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 Kh eing Than, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing greeted families 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, Myanma 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 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

Prayer service for Bogyoke Aung San

In commemoration 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, Juwish 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 Maharathaguru Maha Visutarama Zaygon 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 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 Than Nwe offered donations to Sanghas. Afterwards, Union Minister Lt-General Sein Win, Lt-General Ye Aung, Dr Aung Thaung, 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 presiding 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 Myin 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 Myin 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.

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

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

State Counsellor 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.

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

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 Taunggun Sayadaw Ashin Viriya (Dhamma Bheri), attended 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 Khang Thaw, Union Chief Justice U Htin 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 responsible 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
Sale of 70,000 books in Commemoration of Martyrs’ Day

Zaw Gyi (Panita)

A ceremonal 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 Lewin 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 and writer Myay Hmone Lwin said yesterday he would like to inspire the passion of reading.

Visitors crowd at a ceremorial 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 Hlutattaw 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$860 million worth of agricultural products since April. ■

GNLM
Dollar exchange remains above Ks1,360

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 Ks1,361 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 2016-17 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 Maung On, assistant general manager of SME Banking Department of KBZ Bank said. — GNLM
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 KHWAR

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

I n implementing the national economic development plan, we are greatly in need of engineers and simi-
larly, we need to train our workers to be well-equipped with skills. To do so, the Union Government should lay down effective policies, while train our workers to be well-equipped with skills. To do so, the increase the number of industries, the government need to present are currently operating for national development but also to seed or flour packing bags which we call Penang bags, find methods conducted in the school, all the curriculums and sending well-

designated syllabus to briefly review the biography of Bogyoke Aung San as so as to recapture traits of his likeness for honesty was reflected in the meeting with a client of the lawyer who is "ajani" a derivative of Pali word "ajaniya" in Burmese the equivalent word for martyr. Aung San was first and foremost a stepping stone of the many different processes of his leadership came into full bloom. Having his two elder brothers as a first impres-

sion of him and found out that behind the facade of 'crude' personality stood a polished

"good faithful servants of British
dominion. "In October 1938," writes Bogyoke in his memoirs, "Bogyoke Aung San had

the seat of higher learning the University of
gon was first and foremost a stepping stone of the many different processes of his leadership came into full bloom. Having his two elder 
brothers as a first impression of him and found out that behind the facade of 'crude' personality stood a polished one off duty...
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 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, especially his personal integrity and straightforwardness. 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 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 people 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 fascism 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 idea of “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 a master herself. Beside they had underrated the patriotic spirit of Bogyoke and the strength of the Burmese masses behind him. The task of Bogyoke now was that of a Saviour the savior to salvage his nation from Japanese fascism, an evil greater than British imperialism. Late in 1943, Bogyoke began organizing resistance which by August 1944, become the Anti Fascists Organization. In ousting the Japanese once again Bogyoke 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 Bogyoke 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. Aluangpaya, 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 Bogyoke 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. Bogyoke knew that without these two factors the attainment of real national independence would still be a long way off. So he declared the off a high military post and rank by the British Government and left the army to carry out his dedicated mission to the finns. Repeated election of Bogyoke as President of the AFFPL by over whelming 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 Bogyoke forged out cooperation abroad and unity at home. His mission to Britain and his talks with the Alliee 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. Bogyoke 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 Bogyoke dis- pelled them with one stroke at Panglong. His tour of the “fri en tier 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, “...
70th Martyrs’ Day draws huge crowds to Secretariat

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.

Aung 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 Martyrs’ Mausoleum and the Bogyoke Museum.

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.

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 border fence. The person has been identified as Fahzor Kawbir, who crossed over from neighbouring Bangladesh.

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 Taunggyewel Village in Maungtaw on Monday. The husband, Naywu Har Unan, fled from the scene and is under suspicion of delivering the blow that killed Mahmet Faisal.
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 maintain 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

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

ZHUKOVSKY — Russian Helicopters (part of the Rostec 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

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 managed 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
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-Myanmar border.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, head of the ruling junta, asked the Thomson Reuters Foundation “Don’t group all migrants as hostages until 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 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.

“Here is 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 pre-industrial 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, South-east 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 (Eximbank) was involved in seven of the coal power deals, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBC) 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 JBC, it said. JBC declined to comment on the projects it is involved 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. “JBC, 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 department 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

World

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 23rd 2017.

- Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because high tide level has reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015 and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide level 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 on 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 MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185
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 soldiers 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.”

“I felt due to my ‘image’ I wasn’t necessarily one that fits in a traditional war film,” Nolan said. “There have been many brilliant films that show blood and gore and all kinds of repulsive aspects of war.”

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 29-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 characters from the very start and it’s kind of scary at times and intense to watch,” Styles said.—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 obtain 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 1996 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 world premiere of “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 characters from the very start and it’s kind of scary at times and intense to watch,” Styles said.—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 ‘tenders’, 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 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 people to identify, the BoE says each new 10 pound note should last for around five years, compared to around two 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 Symphony 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 viola player 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 valuable music to his 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.

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 of some significance. 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

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**Myanmar International Programme Schedule**

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

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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 Kawkhmu 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 Pathein 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.

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Myanmar beats Singapore in AFC U-23 qualifier

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 penalties. 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.

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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.