theoretical top speed of 12



A delivery robot makes its way back to a supermarket after making a delivery during a demonstration in Beijing. **PHOTO: AFP**

kilometres per hour on their six wheels, the robots have four cameras constantly scanning the world around them and a laser tele-detection system allowing them to avoid obstacles.

Liu's firm has already signed up Suning, a large electronics firm that also runs a network of small supermarkets.

But not everyone is convinced the robots are a long-term logistics solution.

Shao Zhonglin, former dep-

uty secretary-general of the China Express Association, noted they were useful "over a short range".

"It's not certain however that they can be a broad solution for the final kilometre of delivery. Because the client still has to come down to get his package," added Shao.

"Plus the costs remain quite high: buying and maintaining the robots, operating costs, etc." — AFP ■

Yangon Academy U-13 earns silver in youth football tournament

By Lynn Thit (Tgi)

REPRESENTING Myanmar, the Yangon Academy U-13 youth football team secured the silver medal at Yutthaya Asian Youth Football Festival 2018 held in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya City in Thailand.

Myanmar narrowly missed winning the gold medal in a 0-1 loss on Monday to the Thailand

club PPT Rayong Academy.

Myanmar played with maximum effort from the kick-off, but all their scoring chances were blunted by the good defending skills of the team from Thailand.

The winning goal for Thailand's PPT Rayong Club was a superb free kick by Papangkorn Yodsaphon in the second half. ■



Yangon Academy U-13 youth football team and its football authorities seen with the silver trophy and medals at Ayutthaya Asian Youth Football Festival 2018 in Thailand. **PHOTO: MFF**

Liverpool close in on record 75 million euro deal for Alisson

LONDON — Brazilian international Alisson is expected to sign for Liverpool on a five-year deal worth 75 million euros, a world record for a goalkeeper, media reports suggested Wednesday.

The 25-year-old, who

currently plays for Roma in Italy, is cutting short his vacation to undergo a medical on Merseyside after being given permission to talk to Liverpool.

"An official announcement should follow in the next 24 to 48

hours," claimed the Liverpool Echo.

The deal will cost the Anfield giants 75 millions euros (£67million), smashing the amount paid to Benfica by Manchester City for Alisson's compatriot Ederson last summer.

Liverpool are desperate to sign a new goalkeeper to replace Loris Karius following his calamitous Champions League final performance.

Chelsea have also been linked with Alisson who began his career with Internacional before moving to Roma two years ago.

Italian website Forza Roma, which is affiliated to newspaper *La Gazzetta dello Sport*, published a video which it said showed Alisson at Rome's Ciampino airport.

It said he was preparing to board a private jet to Manchester and was on his way to Liverpool for a medical on Saturday.

Alisson spoke in the video, saying: "Greetings to Roma fans. I'm sorry but I cannot say any more, I'll say everything later."—AFP ■

Footballers picked for Alpine Cup are both old and new, coach says

ANTOINE Hey, the recently hired head coach of the Myanmar national men's football team, said yesterday that the 26 players on the squad list for the upcoming Alpine Cup 2018 in Mandalay are a mix of veterans and newcomers.

Of the 26 players on the roster for the Alpine Cup that will be held from 1 to 5 August at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay, only four players are over 23 years of age, the coach

said. Training for all 26 players selected to participate in the tourney will begin training on 23 July in Mandalay. All are considered key players for the national team. As one of the four football giants invited to compete in Alpine Cup 2018, Myanmar will play against the U-19 South Korea team as an opener on 1 August, the U-23 Bahrain team on 3 August and the U-23 Thailand team on 5 August.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Qatar ploughs ahead with World Cup plans despite crises

DOHA — Last year, Qatar's finance minister Ali Sharif Al-Emadi said his country was determined to have everything ready for the 2022 World Cup well before fans started landing in the Gulf.

"We don't want to be painting while people arrive in the country," he said, before going on to reveal Qatar is spending almost \$500 million (430 million euros) a week on infrastructure projects for football's biggest tournament.

It is highly unlikely that any visitor to the World Cup is going to see rushed last-minute preparations.

With four and a half years

until the 2022 World Cup kicks off, Qatar is ahead of schedule when it comes to venues, related major projects and even paint.

Of the eight stadiums it will build or renovate for 2022, one — Khalifa International — is already open and will host the World Athletics Championships next year.

Two more, Al-Wakrah and Al-Bayt stadiums, are expected to be finished by the end of this year and officially opened early in 2019. Work is also well underway on Lusail Stadium, where the World Cup final and opening game will be played in 2022.—AFP ■

Liverpool appear close to signing Brazil goalkeeper Alisson.
PHOTO: AFP

