

BIOGRAPHY OF HIS EXCELLENCY AGGA MAHA THIRI THUDHAMMA DR. BA U,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNION OF BURMA,
RANGOON.

His Excellency Dr. Ba U was the eldest son of U Pho Hla, (Companion of the Indian Empire), Retired Deputy Commissioner and Daw Daw Nyun. He was born in May 1887. He was educated at Government Collegiate School, Rangoon and at Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He took the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1912 and was called to the English Bar by the Middle Temple in January 1913. He took the Degree of Master of Arts in 1922. Soon after his call to the Bar in 1913, he was admitted as an Advocate of the Chief Court of Lower Burma. After just over eight years' practice at the Bar in Rangoon, he was appointed a District Judge and became a District and Sessions Judge in 1923. In 1930 he became a Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Rangoon. While he was a Judge of the High Court he acted twice as the President of a Tribunal appointed to try Election cases. When the War broke out, he remained behind in Burma to look after the interests of his own people. During the occupation of Burma by the Japanese forces, he continued to act as a Judge of the highest Court in Burma. When Burma was liberated from the Japanese and when the High Court of Judicature re-opened, he resumed his duties as a Judge of the said Court. In January 1946, he was created a Knight by the British Sovereign. In 1947 he acted as Chief Justice of the High Court. While acting as Chief Justice he took an active part in the making of the present Constitution of the Union of Burma. When Burma became independent in January 1948, he became the first Chief Justice of the Union of Burma. In February 1952 the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on him by the University of Rangoon. In March 1952 he was elected as the first Constitutional President of the Union of Burma.

He married in 1913 Daw Nyein, a daughter of U Aung Zan, ^{Retired} District Judge and Daw Shin. He had two sons by

his first marriage, the younger son died during the war. The eldest son, U Kyaw U, M.A.(Cantab.), Barrister-at-Law, is now working in the Secretariat of the United Nations at New York. Daw Nyein died in 1922 and in 1923 he married Daw Aye, a daughter of U Po Pe, Retired Deputy Commissioner. He had two sons and three daughters by his second marriage. Two daughters died during the time of Japanese occupation.

Before his election as President of the Union of Burma, he was Chief Commissioner of the Burma Ambulance Brigade and Chairman of the Burma Red Cross Society for several years. He is now Patron of both the Organizations.



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