

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 ■