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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pays homage to her late father Bogyoke Aung San as she attends the 70th Martyrs' Day at the Martyrs Mausoleum. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

70th Martyrs' Day observed

MYANMAR officially observed Martyrs' Day yesterday, the 70th anniversary of the assassination of independence heroes including General Aung San, father of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, with a state ceremony at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi laid

a wreath at the tombs of the martyrs, including that of her father Bogyoke Aung San, and eight other leaders who were assassinated in 1947.

The State Counsellor paid her respects as hundreds of spectators, officials, observers and security personnel looked on.

Before the ceremony, the State Counsellor, Vice-President U Myint Swe, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, 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 greeted fam-


ilies of the fallen martyrs at a hall in the Martyrs' Mausoleum.

The Vice President, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, the Union Chief Justice and the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services paid tribute to the fallen martyrs by placing wreath of the Republic of the

Union of Myanmar in front of the mausoleum.

With the Myanmar flag flying at half-mast, a guard of honour paid tribute with a gun salute. Those present observed two minutes of silence to pay tribute to General Aung San and the other martyrs.

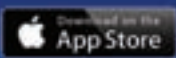

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70th Martyrs' Day observed

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Following the ceremonial tribute, families of the martyrs including U Hla Pe, on behalf of General Aung San's son U Aung San Oo, and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi paid their respects and laid wreaths in front of the monument.

Then, the Yangon Region Chief Minister, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Yangon Region Hluttaw, Regional Ministers, parliamentarians, representatives from political parties, associations, UN agencies, the European Union and foreign embassies in Myanmar paid tribute and laid wreaths at the Martyrs' Mausoleum.

Among the organizations which laid wreaths and paid tribute were Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar Fire Services Department, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayone, Myanmar Artists Asiayone, Myanmar Sculptures Asiayone, Myanmar Publishers and Distributors Asiayone, Myanmar Writers Asiayone, Myanmar

Journalists Association, Myanmar Press Council, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

General Aung San, the founder of Myanmar's armed forces, led the fight for Burmese independence from British colonial rule. He died at the age of 32, just months before the country gained independence on 4th January, 1948.

Myanmar's national flag was flown at half-mast across the country yesterday to mark the event.

A siren was sounded by Myanmar Radio and Television at 10:37 am local time to observe the time of the assassination of the martyrs.

All over the country at the same time, people stopped walking, workers paused and drivers sounded their horns for about a minute in commemoration.

In Yangon, following the official ceremony, the martyrs' mausoleum was opened to the public.

In Bahan, the Aung San



The State flag is flying at half-mast at the Martyrs Mausoleum. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Museum was opened at 6 am in honour of Martyrs' Day. Until 23 July, admission to both locals and foreigners will be free.

Downtown, the Secretariat building where Bogyoke Aung San and other leaders were

gunned down on 19 July, 1947, will be opened to the public for the next three days.

This year, the cabinet room in which they were assassinated will be available for viewing by the public. The room had been

turned into a Buddhist shrine room until last year. It has since been restored with the same table and chairs the leaders used for the cabinet meeting when they were assassinated 70 years ago.—Myanmar News Agency ■

VP U Henry Van Thio arrives in New York

Vice President U Henry Van Thio landed in New York City yesterday to attend the 3rd UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters.

U Hau Do Suan, Permanent Representative of Myanmar, welcomed the Vice President at John F Kennedy

International Airport.

Afterwards, the Vice President attended a lunch hosted at the Myanmar Embassy then continued on to the Lexington New York Hotel where he will be staying for the duration of his trip.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice President U Henry Van Thio arrives at John F Kennedy International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi extends greetings before prayer service for General Aung San. **PHOTO: MNA**

Prayer service for Bogyoke Aung San

In commemoration of 70th anniversary of Martyrs' Day, a multi-religious prayer ceremony was held as a memorial service to Bogyoke Aung San, at the residence of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the State Counsellor, in Bahan township, at 3:30 pm yesterday.

Firstly, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and representatives of respective faith took one-minute silence to pay tribute to Bogyoke Aung San, followed by greeting speech by State Counsellor.

Afterwards, Secretary of All

Myanmar Hindu Federation U Kyaw Thu, organizer of Islamic teaching Beikman El Hajj Dr Saung Lwin Aung, Jewish religious leader U Sammy, Bahai Faith Federation member U Shwe Thee, Yangon Catholic Church Assistant Priest John Saw Yaw Han gave words of loving kindness and prayed for General Aung San in their respective religions. And, Reverend Dr Zaw Win gave prayers.

Those present at the ceremony, spoke words of the virtues of their religious teachings, with

U Lu Aye giving blessings and the ceremony came to an end. After the ceremony, State Counsellor posed for the documentary photo together with the guests.

Present at the ceremony were Dr Shwe Hlwan, wife of Vice-President U Henry Van Thio, Union Minister for State Counsellor Office Ministry U Kyaw Tint Swe, Deputy for the Ministry of President's Office U Min Thu, responsible personnel from multi-religious foundation and invited guests.—Myanmar News Agency ■

President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady attend ceremony to share merits with fallen martyrs

President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin were present at a merit sharing ceremony held for the benefit of national leader Bogyoke Aung San and his colleagues who sacrificed their lives for the country at Zabuthiri Hall in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Office at 10 am on 19 July.

At the ceremony, Reverend Sayadaws led by Abhidhaja Maharithaguru Maha Visutarama Zaygone Monastery Sayadaw delivered religious sermons. The ceremony was attended by the 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 and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Union Ministers, Union Attorney General, Union Auditor General, Chairman of Union Civil Service Board, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, Deputy Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council Members and their wives, invited guests and responsible officials. All those present at the ceremony received the Five Precepts from the Sayadaws and listened to the Metta Sutta recited by the Sayadaws, and offered offertories to the monks.

First of all, President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin offered “soon” (a meal offered to monks), fruits, flowers, holy water and candle lights. Next, the Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Myo Nyunt and wife Daw



President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady offer “soon” — a ceremonial meal for a monk — yesterday at a Martyrs’ Day ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Htay Yi, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and wife, Daw Aye Thida and Deputy Commander in Chief of Defence Services and Commander in Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Nwe offered donations to

Sanghas. Afterwards, Union Minister Lt-General Sein Win, Lt-General Ye Aung, Dr Aung Thu, U Thant Sin Maung and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung provided offertories to the Sanghas. After listening to sermons delivered by the pre-

siding Sayadaw, President, the First Lady and those present at the ceremony shared merits gained with the fallen martyrs. After the ceremony, the President, the First Lady and guests offered “soon” to the Sayadaws. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Martyrs’ Day in Mandalay and nationwide

The Regional Government of Mandalay commemorated the 70th Martyrs’ Day in Mandalay Town Hall yesterday. The Sangha Chairman of Mandalay Region, Sayadaw Baddantha Wisseita Biwantha and other esteemed monks received ‘soon’ offerings at the town hall.

The commemoration event was attended by Mandalay Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung and his wife Dr Yu Yu May, other region ministers of Mandalay, Hluttaw representatives, representatives of political parties, city elders and other invited guests. The attendees all received the five precepts from the presiding Sayadaw.

Another commemoration for Martyrs’ Day was held in Mandalay’s Mandalar Thiri Stadium. Attendees saluted the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Bogyoke Aung San and the fallen heroes by remaining silent for

two minutes.

Afterwards, Mandalay Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Commander of the Central Command Major General Win Bo Shein, members of political parties and the general public set down wreaths of flowers in honour of the martyrs.

This was followed by the Chief Minister and entourage touring the art exhibition for Martyrs’ Day organized by the Mandalay Region Information and Public Relations Department.

In other parts of the country, Myanmar workers paused at 10:37am in order to remember the assassination of Gen. Aung San and eight other leaders 70 years ago.

In Yangon yesterday morning, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi laid a wreath at the tombs of the fallen martyrs. — Tin Maung Sub-Printing House ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi offer “soon” to Sanghas at her residence in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor offers “Soon” to Sanghas at memorial service to the country’s martyrs

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor offered “Soon” (a day meal) to Sanghas at her residence on University Avenue in Bahan township, Yangon yesterday morning at a memorial service to her father Bogyoke Aung San and eight other fallen leaders.

Present at the ceremony were 15 Sanghas led by Taungzun Sayadaw Ashin Viriya (Dhamma Bheri), at-

tended by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor, U Myint Swe, Vice-President, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann, Deputy Minister for the President Office Ministry U Min Thu and re-

sponsible officials, Patron of the National League for Democracy U Tin Oo, relatives and friends.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and audience members received the Five Precepts given by Ashin Viriya (Dhamma Bheri), offering donations to Sanghas. Following that, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and guests shared merits of deeds, offering the meal to the monks. —Myanmar News Agency ■

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe,
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**Mark Angeles,
markrangeles@gmail.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSKhin Maung Oo,
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Khin Maung Win (Chief Proof Reader),
Zaw Min, zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Sandar Soe
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTERS**May Thet Hnin,
mayreporter.mmm@gmail.com
Tun Aung Kyaw,
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team),
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax — (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.



(From Right to Left) Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Vice President U Myint Swe, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint and Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo pay tribute to martyrs at mausoleum.
PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Sale of 70,000 books in Commemoration of Martyrs' Day

Zaw Gyi (Panita)

A ceremonial sale of 70,000 books in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of Martyrs' Day was held at the Yangon Book Plaza on the 5th floor of Than-zay in Latha township, Yangon yesterday. The book fair began at 9 am, but at 10:37 am, when Bogyoke Aung San and other leaders were assassinated 70 years ago, sirens wailed, songs composed for Bogyoke and the other martyrs were sung and Bogyoke's speeches were played for the literary admirers.

Yangon Book Plaza founder and writer Myay Hmone Lwin said yesterday he would like to inspire the passion of reading.

"I would like our youths to read books, like our martyrs did", he said. "Youths need to peruse



Visitors crowd at a ceremonial sale of books in commemoration of the 70th Martyrs' Day. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)**

so that they can build the country that they want to see.

So, we are selling books at specially reduced prices or bar-

gain-basement prices, which just cost only that of a cup of coffee. The real essence of the book fair is to send our books into the

hands of youths. We are selling myriads of categories within the reach of youths."

In addition to books on martyrs, comics, cartoons, translations, novels, stories, poems and other publications were sold. The prices of the books ranged from Ks200 to Ks500, it is learnt.

Ko D Ye, a bibliophile from Hlinethayar Township said the low cost of books at Yangon Book Plaza will hopefully spark learning for the new generation.

"Here abounds a variety of books. With the reasonable prices, I come here frequently. Such a book sale is very good for youths to acquire knowledge", he said.

The book fair will be held from 19 July to 26 July from 9 am to 7 pm. Yesterday, the Yangon Book Plaza was crowded with students for its lower prices. ■

The Netherlands assists Myanmar with crop protection law

MYANMAR and the Netherlands are working on a new law to improve Myanmar's agricultural and forestry quality control, according to an article in yesterday's editions of Myawady Daily newspaper.

A Hluttaw legal advisory team is working with the Office of the Attorney General to improve the Plant and Pest Quarantine Law of 1993, so control import of potential invasive and harmful species of plants and

pests. The law will also delineate standards for pesticide use and other safeguards against soil and crop contamination.

The new law is informed by the International Plant Protection Convention, a multilateral

treaty of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. According to the Commerce Ministry, Myanmar exported more than US\$960 million worth of agricultural products since April. —GNLM ■

Dollar exchange remains above Ks1,360



File photo shows a man counts US dollars and Euros at a money changer office. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

A US dollar exchange rate remains above Ks1,360 in the domestic currency market despite a recent global decline of the dollar.

The exchange rate on 19 April hovered between Ks1,361 and Ks1,363 in the domestic FX market; the Central Bank of Myanmar set the rate at Ks1,366.

The exchange rate has gradually increased since 7 July. FX market rates were Ks1,358 on 7 July, Ks1,359 on 8 July, Ks1,360 on 10 July and above Ks1,360 recently.

The US dollar exchange rate in March peaked at Ks1,366 and declined to Ks1,357, compared to April, when the rate peaked at Ks1,361 and bottomed out at Ks1,347. In May the rate ranged between Ks1,363 and Ks1,348, and last month, it ranged between Ks1,361 and Ks1,350. Meanwhile, the highest US index rates were 101.22 in April, 99.65 in May and 97.53 in June. The US index rate slipped to below 95 point on 18 July. — GNLM ■

Pulses exports earned US\$418 million as of first week of July

PULSES exports as of first week of July was estimated US\$418 million, according to the Commerce Ministry.

India is the main buyer of Myanmar's mung bean crop, which makes up 70 per cent of total pea export volume. The green gram is also exported to China, Viet Nam and European Union countries.

Pulses exports are projected to reach more than 1.4 million tons in the current

financial year, according to the Myanmar Pulses, Beans & Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

Last financial year saw 1.43 million tons of pulses export. Peas are primarily cultivated in Sagaing and Magway regions. Yangon constitutes three per cent of national pea cultivation areas.

Peas play the second most important role in Myanmar's agricultural export sector. To

boost agricultural production, Myanmar is striving to tackle challenges like erratic weather, lack of technical know-how and over-reliance on foreign markets. Additionally, high transportation and transaction costs cause problems in supply chains.

Agricultural export as of first week of July showed a \$60 million decline against last year, according to the Commerce Ministry. —GNLM ■

Vegetables and fruits imports restricted to support local production

IMPORTATION of certain fruits and vegetables into Myanmar are prohibited, except during harvest time, to protect domestic production, according to a statement by Commerce Ministry officials described in Myanmar Alinn Daily newspaper.

Import of dragon fruit, for example are banned between October and January, by the recommendation of Myanmar Fruit, Flower, Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association.

Most of Myanmar's import fruits originates in Thailand and China. Local fruit production lacks premium growing technologies and shipping methodologies compared to imported products.

Much of Myanmar's fruit and vegetables are grown using substandard pesticide and fertilizer techniques.

Despite these challenges, exports of watermelons, muskmelons and mangos increased

last financial year, said U Khin Maung Lwin, the assistant secretary of the Commerce Ministry. Despite fruit import restrictions, Myanmar growers regularly compete with smuggled fruit and vegetable imports from China and Thailand.

Myanmar's fruit and vegetable sector drew estimated revenue of US\$170 million in FY 2016-2017 for more than a million tons of product.—Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

One-stop SME banking centre slated for Yangon

KANBAWZA Bank Limited announced plans in yesterday's Myawady Daily newspaper to establish a new one-stop banking centre for small and medium sized businesses in Yangon in September. The one-stop banking centre will provide free services concerning financial management, income tax and other SME

development activities.

“SME businessmen were previously dependent on their self-help. We will establish one-stop banking centre by September to provide services for SME businessmen,” Ko Zaw Mahn Oo, assistant general manager of SME Banking Department of KBZ Bank said. —GNLM ■

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Families of martyrs pay tribute to fallen leaders



On behalf of U Aung San Oo, U Hla Pe arrives to pay tribute to national leader General Aung San at Martyrs Mausoleum. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pays tribute to national leader General Aung San at Martyrs Mausoleum. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**



Family members of Thakin Mya arrive at Martyrs Mausoleum to pay tribute to martyrs. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**



Family members of Deedok U Ba Cho arrive at Martyrs Mausoleum to pay tribute to martyrs. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**



Family members of Mahn Ba Khaing arrive at Martyrs Mausoleum to pay tribute to martyrs. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



Family members of Mahn Ba Khaing arrive at Martyrs Mausoleum to pay tribute to martyrs. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



Family members of U Razak arrive at Martyrs Mausoleum to pay tribute to martyrs. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



Family members of U Ohn Maung arrive at Martyrs Mausoleum to pay tribute to martyrs. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Families of martyrs, people pay tribute to fallen leaders



Family members of Mongpun Sawbwa Sao San Tun arrive at Martyrs Mausoleum to pay tribute to martyrs. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



Family members of U Ba Win arrive at Martyrs Mausoleum to pay tribute to martyrs. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**



Family members of Yebaw Ko Htwe arrive at Martyrs Mausoleum to pay tribute to martyrs. **PHOTO: MNA**



People pay tribute to martyrs at Martyrs Mausoleum. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



Officials of Yangon Region Government pay tribute to martyrs at Mausoleum. **PHOTO: MNA**



Diplomats pay tribute to martyrs at Martyrs Mausoleum. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Training for skills and producing skilled workers

By Khin Maung Oo

IN implementing the national economic development plan, we are greatly in need of engineers and simultaneously tremendous numbers of skilled workers. In the current situation, we will have to train our laborers to acquire skills relating to their respective jobs. Due to shortage of skilled workers and failure to retain the service of skilled workers, even low-tech factories producing grain, seed or flour packing bags which we call Penang bags, find it difficult to speed up production. Not only for the industries presently operating for national development but also to increase the number of industries, the government need to train our workers to be well-equipped with skills. To do so, the Union Government should lay down effective policies, while Myanmar entrepreneurs from the private sector must join hands with the government to develop the private sector as the engine of growth.

At such a stage, we must wholeheartedly welcome the initiative taken to sign the agreement to set up the School of Industrial Training and Education—SITE which is a joint effort between the Department of Technical and Vocational Training and the Sea Lion Group. It has been learnt that courses to be conducted by the school include inter alia, automatically operated industrial techniques, computer-controlled metal work, sustainable power production using solar energy and wind power; production of wood furniture and management of water and sewage systems. In brief, the school will impart technical knowledge which is greatly needed for national economic development.

The school aims at conducting designated syllabus and curriculums and sending well-trained students to respective jobs, after completion of their training courses.

The school aims at conducting designated syllabus and curriculums and sending well-trained students to respective jobs, after completion of trainings. At the school, all the subjects will be taught according to the teaching methods conducted in developed industrial nations such as Germany and Australia. And teaching aids will be broadly used to help students to learn. It is heartening to hear the news that private companies are coming to join with the government and the education department, to make meaningful contributions towards national economic development. As we achieve peace and stability across the nation, many industrial zones will emerge and many skilled young workers will take their places in these factories. In the very near future we shall be witnessing the dawn of a peaceful and prosperous future. ■

At the school, all the subjects will be taught according to the teaching methods conducted in developed industrial nations such as Germany and Australia. And teaching aids will be broadly used to help students to learn. It is heartening to hear the news that private companies are coming to join with the government and the education department, to make meaningful contributions towards national economic development. As we achieve peace and stability across the nation, many industrial zones will emerge and many skilled young workers will take their places in these factories. In the very near future we shall be witnessing the dawn of a peaceful and prosperous future. ■

Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja,
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

“A martyr is one who voluntarily undergoes sufferings or death for the sake of any great cause or principle”. This is an oversimplified definition of a martyr which one may find in an English dictionary. But in Burmese the equivalent word for martyr is “ajani” a derivative of Pali word “ajaniya” meaning “the one who is born of good breed and knows well”. Interpreted in a wider context an “ajani” is “the one who possesses who a very powerful sense of right judgment, a dauntless courage, an unfailing per severance and a stoic fortitude” —the qualities which no average man can ever dream of.”

Today, as we commemorate the 70th anniversary of Martyrs’ Day, it is befitting to briefly review the biography of Bogoyoke Aung San so as to recapture traits of his character and to remind as of his deeds and destiny which had cornered him an immortal martyrdom.

Reading through the available literature on Bogoyoke Aung San including his own autobiographic sketches, the life story of this great man appears like the shape of a pyramidal structure rising on a firm and massive foundation and rising up layer by layer to the canopy. In each of the layer a facet of his career and personality were east, revealing strength and weakness of a human being and yet proving the attributes of a destiny man.

Within a brief life span of 32 years – [1915-1947] he lived, he was able to achieve what Burmese nation had been trying to attain for over a century —national independence. So the story of this great man is largely the history of the birth of modern Myanmar.

The years between 1915 and 1932 form the first part of the formative period during which his leadership was in the making. Born on February 13, 1915, of a well-to-do family of a rural gentry and patriots in a small town Natmauk in Magwe district, little Aung San had every opportunity of becoming anybody but a national leader. The youngest in the family of nine children and the pet of a kindly mother; he was “a spoiled child” being kept at home till late in his childhood. The only incentive which sent him to schooling at the age of eight was his childish ambition to become a Shin laung [a young novice in the Buddhist Monastic Order] surrounded by loves of a good large family and comforts of opulent circumstances, nothing could have deterred him from growing up into a manhood after the usual bourgeoisie fashion of his time. But little Aung San’s growth was different spoiled as he was, he grew up to be a shy but precocious and sobre taciturn boy with no friends to talk except to his own thoughts. There at the local monastic school of Venerable



U Thawbita the boy Aung San began to show early signs of a future leader. His artless frankness and his extreme dislike of hypocrisy had converted him into a social non-conformist from the very outset. At the monastic school, when the monk once told his pupils to stop playing and go to sleep and asked if they wanted to sleep, little Aung San boldly uttered his honest “No” amidst the chorus of hypocritical “Yeses”. On another occasion while his mother was having a business talk with a paddy broker the boy Aung San suddenly interrupted to correct her overstatement of the price of paddy which her shrewd business acumen had prompted her to make. Another instance of his likeness for honesty was reflected in his meeting with a client of the lawyer who was his guardian. The client told the lawyer that he was prepared to pay the Judge any amount of money so long as the case was won. Hearing of this, the boy Aung San blurted out right in the face of the client not to bribe the justice and to let the case be lost should it deserve. Such incidents highlighted a trait of his character —integrity, one of the essential requisites of a national leadership.

Another layer of the foundation for his leadership was laid during his career at the vernacular school at the town of Yenangyaung. There in an urban atmosphere the boy Aung San had much to learn about secular subjects such as English world history, geography and public speaking. He had now a wider horizon to broaden his outlook and a greater field to put his talents on test. Added to these environmental assets was the advantage of having his two elder brothers as his private tutors and guardians. Under their meticulous supervision and able guidance he soon built up his academic qualifications which were to crown him with success at every level of his future education. Winning the 7th standard scholarship and the medal award in the examination, it looked as if he was heading for a scholarly life. But the courses of his destiny turned to other direction. With wide reading and deep thinking his knowledge had reached beyond the bounds of the text books. He was now not a mere bookish student but a practical scholar of real life. He discussed with the adults on history, politics, and current world

affairs giving his own comments and opinions. Even at that tender age of early teens, his concept of education showed a philosophical depth and breathed a revolutionary air. At one mass meeting of the students at his high school when he was called upon to speak a few words the boy Aung San stood up and delivered impromptu his ideas of education. He expounded that “education has boundless scope. It is not a bookish learning but a never ending study of life. It is not enough to know history but one must be able to make history. It is not enough to know science but one must become a scientist himself. The mere reading of school lessons would not have fulfilled the duties of national school students. It is high time that you must think how to salvage your country from alien servitude”. His fiery speech so enlightened and inspired the young audience that they remained spell bound for a moment and then broke into resounding applause. In it one detects clues to the future destiny of the boy Aung San. Since his high school days he must have decided that his career was a national leader and his mission was to liberate his country. He admitted in his auto biographical sketches that “a bright academic career seemed to be open to me. But politics called me away”.

The second part of the formative period of his leadership covered his college career 1932-1938. During those years his visions became broadened and matured and his leadership came into full bloom. Having passed out the matriculations Examination with a strange combination of distinctions in English, Pali and Mathematics” young man Aung San came down to Yangon to join the University For most of the young Burmans in those colonial days the University of Yangon was first and foremost a stepping stone to the class of ruling aristocrats. Instead of the seat of higher learning the University of Yangon was indeed a training center for training out “good faithful servants of British colonial rule. Therefore a degree, an I.C.S. post [Indian civil service] and a rich wife are a set formula of aims and objects of almost every collegian. But in the case of collegian Ko Aung San it was otherwise. For him the object of coming to the University was to continue his effort at fulfilling his mission

of national liberation to which he had been dedicated heart and soul. So the University for him was a forum where he could awaken the future arbiters of the country from their political lethargy and instill into them the spirit of patriotism. There in his “den” of room No. 113 of Pegu Hall hostel he worked day and night amidst heaps of books and pests of bugs and filths. He took that combination of subjects, English literature, Political Science and Modern World History, which were the favourite of students who aimed at the I.C.S jobs in those days. He had his own reasons for taking these humanities. English literature was to serve him as a window to the world. Political Science was to provide him with a good grounding for the kind of task he was performing, and Modern World History to give him an international outlook. His contemporaries say that Plato’s Republic, Rousseau’s contract Social and Karl Marx’s political literatures were his favourite pocket books. Thus equipped with knowledge from books and self-acquirement he put his leadership on test at the election of the Executive Committee for the Social and Reading club of his hostel. He was defeated. The hostel students did not choose him not because he lacked leadership but because they did not know yet that he had the right kind of leadership. The type of leadership popular and fashionable at that time was that of a taking demagogue, a platform speaker who simply entertains the audience but does not lead. Collegian Ko Aung San who was no demagogue neither was he popular. He remained his original self-aloo, sober, moody, and “brutally frank”. He kept himself away from social functions and other activities of the University. His only interest was in debating, public speaking, and political lectures. He was no dandee in fact his dress and gait earned him the nicknames of “eccentric” and “uncouth Anyatha”. As one of his close friends puts it “As a first impression he appeared ragged in appearance awkward and angular in behavior and passionate about politics”. So it was no wonder that the students did not rally round him whom they thought an enigma. But they soon got to know him and found out that behind the facade of ‘crude’ personality stood a polished leader in whom they could entrust not only



their lot but also that of the whole nation. In the academic year 1934-35 the tide turned in his favour. He and his colleagues were elected en bloc at the Rangoon University Students’ Union elections. From that year onwards he began to reap success after success in his career as a student leader. A freelance writer in the English and Burmese newspapers, editor of the ‘Oway’ magazine, vice president and president of the Union, founder and president of the All-Burma Students’ Union and member of the University Act Amendment Committee were a series of honorary posts entrusted to him. By 1936, his dynamic leadership began to produce the first of its effort on the politically awakened students. British colonial education and its appending bureaucratic administration of the University were the subject of the students’ discontent that mainly caused the famous strike of 1936. But his expulsion from the University provided for the occasion for its outbreak. True to his journalistic ethics, he, the editor of the Oway, had refused to disclose the identity of the author of the article alleged to have made a slanderous attack on some University authorities. As a leader he had stood for his followers and so his followers stood by him. The strike of 1936 had produced its far-reaching repercussions throughout the country. Leader U Aung San had now become well known at home and abroad. With the spread of his fame, spread political unrest through the whole nation. Thenceforth he and his colleagues were black marked by the British Government as “budding political criminals of Burma”.

The years between 1938 and 1942, witness U Aung San as a revolutionary hero performing bold exploits with his dauntless courage to liberate his country from foreign rule. “In October 1938,” writes Bogoyoke in his book “Burma’s Challenge”, “I left the Law classes to devote myself entirely to politics and to serve in the cause of Burma’s freedom”. Dramatic events of the years following 1936, strike particularly the great Oilfield Strike of 1938, must have sounded a

siren call to him to come out of the University campus for a national cause. As a primary step he joined “the Dohbama Asiayone (Our Burma Party) of Thakins (Our Own Masters) the only militant and intensely nationalistic political party in the country of the time”. The working ability of Thakin Aung San soon earned him important posts of general secretary of the Thakin Party and member of the working committee of the All-Burma Peasants’ League. Free from personal ambition and factionalism he could view the existing political trends in wider context of the nationalist movement. It was high time that partisanship be set aside and all must come under one banner to join in the national struggle with might and main. With this objective he endeavoured to unite all political parties and elements into one “Freedom Bloc” in the common cause of national liberation. He and his colleagues next went round all over the country campaigning for a national unity. To make Burma’s cause known to the neighbouring country he led in March 1940 a Thakin delegation to the Ramgarh session of the Indian Congress. By then, international situation was becoming fluid. In Europe, Germany and Italy were in full swing with their aggressive designs. In the East Japan had launched her programme of territorial expansion. The world was on the verge of a great war. Thakin Aung San knew where the wind was blowing. With a warrant of arrest dogging him like a hound he made quick decision. Instead of wasting time in the jail, “Colonialism’s difficulty” must be made to serve “Freedom’s opportunity”. “The time had come to strike” and Thakin Aung San “slipped out of country to search for contacts and aid in Burma’s struggle for freedom”. Thakin Nu who did not agree to his plans, later had to admit that the decision had wisdom and vision. His incognito escape from Burma, his contacts with high Japanese military authorities, his severe military training on the island of Hainan, and his re-entry into Burma under the disguise of a Chairman to take with him to Japan the famous “Thirty Comrades” for military training, were his stalwart accomplishment which spoke of the attributes of an ajani. At the training camps abroad, in the organization of Burma Independence Army in Bangkok in 1942 and in the operation of Burma invasion he had also proved military genius. Major-General Keji Suzuki (Bo Mogyo) who was his colleague and associate gives his appreciation of Bogoyoke as follows: “Aung San was absolutely honest. He was a good military leader too, brave and skillful. He was a patriot and his patriotism and honesty won respect from all of us in Japan as well as on our march”. Military medals and decorations were showered upon him including the highest honour from the Japanese Emperor himself. He was now General Aung San (Bo Te Za) of Burma.

SEE PAGE 10

Myanmar leaders express admiration for the martyrs

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

The spirit of martyrdom is actually very simple: To keep one's personal interests subordinate to the people's interests is the foundation of the spirit of martyrdom. A martyr is someone who prioritises the people's interests and subordinates personal interests. Deeds that fail to benefit the people will fail to benefit authors of those deeds. From this point of view, we should always prioritise people's interests. The principle question Martyrs' Day compels people to contemplate is: "Who is a martyr?" The people determine who should be called a martyr and what kind of person should be accepted as martyr. Therefore, Martyrs' Day is just the concern of the people. Martyrs' Day was born of the people. I wish all



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

the people will be aware of this. Essentially, the people ■decide the country's destiny.

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

The new generation should emulate General Aung San, espe-



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

cially his personal integrity and straight-forwardness. There is a lot to learn from General Aung San. We ourselves have followed the example of General Aung San since our student years, especially the dignified way he spoke and behaved. There are many things to imitate in General Aung San. I just want to say you can achieve



Thura U Aung Ko.

a great deal if you are perceptive enough to learn from General Aung San. It has been 70 years since we gained independence through the tireless struggle of the people, including the 30 comrades. We should always be grateful to General Aung San and his comrades. The tatmadaw will strive hand-in-hand with the peo-

ple to safeguard our national sovereignty and independence. To summarise, I would like to urge everyone to always remember to be grateful to the martyrs. ■

Thura U Aung Ko, Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture

Since his childhood General Aung San had been honest and retained that character at all costs. His honesty was never compromised by rewards, opportunities or power. He always stood on the right side and kept his courage. He never wavered even though he was pressured or threatened. This was a very admirable character trait and virtue of General Aung San. —Khin Maung Htwe, Win Win Maw, Photo: Zaw Min Latt, Ye Htut ■

What Makes A MARTYR?

FROM PAGE 8 & 9

But his mission had not been fulfilled yet. British imperialism had been driven out of Burma, and Japanese facism had come in its place. As early as his training days in Japan he had realized that the behavior and treatment of some Japanese were not acceptable to Burmese mentality. However, out of expediency and courtesy he had kept restraint and continued to cooperate with them until Burma was taken from the British. The day they set their foot on Burma's soil the Japanese proved their true colour. Contempt, persecution, insults and tortures were the kind of treatment the Burmese received at their hands. To crown them all they deceived the Burmese with sham Independence. General Aung San knew of it the day 'independence' was proclaimed on August 1, 1943, and he frankly pointed out to the Japanese Government that it was not real. But they failed to realize that Burma's quest for their military aid was not to change her one foreign master to another but to become master herself. Beside they had underrated the patriotic spirit of Bogoyoke and the strength of the Burmese masses behind him. The task of Bogoyoke now was that of a Saviour the savior to salvage his nation from Japanese facism, an evil greater than British imperialism. Late in 1943, Bogoyoke began organiz-

ing resistance which by August 1944, become the Anti Fascists Organization. In ousting the Japanese once again Bogoyoke displayed combined qualities of a military genius and a skillful politician. Drawing his theory of fighting tactics from Burmese history he applied guerilla method. "The Burmese are guerillas by instinct and tradition", says Bogoyoke in recounting the story of resistance in one of his addresses, "In the 13th century when Kublai Khan's hordes swept over Burma, the Burmese could not repel them by the employment of elephants and heavy troops. So they broke up into guerilla bands and harassed the invaders and forced them to withdraw. Alaungpaya, who consolidated the nation, was a guerilla leader first. We too have consolidated our guerilla forces and stand, ready to march to our freedom". As a realistic politician he accepted the overtures of the Allied Forces and agreed to cooperate with them in their fight against the Japanese provided they would leave Burma to the Burmese. It was the hour of action and Bogoyoke acted like lightning. On March 27, 1945, was launched the nationwide Anti -Fascist Resistance.

Then in September of that year he and his colleagues went to Kandy and concluded an agreement by which the Patriotic Burmese Forces were to be absorbed in the Burma Army

under the command of the Supreme Allied Commander, South-east Asia. After fighting "no less than one thousand engagements" which cost extreme bravery and selfless sacrifice of the young Burmans' lives, resistance war was won and the Japanese surrendered.

The country had been once again recovered from foreign domination but it must prepare itself for the final stage of its struggle for freedom. For this two things were needed. Sincere cooperation abroad and unity at home. Bogoyoke knew that without these two factors the attainment of real national independence would still be a long way off. So he declined the offer of a high military post and rank by the British Government and left the army to carry out his dedicated mission to the finish. Repeated election of Bogoyoke as President of the AFPFL by overwhelming votes of the masses proved the urgent need of his leadership at the crucial time of nation-building. The nation had once again called for his service and this time as the architect of the Union (Pyidaungsu). Equipped with the skill of a statesman and sagacity of a realist politician Bogoyoke forged out cooperation abroad and unity at home. His mission to Britain and his talks with the Atlee Government on the question of Burma's freedom were a task which no one but him could successfully execute. Uncertainty, misunderstanding and intrigues clouded both sides

of the negotiations in the initial stages. Certain sections of the British Parliament had misgivings about the wisdom of granting Burma independence in total. Also there were exponents of colonialism who still wanted to divide Burma and rule it. Bogoyoke was well aware of these obstacles and he hammered out the ways and means to surmount them. The statement "I hope for the best but I am prepared for the worst" which he made on his way to London early in 1947, epitomized the stand he took at the negotiations with the British. His statesmanship had won their sincere cooperation to which he reciprocated with confidence and regards. He came back with a promise for his country folks that "Burma shall be free within one year".

The unity at home was achieved not long after his return from abroad. In fact it had been partly achieved by him in the days of resistance. But subversive propaganda of colonialists and some outside interference had caused doubts, apprehensions and wavering among certain sections of hill folks. However Bogoyoke dispelled them with one stroke at Panglong. His tour of the "frontier areas" and meetings with the hill brethren resulted in a resounding triumph of unity. He had won their hearts not with the words but with his deeds and sincerity. "What specially impressed us was his honesty", remarks one prominent hill kinsman U Vum Ko Hau, ".....

he did not use sweet flattery or cunning diplomacy when he gave a word, we knew it was as good as or better than written agreements signed and sealed". The Panglong Agreement of February 12, 1947, was the coup de grace of his statesmanship. With it the Pyidaungsu was born. The dedicated mission had been fulfilled. Real independence would be brought on the plate in a year's time. However problems of national reconstructions confronted Burma, and Bogoyoke was hard at work to tackle them. He was not unaware of certain power mongers who would leave no stone unturned to serve their ambitions. But regardless of it, he, true to his ajani spirit, kept calm immune to dangers and indifferent to the enemies. History has its moments of ill fate and turns of dark hours. On the 19 July 1947, while Bogoyoke and his colleagues were sitting at a meeting a gang of armed murderers flung open the unguarded meeting chamber and fired at them. Instantly Bogoyoke and his colleagues fell dead. So Bogoyoke, the spoiled child, the bright scholar, the national leader, the revolutionary hero, the Nation's Saviour, and the Union's architect had met his untimely end as a martyr. He had lived up to his saying on ajaniship: "In this world there can be nothing nobler and more sacred than sacrificing one's life in the struggle for freedom, progress and peace of the people". Bogoyoke Aung San. ■

Martyrs' Day ceremony held at Yangon City Hall

A traditional ceremony offering meals and sharing merits to fallen leaders was held yesterday at Yangon City Hall on the 70th anniversary of Martyrs' Day.

Present at the ceremony were Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture and Chairman of Martyrs' Day Central Convening Committee Thura U Aung Ko, Union Ministers, Vice-Chairman of Central Convening Committee and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and deputy ministers, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Yangon regional ministers, YCDC members, departmen-

tal heads and their wives, Yangon-based political parties and representatives from NGOs.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Organization, Ye-U Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Ottama Nyanabhivamsa, listening to Metta Sutta.

Afterward, Central Convening Committee Chairman, Union Ministers and responsible officials offered robes and offertories to Sangha, sharing the merits gained to Bogyoke Aung San and fallen leaders.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Ministers and Yangon Chief Minister attend a donation ceremony at the Yangon City Hall on the 70th anniversary of Martyrs' Day yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

70th Martyrs' Day draws huge crowds to Secretariat



People pay tribute to fallen independence martyrs at Secretariat in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

ON the 70th Martyrs' Day yesterday, thousands of visitors visited the Secretariat in downtown Yangon to get a glimpse of the first Burmese Parliament and the cabinet room where Bogyoke Aung San and the martyrs were assassinated.

The national museum has lent the original furniture and artifacts that were in the room during the time of the assassination. The chairs which Bogyoke Aung San and the martyrs sat have been labelled with their names. The spot where bodyguard Ko Htwe fell from a gunman's bullet is also marked with his name. Also on display are 28 items used by the leaders of early independence, including fountain pens, pencils, keys, wristwatches, blankets, lighters, cigarette boxes, money and signed notes.

U Min Aung, 61, one of the

many visitors to queue up and visit the Secretariat yesterday, said it is a good thing they have opened the historic cabinet room to the public. He said he hopes the chance of viewing the room where national heroes were assassinated will inspire younger generations to endure and sacrifice for their country. Forty pieces of artwork from students, which depict the courage and sacrifice of the fallen heroes, were on display in the gallery of the Secretariat.

Ten-year-old Ma Kay Thiri Kyaw spoke of her visit to the Secretariat yesterday, describing the flagpole on which the British Union Jack was replaced with the Burmese flag in 1948. She also saw the artwork on display and the chair where Bogyoke Aung San sat while at work. She said she will soon visit the Mar-

tyrs' Mausoleum and the Bogyoke Museum.

The first Parliament Building was used by the Hluttaw from 1936 to 1962, and the first draft of the constitution was written there. The cabinet room was used for administration purposes since 1905 and was also Bogyoke Aung San's office.

Although officials announced that the Secretariat would be opened to the public from 7am to 4pm, the closing time was extended yesterday to 6 pm in order to accommodate the very large number of visitors.

Officials said 42,101 Myanmar citizens and 205 foreigners visited the building yesterday. The Secretariat is usually opened for one day only on Martyrs' Day, but this year it will also be opened to the public today and tomorrow.—Ko Moe ■

Maungtaw observes 70th Martyrs' Day

In commemoration of Martyrs' Day, Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut and other officials offered 'soon' (a meal) and monk robes to nine monks in the township's monastery. At 10:37 am, the time when Bogyoke Aung San and the martyrs were assassinated,

six fire engines across the city honked their horns in honour of the fallen heroes and everybody took a minute of silence. Many households and streets in Maungtaw raised the nation's flag half-mast for Martyrs' Day. —Myint Maung Soe, Aung Kyaw Oo ■



Firefighters pay tribute to martyrs in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: THAKKA**

Person detained for illegal entry into Maungtaw

Yesterday, security forces patrolling the border of Maungtaw, Rakhine State apprehended a person illegally entering the country by crossing over a bor-

der fence. The person has been identified as Fahzor Kawbir, who crossed over from neighbouring Bangladesh.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Man killed with brick in Maungtaw

Mahmet Faisal was reportedly killed by a brick while observing at a married couple's argument.

The incident occurred in Taungpyowel Village in Maung-

taw on Monday. The husband, Naywu-Har Unan, fled from the scene and is under suspicion of delivering the blow that killed Mahmet Faisal. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Mi-14PS helicopter. PHOTO: TASS

Russia's Defence Ministry may get new cutting-edge amphibious helicopter

ZHUKOVSKY — Russian Helicopters (part of the Rostech corporation) are ready to design a new amphibious helicopter if the Russian Defence Ministry is interested in this rotorcraft, the company's press service told TASS on Wednesday.

"Considering the tasks faced by the Russian Defence Ministry, in our

opinion, there is need for both upgraded Mi-14 helicopters and an advanced amphibious helicopter," the company said.

Russian Helicopters are ready to satisfy all the needs of the Naval Aviation envisaged during the development of the state armaments project for 2018-2025," the press service stressed.

Earlier Deputy Defence Minister Yury Borisov said that the Defence Ministry was interested in the upgrading of the Mi-14 maritime multi-purpose amphibious helicopter.

The rotorcraft is supposed to undergo profound modernization and will be used both for military and civil purposes.—Tass ■

France's armed forces chief resigns over Macron budget cuts

PARIS — France's head of the armed forces resigned on Wednesday after a heated dispute with Emmanuel Macron over defence budget cuts, bringing to a head an early test of the newly elected president's mettle.

In a statement, 60 year-old Pierre de Villiers said he had tried to maintain a French defence force with the ability to do an increasingly difficult job within the financial constraints imposed on it, but was no longer able to sustain that.

"In the current circumstances I see myself as no longer able to guarantee the robust defence force I believe is necessary to guarantee the protection of France and the French people, today and tomorrow, and to sustain the aims of our country," he said.

Macron had accepted his resignation, de Villiers

added. A fierce row broke out last week between the two men just two months after Macron was elected, and just as France prepared for the military pomp of a 14 July Bastille Day parade where Macron's US counterpart Donald Trump was the guest of honour.

De Villiers, appearing

before a closed-door hearing of parliamentarians - had used strong language to protest at the 850 million euro (\$979.46 million) defence budget cut Macron was making as part of his efforts to rein in state spending.

"I won't let myself be fucked like that," he said

according to two parliamentary sources. "I may be stupid, but I know when I am being had."

Macron had gone public with his rebuke. "I have made commitments, I am your boss," he said in a speech to dozens of top army officers and their families.—Reuters ■



French President Emmanuel Macron (L) and Chief of the Defence Staff French Army General Pierre de Villiers (R) attend the traditional Bastille Day military parade on the Champs-Elysees in Paris, France on 14 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Thousands evacuated central California, wildfires burn across US West

MARIPOSA, (Calif.) — A 25,000-acre wildfire in central California, one of three dozen major blazes burning across the US West, threatened hundreds of homes and businesses on Wednesday after forcing the evacuation of about 5,000 residents.

There were 46 active large fires spread across 12 states, with 11 new blazes reported on Tuesday alone, according to National Interagency Fire Center website.

Around 4.4 million acres have been burnt since the start of 2017, compared to 2.7 million acres in the same period last year, it said.

Dry and windy conditions have fueled the wildfire season and thousands of people have been evacuated, including in Oregon and Nevada.

Firefighters man-

aged to contain 5 per cent of the Detwiler Fire, which threatened 1,500 structures in tiny foothill communities in the Sierra Nevada mountains, authorities said. Around 2,000 residents were ordered to flee Mariposa, California on Tuesday.

"Going to bed unsure whether Mariposa, my sweet hometown, will exist when I wake up," Jennifer Paquette said on Twitter late on Tuesday.

A total of 5,000 residents were forced to evacuate several small communities southwest of Yosemite National Park since the fire began on Sunday, the California Interagency Incident Management Team said in a tweet.

No injuries were reported as of Tuesday night, according to Cal Fire.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV X-PRESS YAMUNA VOY. NO (016)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV X-PRESS YAMUNA VOY. NO (016) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.7.2017 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 X-PRESS FEEDERS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR SOLO VOY. NO (755)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR SOLO VOY. NO (755) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.7.2017 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

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MCC ANDALAS VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC ANDALAS VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Thai general, provincial politicians held guilty in major trafficking trial

BANGKOK — An army general, two provincial politicians and police officers were among the 46 people held guilty on Wednesday by a judge in Thailand's biggest human trafficking trial, from a total of 103 defendants, with judgments expected to run late into the day.

Some of those found guilty of trafficking were also convicted of taking part in organized transnational crime, forcible detention leading to death, and rape.

Thailand's lengthy legal procedure in delivering verdicts means it may take hours before the judge reveals the exact sentences of those convicted to a packed court in Bangkok, the capital.

The defendants, among them Myanmar nationals, are accused of smuggling and trafficking migrants on the Thai-Malaysia border.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, head of the ruling junta, asked



Lieutenant-General Manas Kongpan, a suspected human trafficker, walks near a prison cell at the criminal court in Bangkok, Thailand on 15 March, 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Thais not to blame the trafficking on military figures, a reference to the army general on trial, Manas Kongpan, the most senior of the officials arrested in 2015.

"There are many people in this human trafficking network," Prayuth told reporters. "Don't group all soldiers in the country as one."

The two convicted pol-

iticians, from provinces in the south, are Patchuban Angchotipan – a former official in the Satun provincial government better known as "Big Brother Tong", and Bannakong Pongphol, a former mayor of Padang Besar in Songkhla.

The trial began in 2015 after a Thai crackdown on trafficking gangs following the gruesome discovery of

dozens of shallow graves near the Thai-Malaysia border that authorities said was part of a jungle camp where traffickers held migrants as hostages until relatives were able to pay for their release.

Many never made it out. Some of the dead are thought to have been Rohingya — a persecuted Muslim minority from Myanmar's troubled Rakhine

State — although Thailand has yet to release a full report on the graves and the results of post-mortem forensic testing.

The trial has been marred by allegations of intimidation of witnesses, interpreters and police investigators.

Rights groups say trafficking networks were largely left intact by the 2015 crackdown and trial.

"We believe the crackdown is only a disruption of a trafficking network but that network is still very much well in place," Amy Smith, an executive director of rights group Fortify Rights, told Reuters.

Of the 22 verdicts read out during the court's early morning session, only one person was found not guilty.

Sunai Phasuk, senior Thai researcher for Human Rights Watch, said the death penalty could be the heaviest sentence for those convicted of trafficking.

"The fact that there are very senior officials

charged with this crime will help deter criminals in trafficking networks in the future," Sunai, who observed the court proceedings, told Reuters.

Thailand denies that trafficking syndicates still flourish, saying it has largely stamped out human trafficking.

Thailand has historically been a source, destination and transit country for men, women and children who are often smuggled and trafficked from poorer, neighboring countries including Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar to work in Thailand or further afield in Malaysia, often as labourers and sex workers.

Last month the US State Department left Thailand on a Tier 2 Watchlist, just above the lowest ranking of Tier 3, in its annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, because the country did not do enough to tackle human smuggling and trafficking. —Reuters ■

Japan, China, S Korea bankroll Indonesia's coal despite Paris pledge

BANGKOK — Japan, China and South Korea are bankrolling environmentally destructive coal-fired power plants in Indonesia despite their pledges to reduce climate-changing emissions under the Paris climate deal, analysts told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Australia-based environmental finance organisation Market Forces said it analysed 22 coal power deals in Indonesia since January 2010 and found state-run financiers for the three nations were involved in 18 of them. In all, foreign banks, both commercial and state-owned, are providing 98 per cent of the debt finance for the projects, amounting to \$16.7 billion. Indonesian banks provided just 2 per cent of the financial resources for the projects, according to the Market Forces analysis

published this week.

Japan, China and South Korea "are on board with the Paris climate change agreement. They make all the right noises politically," Julien Vincent, executive director of Market Forces, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a phone interview.

But "these are the same governments underwriting new coal development elsewhere", he said, calling the actions "egregious". The landmark 2015 Paris Agreement, which came into force in November, seeks to limit the rise in average world temperatures to well below 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial times.

Coal is the most polluting of the major fossil fuels and scientists say its use must be rapidly phased out to give the world a chance of meeting its goals to curb

climate change that is stoking more deadly heatwaves, floods and sea level rise around the world.

Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest economy, is already one of the world's biggest emitters of greenhouse gases. Market Forces said the Export-Import Bank of China (China Exim) was involved in seven of the coal power deals, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and the China Development Bank (CDB) in five deals each, and the Korea Development Bank (KDB) in one deal.

The Export-Import Bank of Korea (Korea Eximbank) is also involved in one deal, together with JBIC, it said. JBIC declined to comment on the projects it is involved in in Indonesia but said in an e-mail that emerging countries are looking to expand

their power sources in response to surging demand and are using coal due to its economic efficiency and reliability. "JBIC, as a policy-based financial institution of Japan, will work in tandem with the Japanese government to financially support projects which leverage on highly-efficient Japanese technology and know-how in line with the host country's context," the bank said. Korean Eximbank declined to comment. Multiple calls to the public relations departments of CDB and China Exim went unanswered. KDB did not respond to emails seeking comment.

On their websites, the banks say they have environmental guidelines for projects they fund, and are committed to protecting the environment and supporting green energy. —Reuters ■

Myanmar Port Authority "Notice of High Tide"

Exceptionally high spring from 20.40 feet to 21.10 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of July 22nd to July 27th 2017.

Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015 and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum to inform the high tide to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING
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Nolan's 'Dunkirk' builds suspense of war without the gore

LOS ANGELES — For the filmmaker who re-imagined Batman as “The Dark Knight” and explored deep space in “Interstellar,” the story of British troops trapped on a French beach during World War Two may seem like an unlikely draw.

But the events of May 1940 that Christopher Nolan explores in “Dunkirk” is a “very suspenseful, thrilling tale that isn’t necessarily one that fits in exactly and neatly into films that you’ve seen before,” the British director told Reuters.

“Dunkirk,” out in theaters on Friday, recounts the evacuation by civilians and military of some 400,000 British and Allied soldiers stranded on the desolate French beach of Dunkirk,

across the English Channel port of Dover.

Unlike other war films that detail the violence of battle, Nolan opted to minimize the bloodshed and create “a different kind of suspense rather than gore and horror, because that causes people to avert their eyes.”

“There have been many brilliant films that show blood and gore and all kinds of repulsive aspects of war,” Nolan said. “We wanted to give people a rather different experience of what the intensity might be.”

To achieve that effect, Nolan cuts between three perspectives — the battle in the skies, the armada of civilians sailing across the Channel in

small boats, and the stranded soldiers desperately trying to escape. Critics have given rave reviews to “Dunkirk.” Todd McCarthy of The Hollywood Reporter called it an “impressionist masterpiece,” while Chris Nashawaty of Entertainment Weekly said the film “is visceral, big-budget filmmaking that can be called Art.”

The restrained violence of “Dunkirk” is not the only difference Nolan brings to the traditional war film.

Rather than focus on the stories of individuals, like Steven Spielberg’s 1998 World War Two epic “Saving Private Ryan,” or Mel Gibson’s 2016 film “Hacksaw Ridge,” Nolan said he wanted “Dunkirk” to

convey communal heroism rather than individual acts.

While the film stars big names like Kenneth Branagh, Tom Hardy and Mark Rylance, Nolan held open casting calls to find young new faces, led by 20-year-old newcomer Fionn Whitehead as Tommy, a scrappy, traumatized soldier fighting to survive.

He is joined by 23-year-old singer Harry Styles, formerly of boy band One Direction, who makes his film debut in “Dunkirk” and has received praise for his performance.

“It’s not a war movie that’s for history buffs who love war movies. I feel like it’s a very emotional story, it’s very intimate. You’re in with the



Director Christopher Nolan and Emma Thomas arrive for the world premiere of Dunkirk in London, Britain on 13 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

characters from the very start and it’s kind of scary at times and intense to watch,” Styles said.—Reuters



Madonna. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Madonna seeks to stop NY auction of Tupac Shakur break-up letter

NEW YORK — Madonna attempted on Tuesday to stop an upcoming auction of a prison break-up letter from rapper Tupac Shakur and a note in which she called singer Whitney Houston and actress Sharon Stone “horribly mediocre.”

The “Rebel Heart” singer filed a request in New York Supreme Court for a temporary restraining order against New York auction house Gotta Have It Collectibles to halt the sale, due to start on Wednesday.

Madonna said in court documents that she was not aware until reading press reports that many of the items listed for auction, including the letter from her former boyfriend Shakur, were no longer in her possession.

The items were consigned to auction by Darlene Lutz, whom Madonna described in court documents as a former friend and art consultant and said she had “betrayed my trust in an outrageous effort to ob-

tain my possessions without my knowledge or consent.”

A representative for the auction house and Lutz said in an emailed statement that Madonna’s effort to stop the sale was “a completely baseless and meritless action,” and they would challenge her claims in court. “We believe that her intent is nothing more than to besmirch the good reputations of the auction house and Ms Lutz,” the statement said.

In a letter dated January 1995 and written to Madonna by Shakur while he was in prison for sexual assault, the rapper said he ended their romance because he felt that dating a white woman could jeopardize his career.

“I felt due to my ‘image’ I would be letting down half of the people who made me what I thought I was. I never meant to hurt you,” he said. Shakur was killed at age 25 in a drive-by shooting in Las Vegas in September 1996.—Reuters ■

Charlize Theron on a mission to defy gender norms in ‘Atomic Blonde’



BERLIN — Oscar-winning actress Charlize Theron said she hoped to even the playing field in the male-dominated spy film genre with her latest role as a deadly agent in action-thriller movie “Atomic Blonde.”

“I saw potential in this character,” Theron, 41, told Reuters at the Berlin premiere of “Atomic Blonde” on Monday.

“I wanted to explore a woman in this world and have her kind of play with the same set of rules that men get to play in,” added the actress, who won an Academy Award for her role as

a serial killer in the 2003 film “Monster.” “Atomic Blonde,” based on Antony Johnston’s graphic novel series “The Coldest City” and out in theaters on 28 July, follows MI6’s lethal bisexual assassin Lorraine Broughton (Theron) in Berlin in 1989. Broughton is on a mission to recover a list of double agents, in a city simmering with revolution and double-crossing hives of traitors. Spy movies have been dominated by male leads, such as the “James Bond,” “Mission Impossible” and “Bourne” franchise. Theron, who shows off her physical fighting prowess in the role, said “the skill of this was definitely a challenge. I wanted people to believe that she was that good.” Actress Sofia Boutella, who plays spy Delphine Lasalle, the love interest of Theron’s character, said she was “a bit nervous at first” when filming a sex scene with Theron, but that the actress helped her relax.—Reuters ■

Actress Charlize Theron. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Jane Austen takes pride of place on Britain's new plastic tenner

WINCHESTER, (England) — The Bank of England unveiled its first plastic 10 pound note on Tuesday, which features 19th century British novelist Jane Austen and will be available to the public from September.

The central bank has printed an initial run of a billion of the new notes, which are known in Britain as "tenners", after last year's launch of a five pound note made from a polymer film that the BoE said is more durable and harder to forge.

Tuesday marks the 200th anniversary of Austen's death.

The writer was buried in Winchester Cathedral in

1817 and completed many of her best-known works such as "Pride and Prejudice" and "Emma" in the nearby village of Chawton.

"Ten pounds would have meant a lot to Jane Austen, about the same as 1,000 pounds (\$1,300) would mean to us today," BoE Governor Mark Carney said at the launch of the new note in Winchester. Austen received a 10 pound publisher's advance for her first novel and the new banknote bears a quotation "I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading!" from her later work, "Pride and Prejudice".

The quotation came from a character who in

fact had no interest in books and was merely trying to impress a potential suitor. It drew a mix of amusement and criticism in the media when it appeared on an initial design of the note in 2013. People in period costume pose with the new £10 note featuring Jane Austen, at Winchester Cathedral, in Winchester, Britain 18 July, 2017.

"It captures much of her spirit, at least in my mind," he said. "It draws out some of the essence of some of her social satire and her insight into people's character. So it works on multiple levels."

With tactile features to make it easier for blind peo-

ple to identify, the BoE says each new 10 pound note should last for around five years, compared to around two years for the paper note it is replacing.

Existing 10 pound notes, which feature the scientist Charles Darwin, will cease to be legal tender during the first half of next year. Rolling out the new plastic notes has not been without its problems. The five pound note released last year drew criticism from vegetarians and some religious groups for containing trace amounts of animal fats — something which will also be the case for the new 10 pound note.

—Reuters ■



Britain's Bank of England Governor, Mark Carney, holds the new £10 note featuring Jane Austen, at Winchester Cathedral, in Winchester, Britain on 18 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

From trash to treasure: British composer Holst's lost manuscripts found in New Zealand

WELLINGTON — Two handwritten music manuscripts discovered in a library clearout at an amateur orchestra in New Zealand have been confirmed as the work of British composer Gustav Holst, untraced for more than a century.

The North Island's Bay of Plenty Symphonia is mapping the path of the 1906 manuscripts after Britain's Holst Archive last month said they were the authentic and original signed work of a composer best known for his orchestral suite, "The Planets".


"The last few weeks we've been trying to piece together how they ended up there and why we have got them," said violaplayer and orchestra member Bronya Dean. One possibility was that Stanley Farnsworth, who conducted a predecessor group in the 1960s, brought them with him from Britain, she added. Some accompanying papers are in the handwriting of Farnsworth, whose wife gave a lot of music to the orchestra after his death, Dean said.

Yet pieces of the puzzle remain to be found. "We can't establish any connection between

him and Holst yet," said Dean, adding that the orchestra got in touch with the Holst Archive to authenticate the handwriting after research suggested it matched the composer's. One of the two manuscripts found, "Folk Songs from Somerset", is a precursor to a published piece called "Somerset Rhapsody", Dean said, while the other, "Two Songs Without Words", has been published and is often played. For now, the orchestra will retain the manuscripts with the aim of performing the music next year, although it plans to eventually return them to Britain. "We are a charity organization, we are not here to make money, so it would make sense morally to put it where it belongs, and it seems to belong in the United Kingdom," said orchestra music director Justus Rozemond.

The manuscripts narrowly escaped being discarded in the library clearout a few years ago, Rozemond added. "

At some point this handwritten piece came along and we were fairly close to actually chucking that out as well, but we had another look at it," he said.—Reuters ■



Myanmar International


Programme Schedule

(20-7-2017 07:00am ~ 21-7-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News	(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Wednesday Repeat (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm)
07:27	Am	Caves of Myanmar	(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
07:52	Am	Thin Byu Mat	
08:03	Am	News	Prime Time
08:25	Am	Geographic Center of Myanmar	07:03 Pm News
08:45	Am	YUFL	07:27 Pm Travelogue: To the coastal region (Myeik - Kawthoung) (Part-2)
09:03	Am	News	07:43 Pm Natural Mineral Water
09:27	Am	Product of Myanmar - Seashells Products	08:03 Pm News
09:45	Am	Irrawaddy Dolphin (Part-1)	08:26 Pm Pride of Myanmar - Bagan arts and handicrafts
10:03	Am	News	08:42 Pm A Lucky Boy
10:26	Am	Reflected Glory	(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
10:50	Am	Excavation At Kawhmu	(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)



Programme Schedule

(20-7-2017, Thursday)

6:00 Am	◆ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	2:00 Pm	◆ Drama Series
7:00 Am	◆ Breakfast News	3:00 Pm	◆ Teleplay
7:35 Am	◆ NRC programme	4:35 Pm	◆ MRTV Travelogue
8:35 Am	◆ Interview with Indonesia Ambassador of Myanmar	5:05 Pm	◆ NHK Programme "Japan Job Encyclopedia" (Fisherman)
9:10 Am	◆ Documentary	5:25 Pm	◆ Analysis for Myanmar Movie
9:30 Am	◆ Beautiful ASEAN	5:30 Pm	◆ Socio Economic Scenes
9:35 Am	◆ ASEAN Spotlight (A) Persons with Disability (Laos)	6:20 Pm	◆ Football Magazine
	(B) ASEAN Single Shipping Market (Indo)	6:35 Pm	◆ Current Affairs
◆ Documentary		7:15 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
10:30 Am	◆ MRTV Worker's Programme	7:50 Pm	◆ Documentary
11:00 Am	◆ Documentary	8:00 Pm	◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report
11:35 Am	◆ Documentary (Forest)	8:35 Pm	◆ Interview with Thiland Ambassador of Myanmar
1:00 Pm	◆ Myanmar Movie (Part-1)	9:15 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
			◆ Talk on Old Film (Part-2)

Bike group organizes tour to celebrate its anniversary

Kyaw Zin Tun

BICYCLE Network Myanmar will hold a cycling tour between Yangon and Dedaye on 23 July to celebrate the group's third anniversary, according to an announcement on its Facebook page.

Bicycle Network Myanmar started in 2014 with a tour between Yangon to Twantay.

Sunday's ride will have two starting points: at Nan Thidar Port in Pansodan and at Aung Kaung San Tea Shop on Parami Road in Hlaine Township.

Check-in will be from 5 a.m. to 5:30 a.m.

The two groups will merge at Kanbae junction in Twantay. The tour will then pass through Kawhmu along the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation route.

The tour welcomes spectators along the route. The bike tour itself is also open to the public. Tour organizers recommend brake, light and tire checks be conducted before participating.

Aung Lay and Zaw Lay of Patheingyi Family (sand and brick selling depot) will provide cyclists with lunch.

Anyone who wishes to participate is invited to leave the messages on the bike group's Facebook page. ■



One of Myanmar's bicyclist under training. **PHOTO: BICYCLE NETWORK MYANMAR**

Myanmar beats Singapore in AFC U-23 qualifier



Myanmar's Aung Thu carries the ball through the Singapore players during the match. **PHOTO: MFF**

Kyaw Zin Lin

THE national football squad from Myanmar, the host country, defeated Singapore by a score of 2-0 on the first day of the AFC U-23 Group (F) qualifier held at the Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The Myanmar team used star player Captain Si Thu Aung and Aung Thu during the match.

There were no goals scored in the first half due to slow play because of

heavy rain.

Myanmar scored its first goal with a slow kick from attacker Aung Thu at the 59-minute mark, whose impressive shot was threaded through multiple defenders.

After the opening goal, Myanmar began to attack more, with Aung Thu and Si Thu Aung keeping Singapore's defenders busy in the penalty area.

In the second half, both teams played more aggressively but accrued more pen-

alties. Myanmar's Aung Kaung Mann left the game because of two yellow cards, The Singapore goalkeeper also departed after a red card.

In another unusual goal, Myanmar's Hlaing Bo Bo scored the second goal after 93 minutes of play with a long header that hit the bar of the goal and came directly back to him. Hlaing Bo Bo then kicked the ball into the net.

The Myanmar national team will next play Brunei on 21 July at 6pm. ■

Australia wins against Brunei at U-23 qualifier match

Kyaw Zin Lin

AS an opening match of AFC U-23 qualifier Group (F) at the Thuwanna stadium in Yangon 3pm yesterday, the Australia team beat the Brunei team 2-0.

Australia attacked often along the first half but Brunei's defenders cleared the ball well and ended with 0-0 result.

During the second half, the

Australia team got an opening goal at 52 minute and the penalty goal was kicked pretty straight to the net by Australia's player George Blackwood.

Australia got its second goal by McGree at 85 min and it was the winning goal for the Australia team.

After the match, Australia owned 3 points and will play versus Singapore next on 21 July. ■



Players from Brunei and Australia national football team competing in the qualifier. **PHOTO: MFF**