

UPDJC reaches agreements on most issues except secession

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Discussions on political sector, economic sector, social sector, land and environmental sector, security sector and final day programmes for the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong (Second Session) were made in the meeting.

The issue of non-secession was much discussed at the meeting, but ended without agreement on it.

“There will be less satisfactory result than people are expecting” said U Zaw Htay, spokesman for the President’s office, told reporters following the meeting.

“We did not get agreement on the matter of seceding,” he

added. “Without the commitment of the ethnic organizations for non-secession from the Union, we cannot move forward for discussing related issues such as constitution of respective states, equality and self-determination,” he said, “so, we agreed to discuss that issues later.”

In the past, federalism has been as secession, but now, after much research and study, it is not considered as secession but unity, he said at the press conference.

“The people, the Government and the Tatmadaw had their worries and concerns about disintegration of the union. That was why non-secession is included in order to remove these wor-

ries and concerns,” he added.

According to participants of the meeting, several representatives pleaded earnestly for non-secession, but armed ethnic organizations could not agree to it, officials said.

The Government and the Tatmadaw specifically discussed the secession matter at length yesterday, and the Government, hluttaw and Tatmadaw are in total agreement on the stance of non-secession.

UPDJC secretariat member Sai Kyaw Nyunt said all economic sector proposals were discussed thoroughly in yesterday’s UPDJC meeting and were able to confirm the proposals. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the opening speech. PHOTO: MNA

Maungtaw braces for storm, orange alert issued

RESIDENTS in Maungtaw in northern Rakhine State are bracing for a tropical cyclone that has been predicted to cross the northern part of the state by 31 May.

The fire service department in Maungtaw issued a warning yesterday alerting residents of the possibility of the cyclone, which has formed in the Bay of Bengal, posing a danger to Bangladesh, Myanmar and perhaps parts of eastern India by Tuesday.

“Evacuation teams have been formed. Pamphlets on storm awareness have been delivered to the people,” said U Ye Lin Aung, Officer of the Maungtaw Township Fire Services Department.

Local authorities also held an emergency meeting yesterday to in order to prepare to quickly carry out a response to



Evacuation team announces cyclone warning over loudspeaker. PHOTO: YE HTUT

the possible disaster.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced yesterday that the depression

over the central and southeast portion of the Bay of Bengal has further intensified into a deep depression and moved over East

Central Bay of Bengal.

“It is forecast to intensify into a cyclonic storm over the next 24 hours,” said an official from the weather bureau.

The storm is centred about 260 miles southwest of Patheingyi, 310 miles southwest of Kyaukpadaung, 325 miles southwest of Sittoung, 440 miles south-southwest of Chittagong (Bangladesh) and forecast to move toward north-east wards.

Due to this deep, major weather depression, widespread rain and thundershowers are predicted for the Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Tanintharyi regions, and the Kachin, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon states over the next 72 hours, weather department officials said. Scattered rain or thundershowers are predicted for the re-

maining regions and states with isolated heavy precipitation and strong wind.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along the Myanmar coasts, officials said. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 mph.

In addition to the strong wind and heavy rainfall, flash floods and landslides may also occur over the next three days. An advisory for people living in low-lying areas, and near small rivers and streams has been issued to take precautions against landslides and flooding. Those who will be travelling in planes, trawlers, vessels and ships off and along the Myanmar coasts are advised to take notice of the effects of the deep depression and take necessary precautions. — Min Thit (MNA) ■



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