PART III of the Union Accord was successfully signed at the third and final day of 4th session of the Union Peace Conference at Myanmar International Convention Centre—II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The historic peace document is seen as a crucial step for establishing a Democratic Federal Union as it includes more detailed descriptions of procedure for future peacemaking processes.

State Counsellor and Chairperson of National Reconciliation and Peace Centre Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a speech at the conference, which was also attended by vice-chairpersons of NRPC, Union Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers and officials, the representatives from the Government, the Hluttaw and Tatmadaw members, leaders of NCA-S EAOs, patrons, chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and representatives of political parties, representatives of NCA-S EAOs for the conference, and invited guests among others.

Nai Han Thar chaired the third day of the conference, and his delegation members were Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, U Tun Tun Oo, Khun Maung Thaung and Daw Yin Yin May.

Chairman Nai Han Thar said in his opening remark that the peace conference aimed to create the best situations for the future of the country, people and organizations. National people have been trying to solve problems between each other with armed conflicts for 70 years. Still, negotiations are needed to find solutions for conflicting issues after in-depth consideration upon rooted causes.

SEE PAGE-3

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi makes the speech on the final day of the 4th session of Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong on 21 August. PHOTO: MNA

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

-NATIONAL-
MoI hosts four pillars workshop in Nay Pyi Taw

-NATIONAL-
Union Accord Part III

-BUSINESS-
YRTA sells over 40,000 YPS cards as of 17 August

-ART & CULTURE-
Glazed Cetis in Bagan
Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convenes 11th-day meeting of 17th regular session

The second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convened its 11th-day meeting of 17th regular session yesterday.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe reported the committee’s findings and remarks on the controversial bill for the amendment of The Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens.

Speaker U T Khun Myat announced that MPs can submit their names if they want to discuss the amendment proposals that are directly concerned with the controversial facts.

The Joint Bill Committee’s Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe reported the Animal Health and Breeding Development Bill sent back with remarks by the President.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker sought the assembly’s opinion on the bill and said that the Hluttaw’s decisions on the President’s remarks for the bill will be sent back to the President in accordance with Article 109 of its bylaw.

Dr Myat Nyana Soe submitted the National Library Bill’s Paragraph (15). The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker sought the assembly’s opinion on the bill and said that the Hluttaw’s decisions on the President’s remarks for the bill will be sent back to the Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

President in accordance with Article 109 of its bylaw. Joint committees, MPs, and Union-level organizations’ members discussed the 2020-2021 Financial Year National Planning Bill and Union Budget Bill.

Upon the Road Department’s discussions on the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) policies and indirect tax for road construction fund, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw said that BOT contract was being amended with compared with the rules and regulations that are internationally applied.

The amendment bill was now submitted to the Union Government’s Economic Affairs Committee after that had been discussed by Pyithu Hluttaw Transport, Communications and Construction Committee and Amyotha Hluttaw Construction, Industry, Electricity and Energy Committee.

The Union Minister continued that the taxes for roads and bridges would be increased if the amendment of the bill is approved.

Deputy Minister for Agricultural, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said that only 3.36 per cent of the Union expenditure is going to the agriculture sector and among regional countries, Malaysia uses 7 per cent, the Philippines 9.17 per cent, and Thailand 16.15 per cent.

Moreover, one of the main factors for agro production is access to agricultural water. We can only distribute agricultural water to 14 per cent of total cultivation in the country, which is low if compared to regional countries, he added.

He said that the ministry will successfully implement socio-economic development projects for the public with the government’s increase in agricultural investment.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Khin Maung Win reported on the KW loan provided by Germany. A project to electrify the villages in Thaunggyi, Loleim, and Langkho townships in southern Shan State is underway with the use of €23.883 million of KW loan and €6.535 million of cash assistance, totalling €30.418 million.

The project duration is from 2018 to 2022, and compilation of bidding document is currently 90 per cent complete. Tender for purchasing concrete pole will be invited in September 2020, and tender for remaining packages will also be invited. The ministry is trying to complete the project within the designated period, he added.

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win said that the drawing up of the National Plan for 2020-2021FY included the predictions for COVID-19.

The ministry is also drawing up Economic Recovery Plan. If the National Planning Bill is approved, the projects will be implemented in cooperation with relevant departments, he added.

The COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) has to be implemented to help the businesses affected by COVID-19 recover.

The ministry received the loan of US$708 million under Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) and Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) from IMF in first batch in July 2020. The second batch of the loan from IMF will be obtained during 2020-2021.

Moreover, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw already approved taking the loans of Japanese ¥30 billion from JICA, and K250 million from ADB.

The loans will be received in line with rules and regulations during 2020-2021FY.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, and Union Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Phone Myat also participated in the discussions.

The Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will convene its 12th-day meeting of 17th regular session on 24 August. —Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant
(Translated by Khin Thazin Han)

UEC demonstrates voting processes at model polling stations

THE Union Election Commission demonstrated voting processes for 2020 General Election, with setting up model polling stations under the guidelines of COVID-19 measures at its office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The model polling stations showed how to vote for the candidates of Pyithu, Amyotha, Region and State Hluttaws and Ethnic Affairs during 2020 General Election in line with COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

The event was attended by the Commission Chairman U Hla Thein, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein and officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports, and officials from the commission office.

The demonstrations by the commission office officials included wearing masks, washing hands with hand gel, standing 6 feet apart in queue for social distancing, temperature measurement for individual voters at the entrance of the polling stations and separate arrangements of casting votes for those with high temperature.

The UEC Chairman and attendees also discussed preparations for the elections.—MNA
(Translated by Khin Thazin Han)

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein and officials look into demonstration of the voting processes for 2020 General Election at the model polling stations in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA
**Who is eligible to vote?**

- irrespective of sex or religion
- those who are 18 years of age on the date of the election
- citizens, associate citizens, and those who have permission to become naturalized citizens, who do not contradict the provisions of the Hluttaw Election Law
- a person whose name has been included in the voting list of the respective constituency

**Who is ineligible to vote?**

- a member of a religious order
- person serving a prison sentence
- person adjudged to be of unsound mind as provided for in the relevant law
- person who has not yet been discharged as an insolvent
- person prohibited by the Election Law
- foreigner or person who has assumed foreign citizenship

---

**Myanmar signs Union Accord Part III for establishing ...**

**FROM PAGE-1**

He added the removal of inappropriate ideologies and concepts for the country with different ethnic people in finding ways of national unity.

Bogyoke Aung San led to building a genuine Union despite many challenges. However, his promises and guidelines left neglected when regaining independence of the country after he passed away. Then, the so-called Union was developed, leading to the protests of ethnic people of the nation against negligence to implement the Panglong Agreement and the non-ethnic people against failure to gain their expected fundamental rights. Authorities used weapon power to counter these protests, and then the ethnic groups unavoidably opted for armed struggles, Nai Han Thar noted.

He continued saying that struggles over 70 years were aimed to reform the wrong political system. The establishment of a genuine federal Union is also a national building task. The armed battles were unavoidably waged for national equality. The armed conflicts have not de-escalated over 70 years until now; there was no sign to solve the disputes, and that a new and correct way is needed for it.

Nai Han Thar emphasized the importance of equal rights and freedom for nationals from different backgrounds of ethnicity and faith. Attempt to influence another group will not make unity and peaceful coexistence each other; it is required to develop a Democracy Union in line with the guidelines in NCA for the peace of the country.
Myanmar signs Union Accord Part III for establishing Democratic Federal Union

He also remarked that Part III of the Union Accord is the initial step for a Democratic Federal Union, and more friendly discussions could be made on the issues of state constitutions and parliaments.

The members of UPDJC Secretariat then submitted proposals for the part III of the Union Accord. Retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw presented the framework for implementing NCA, Table 1 for phase by phase implementation beyond 2020 by Saw Mra Raza Lin and the roadmap principles for the establishment of the Democratic Federal Union.

The representatives of Government, the Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw, NCA-S EAOs, and political parties supported the proposals.

SEE PAGE-5

FROM PAGE-3

Every ethnic people value and preserve their language, culture and traditions, which are their ethnical identities. Sacrificing their lives for these values play a crucial role in making national unity; it is also related to the demand of self-rule by ethnic groups as it is the fundamental rights for them, he stressed.

He also remarked that Part III of the Union Accord is the initial step for a Democratic Federal Union, and more friendly discussions could be made on the issues of state constitutions and parliaments.

The members of UPDJC Secretariat then submitted proposals for the part III of the Union Accord. Retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw presented the framework for implementing NCA, Table 1 for phase by phase implementation beyond 2020 by Saw Mra Raza Lin and the roadmap principles for the establishment of the Democratic Federal Union.

The representatives of Government, the Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw, NCA-S EAOs, and political parties supported the proposals.

SEE PAGE-5
Myanmar signs Union Accord Part III for establishing Democratic ...

FROM PAGE-4

The chairman of the conference announced the approval for Part III of Union Accord. Representing the Government, Hluttaw, Tatmadaw, NCA-S EAOs, and political parties respectively Dr Tin Myo Win, Dr May Win Myint, Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win, Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong and U Thu Wai signed the Part III of the Union Accord.

After signing the document by the witnesses from these groups, Dr Tin Myo Win, Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong and U Thu Wai presented it to Chairman Nai Han Thar. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressed thanks for the peace agreements. (Speech of State Counsellor is covered on page 6)

Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, the presiding member of the conference, made a concluding remark on the conference, saying that the Part III of the Union Accord has agreed on the future peace process, the establishment of a Democratic Federal Union, creating a condition for further negotiation in the post-2020. An agreement has been made for the five basic federal principles; sensitive issues and interests of relevant groups were carefully discussed; it can be concluded that frequent meetings could reduce worries and doubts.

He also advised the stakeholders not to leave peace talks. He said that as the future negotiations are essential for the peace process of the country, the long-sightedness is needed to overcome the conflicting situations.

Lt-Gen Yar Pyae added that the local people in conflict-torn areas had suffered hardships in livelihoods, poor education and less development. The previous Governments could try for the existence of sovereignty amidst many challenges.

He also pointed out the need to safeguard the sovereignty of the country as it is bordering with the countries with a large number of population, while the ethnic armed groups are operating at the border areas.

He continued to say that the agreements in NCA include the establishment of a Democratic Federal Union, and it is required to persuade more ethnic armed organizations which are not taking part in peace talks related to the NCA. He concluded the speech with the common goal for peace and the need to continue peace-making efforts amid COVID-19 pandemic in line with health-care guidelines while working for the 2020 General Election. — MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)
RESPECTED Chairperson of the Conference Panel, members of the panel, leaders of the various groups, all representatives attending the conference, I send these good wishes so that all your good wishes would be fulfilled. Among the people who are watching the scene of signing the Union Accord Part III today, there may be some who might be recalling the past conferences and negotiations. During the period of more than four years, all of us invested our physical and spiritual strength to achieve the best outcome. When we were not able to get agreement on important issues at the UPDJC meeting during the period of the 21st Century Panglong Second Session, I saw in the eyes of some of the ethnic national leaders their sense of disappointment and hurt. At that time, I gave words of encouragement telling them not to feel disappointed or deserted and told them that we should all continue to try in the forthcoming conferences. If possible, all of us wanted a lot of agreements in the conference. However, I want all of you to take note that these are problems which have been with us since the time of our independence as long as our lifetimes. That is why we had to spend adequate time to achieve proper understanding and also, we had to discuss in detail to achieve satisfaction.

It may be said that three days of this conference is short; however, what was signed today – Part III of the Union Accord was not achieved easily. This agreement was achieved with great difficulty during the time when we were responding to protect and control COVID-19; like in all peace processes, we encountered highs and lows as well as ups and downs; we had to give time to ensure that both sides were satisfied. This is a testimony to the strength of the 21st Century Panglong Programme for Political Negotiations; it also serves as a valuable record of the good political intentions, determination and invaluable spirit of all those who participated in this process.

Part III of the Union Accord, which we signed today is more significant, is deeper in meaning and is full of essence. In Part I of this agreement, we were able to provide a path and a door for solving problems of understanding related to the NCA and difficulties being encountered during the NCA implementation.

In Part II of the Union Accord which relates to the step by step programmes and step by step implementation, we now find not only the search for basic principles but also find work programmes for establishing the Union step by step. As we negotiate step by step, we can implement the (51) basic principles which all of us have agreed upon, as needed. Part III of the Union Accord depicts in detail what kind of Union we want to have; this is the kind of Union we can envision in the future; the kind of Union we wish to see, it portrays with basic guiding principles the type Union we want to see emerge.

Today, at this time, no one can doubt that our country, our Union, is going to be established as a Democratic Federal Union. We have also reached agreement as to how we will proceed with regard to Part III of the Union Accord, what steps to take and what work programmes to follow. What we still need to discuss for the future is a detailed programme with timelines that will show when we need to be, at what time, in what kind of situation.

In developed countries where they have peace and stability, they have unity, although there may be differences of opinion. You will see that all countries which can establish unity no matter whatever amount of differences of opinion they might have are peaceful, stable and developed. The ability to work together cooperatively despite different views and different opinions is the ability to find a common belief. It is natural that different views and opinions will exist.

It is known to everyone that the different opinions we have to solve are deep and broad and historic in nature; that is why they are difficult to solve. However, at this conference, we have been able to find unity in spite of our different opinions. This is Part III of the Union Accord which has been signed today. Our 21st Century Panglong was able to seek out commonalities among differences and unity against opposite tendencies. This has been signed by leaders of various groups in front of the representatives attending this conference and witnesses; this will go down in the annals of history.

My first message to the conference is about ‘new plan beyond 2020 for developing a Democratic Federal Union’. We have got a lot of experiences in peace talks, political dialogues and joint monitoring processes on the ceasefire, as well as the strong points and weak points in peacemaking processes over the past four years. The three steps for this process have been announced at the opening ceremony of this conference. Implementation of these three steps will be effective and efficiently carried out by the ‘new plan beyond 2020 for developing a Democratic Federal Union’ in the post-2020, based on the recommendations and the views of relevant stakeholders in the peace process.

The new plan will ensure the effective implementation of the Union Accord Part III, while it will support for strengthening UPDJC and JMC in accordance with the NCA. It could also pave the way for non-signatories of NCA. The new plan could provide technical assistance to the representatives of negotiation groups at various levels of peace talks. Moreover, it could explore pragmatic ways to solve political problems. It is the first priority in the post-2020.

The second point is ‘shaping the character of a Union with common agreements of national people’. The processes for the implementation of NCA framework agreement section 1 of the Union Accord Part III has mentioned that ‘all national people are responsible for creating a value of the Union that encompasses national people and their languages by recognizing background history, traditional culture, literature, languages and national traits of national people living in the Union’. The term ‘value of Union in this paragraph defines ‘a single Union in unity’. It is an extraordinarily important point.

The Union, with this value, needs to be implemented in the post-2020. The third point is to continue holding dialogues. Although the NCA has been already signed, armed clashes occurred in some areas, and the fighting in these areas intensified. Similarly, some groups left the peace talks as they failed to break the deadlocks over political agreements. Meanwhile, our government reached these groups and listened to their disappointments and needs.

Then, we had to find ways to solve the underlying causes of the problems and held many informal negotiations with them again. Only when a common agreement has been reached with relevant groups, formal meetings were arranged. It is our experience in trying for great achievement. I strongly urged all the stakeholders to continue the way in finding solutions by the exchange of views at the meetings despite whatever challenges may encounter all beyond the conference or 2020.

In conclusion, I sincerely express thanks to the chairperson conference and its members of his delegation, leaders of respective groups and representatives of the conference. We all have known that there are a lot of rules and directives for health at the conference as it was held under the preventive measures against the COVID-19. I fully appreciate the cooperation of all persons in adhering to these rules.

All the attendees at the conference have tested negative for COVID-19 and that they could attend the event without any worry. However, it is required to keep on following the healthcare rules as the pandemic is still making a threat.

I conclude my speech with kind wishes to the conference chairperson, members of his delegation, leaders of groups and representatives for being free from COVID-19, being healthy and wealthy in order to join your hands firmly in trying for national reconciliation, peace and development of a Democratic Federal Union.

Thank you all.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Aung Kim)
MoI hosts four pillars workshop in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Ministry of Information hosted a workshop of representatives from the four pillars of democracy — the legislative, the administrative, the judiciary, and the media — yesterday morning — to discuss ways to promote balanced cooperation between the media and the three other pillars to provide reliable information to the people of Myanmar.

The fourth workshop of the four pillars was attended by Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairperson Dr San Shwe Win, MPs, and Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, officials from the three other pillars, Myanmar Press Council Chairperson Hantharwady U Ohn Kyaw, Vice-Chairperson Dr Myo Thant Tin and the council members, representatives from Myanmar Journalists Association, Myanmar Journalist Union, Myanmar Journalist Network, BNI Multimedia Group, and Myanmar Women Journalists Society.

In the workshop, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint said that the fourth workshop of the four pillars was held to fulfill the right to information, to make discussions among the four pillars in order to find a solution to safeguards rights and freedom of media, to mutually recognize the nature and the roles of each other among the pillars and to collaborate with each other in trying to achieve good governance, and to review the results of the third workshop of the pillars.

The Union Minister highlighted the importance of the role of media in a democratic country.

He said that implementation of the decisions made in the preliminary meetings, the six points from a previous meeting with three pillars, the eight points from a previous meeting with media, and the 13 points from the third workshop of the four pillars would be discussed in the fourth workshop.

Myanmar Press Council Chairperson Hantharwady U Ohn Kyaw said that workshops of the four pillars are the features of a democratic country.

He pointed out that the citizens assume sovereignty according to the Constitution, and the Constitution gives the mechanism for check and balance among the pillars.

He said that media have gained an important role since the era of King Mindon, and journalists are working hard in these days to provide accurate news to the public.

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun emphasized the importance of the freedom of expression for all people including journalists.

The Deputy Minister pointed out that some civil wars in some nations were sparked by false news published by media. He also warned the participants that dishonest people in foreign countries can disturb elections by using online media.

Speaking about the best way to resolve the problems, the Deputy Minister said that reliable and accountable news sources need to provide correct and accurate information in real-time. To successfully perform the duty, it is very important to have mutual understanding and collaboration among the four pillars, said the Deputy Minister.

Pyithu Hluttaw Health and Sports Development Committee Chairperson Dr San Shwe Win said that some of the six topics of the previous workshop — matters related to covering news by using online media.

Speaking about the best way to resolve the problems, the Deputy Minister said that reliable and accountable news sources need to provide correct and accurate information in real-time. To successfully perform the duty, it is very important to have mutual understanding and collaboration among the four pillars, said the Deputy Minister.

After the attendees officially approved the results of the fourth workshop, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint delivered a concluding speech.

The fourth workshop approved ten points which include matters related to media ethics and mutual respect, decision to hold further meetings, and implementation of resolutions gained from the workshops of the four pillars.

The first workshop was held on 30 December 2016, the second on 21 February 2018, and the third on 30 April 2019 — MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Sue)

Elections are the root for development of democracy.
**Price-gouging is a violation of law**

We would like to remind the people to be cautious of unscrupulous businesses or companies that may target and prey on consumers by charging excessively high prices for goods and services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Price-gouging is a violation of unfair or deceptive trade practices law. Price-gouging causes substantial injury to consumers by needlessly increasing the cost of goods and services necessary to treat or prevent a person suffering from or exposed to the COVID-19 virus, making such items scarce for use by the general public.

To respond to the situation, the Ministry of Commerce has worked to stabilize commodity markets related to health and medical equipment and household commodities since the outbreak of the disease first occurred in China.

By Dr Milton Lum

The ministry labelled three goods as “important goods,” which include health care equipment for Coronavirus disease prevention, control, treatment, and monitoring.

Price-gouging is a violation of unfair or deceptive trade practices law. Price-gouging causes substantial injury to consumers by needlessly increasing the cost of goods and services necessary to treat or prevent a person suffering from or exposed to the COVID-19 virus, making such items scarce for use by the general public.

To respond to the situation, the Ministry of Commerce has worked to stabilize commodity markets related to health and medical equipment and household commodities since the outbreak of the disease first occurred in China.

By Dr Milton Lum

The ministry labelled three goods as “important goods,” which include health care equipment for Coronavirus disease prevention, control, treatment, and monitoring.

Price-gouging is a violation of unfair or deceptive trade practices law. Price-gouging causes substantial injury to consumers by needlessly increasing the cost of goods and services necessary to treat or prevent a person suffering from or exposed to the COVID-19 virus, making such items scarce for use by the general public.

To respond to the situation, the Ministry of Commerce has worked to stabilize commodity markets related to health and medical equipment and household commodities since the outbreak of the disease first occurred in China.

By Dr Milton Lum

The ministry labelled three goods as “important goods,” which include health care equipment for Coronavirus disease prevention, control, treatment, and monitoring.

Price-gouging is a violation of unfair or deceptive trade practices law. Price-gouging causes substantial injury to consumers by needlessly increasing the cost of goods and services necessary to treat or prevent a person suffering from or exposed to the COVID-19 virus, making such items scarce for use by the general public.

To respond to the situation, the Ministry of Commerce has worked to stabilize commodity markets related to health and medical equipment and household commodities since the outbreak of the disease first occurred in China.

By Dr Milton Lum

The ministry labelled three goods as “important goods,” which include health care equipment for Coronavirus disease prevention, control, treatment, and monitoring.

Price-gouging is a violation of unfair or deceptive trade practices law. Price-gouging causes substantial injury to consumers by needlessly increasing the cost of goods and services necessary to treat or prevent a person suffering from or exposed to the COVID-19 virus, making such items scarce for use by the general public.

To respond to the situation, the Ministry of Commerce has worked to stabilize commodity markets related to health and medical equipment and household commodities since the outbreak of the disease first occurred in China.

By Dr Milton Lum

The ministry labelled three goods as “important goods,” which include health care equipment for Coronavirus disease prevention, control, treatment, and monitoring.

Price-gouging is a violation of unfair or deceptive trade practices law. Price-gouging causes substantial injury to consumers by needlessly increasing the cost of goods and services necessary to treat or prevent a person suffering from or exposed to the COVID-19 virus, making such items scarce for use by the general public.

To respond to the situation, the Ministry of Commerce has worked to stabilize commodity markets related to health and medical equipment and household commodities since the outbreak of the disease first occurred in China.

By Dr Milton Lum

The ministry labelled three goods as “important goods,” which include health care equipment for Coronavirus disease prevention, control, treatment, and monitoring.
Union Accord Part III

1. With the aim of the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, based on freedom, equality and justice, and in accordance with the Panglong spirit, to turn the Republic of the Union of Myanmar into a Union based on democracy and federal system that assures democracy, national equality and self-determination through the outcomes of political discussions, the 4th session of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong was held in Nay Pyi Taw from 19 to 21 August 2020.

2. At the conference, the policy proposals made from the discussions of the proposals submitted by the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) were agreed as parts of the Union Accord.

3. The Union Accord Part III includes the 20 points of agreement and work plans and implementations in the post-2020:

(a) Agreement 1—the 15 points of the framework agreement on implementing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (Addendum-a)
(b) Agreement 2—the stage-by-stage work programmes and step-by-step in the post-2020 (Addendum-b)
(c) Agreement 3—the five-points agreement of fundamental principles to establish a Union based on democracy and federal system (Addendum-b)

4. The heads of each group and the witnesses sign the above agreements at the 4th session of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong as the Union Accord Part III in accordance with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Section 20 (e).

Page 2 of Union Accord Part III

1. Dr Tin Myo Win
   Representative of the Government Group

2. Dr May Win Myint
   Representative of the Hluttaw Group

3. Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win
   Representative of the Tatmadaw Group

4. Dr Lian Hmung Sakhong
   Representative of the Ethnic Armed Organisation Group

5. U Thu Wai
   Representative of the Political Parties Group

Page 3 of Union Accord Part III

U Htone Phoo Dagon
Ethnic Representative
Government Group

Kya Sha Mwe
Ethnic Representative
Ethnic Armed Organizations Group

U Zein Khan Ram
Ethnic Representative
Political Parties Group

U Kyaw Win
Relevant Representative of the Government Group

Daw Khin Ma Ma Myo
Relevant Representative of the Ethnic Armed Organization Group

Nang Aye Aye Thwe
Relevant Representative of the Political Parties Group

Union Accord Part III Addendum (a)
Framework Agreement on Implementing Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA
(21 August 2020)

1. To develop the Republic of the Union of Myanmar into a Union based on democracy and federal system that assures democracy, national equality and self-determination through the outcomes of political discussions, with the aim of the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, based on freedom, equality and justice, and in accordance with the Panglong spirit.

2. To prohibit discrimination based on nationality, religion, culture and gender against all the citizens residing in the Union, while ensuring equal rights.

3. To establish a nation where there is no misuse of religion for political purpose and where politics and religion are separated from each other.

4. To settle all disagreements between peace negotiators through the goodwill towards sustainable peace.

5. To implement the issues of the Accord effectively in order to observe mutual assurances of the Accord, achieve the peace process through transparency, responsibility and accountability and stay away from taking advantage of the could-be developments.

6. To strive for the safety of life, property and wealth of the entire people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; and the uplifting of their lives.

7. To identify the ones that need interpretation out of the points included in the NCA, and hold serious dialogues that will produce common understandings and definitions between the groups.

8. To review the accomplishments of the UPDJC and the JMC within the committees, and take necessary steps towards their further effectiveness and consolidation through the bilateral consent and coordination.

9. To recognize the diversity of the background history, traditions and culture, literature, languages and national characteristics of the ethnic nationalities residing in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and collectively establish an icon of the Union by the citizens through a diversity of ethnics and languages. Note: The icon of the Union represents the only consolidated Union.

10. To organize peace talks between troops of both sides on the points of NCA that still need further negotiations are agreed.

11. (a) It is agreed to establish a Union based on democracy and federal system towards the realization of sustainable peace through bilateral coordination of the post-2020 stage-by-stage work programmes and step-by-step implementations adopted by the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong. (b) The Government, the Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw and NCA-S EAOs must continue their endeavours with responsibility and accountability for the successful realization of the Union Accord. For the faithful pursuance the original consents of the Union Accord and the basic principles, objectives and visions of the NCA, while setting up a mechanism for the realization of the Union Accord through bilateral coordination.

(c) As for the restoration of sustainable peace, bilateral negotiations for the security reconciliations (in accordance with the para 30 of NCA) in the Union based on democracy and federalism, the discussions on work programmes, the bilaterally agreed preparatory undertakings, and the formation of a mechanism for security reconciliations are agreed.

12. The realization of the points stipulated in the Union Accord and the security reconciliations shall be in accordance with the Road Map of the para 20 of NCA.

13. The realization of the accords of NCA shall be conducted through bilateral agreements of the regular meetings of the different levels of the JMCs legally formed under the NCA and the UPDJC, and the bilateral negotiations shall be held in parallel.

14. The amendment of the framework of the political dialogue by the UPDJC as necessary based on the outcomes of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong is agreed.

SEE PAGE-11

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre (phone number 2019) is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry and Post and Telecommunications Department from 9 am to 5 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon. Over 43 staff from the Medical Research Department and 17 volunteers from the Myanmar Medical Association totally 60 workers have been working at the centre since 8th April. — MNA
Health is the greatest of blessings.

I think our people already know that the number of COVID-19 positive cases found in Sittway have been high. Although I can imagine how much pain and anguish is being felt by anyone who has tested positive, let me say this, although I don't want to, so that all the people would know.

We had to issue home stay orders and other COVID related rules and regulations in Sittway because 3 or 4 government personnel went on a trip by contravening existing regulations. As a result there was an outbreak.

We now have to spend a great deal of financial and human resources to be able to contain the disease.

Health is the greatest of blessings. All the people, please be vigilant. People are the key.

(Extract from the Facebook posting of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of 21 August 2020)

Union Accord Part III

FROM PAGE-10

Union Accord Part III Addendum (b)

The Agreement 2
Stage by Stage work programmes and step by step implementations in the post 2020
(21 August 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Establishment of Union based on democracy and federal system</th>
<th>Implementation steps</th>
<th>Political negotiation</th>
<th>Technical negotiation</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Stage-1) Formulating principles for Union based on democracy and federal system</td>
<td>Establishing federal system</td>
<td>Administrative reform</td>
<td>Economic and development rights for financial sector</td>
<td>Land and resource developing democracy social harmony security reconciliation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Stage-2) Implementing Union based on democracy and federal system</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Stage-3) Strengthening Union based on democracy and federal system</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Union Accord Part III Addendum (c)

Agreement 3
Fundamental principles to establish a Union based on democracy and the federal system
(21 August 2020)

Prelude

With the aim of the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, based on freedom, equality and justice, and in accordance with the Panglong spirit, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will be developed into a Union based on democracy and federal system that assures democracy, national equality and self-determination through the outcomes of political discussions.

1. Democracy and federal system will be based on developing the country into a Union.
2. A separate and independent Constitutional Tribunal will be established to settle disputes related to the Constitution between the Union and the regions/states or among the regions/states.
3. (a) Power, resource, tax and finance will be divided between the Union and regions/states in line with the federal system (b) The three branches of sovereign pillars—legislative, executive and judiciary pillars—will be shared to the Union, regions/states, and self-administered areas. Legislative powers and joint powers among the Union, regions/states and self-administered areas will be shared in line with the Constitution.
4. Due respect and equal authority shall be developed among regions/states.
5. Fundamental rights of all citizens and their duties shall be included in the Constitution. Every citizen shall have equal rights before the law and shall have equal legal protection. Law must be enacted for the rights of national races to protect their cultures, literature, languages, faiths and traditions. Note: Regions/states shall have equal powers. The description of names will be discussed in next meetings.

97 Myanmar citizens fly back home from Hong Kong, Macau

A total of 97 Myanmar nationals stranded in Hong Kong and Macau special administrative regions came back home yesterday. Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) relief flight bringing back the Myanmar nationals landed at the Yangon International Airport yesterday evening. Officials from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and the Yangon Region government provided them with proper medical checks and arranged 21-day quarantine.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries and local ministries concerned to bring back citizens stranded abroad due to the suspension of international commercial flights, in accordance with the guidance of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)
20 new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 21 August, total figure reaches 419

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases reached 419 after 20 new cases were reported on 21 August according to Ministry of Health and Sports. The case No. 410 had contact with case-377 and case-415,417,418 and 419 with case-395. The others had no contact with positive cases and overseas travel history. Out of the 419 confirmed cases, six died, 337 have recovered, 331 have been discharged from hospitals and 45 were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 21 August 2020

Recovery Update on 21 August 2020 after two consecutive tests

New PUIs

20 new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 21 August, total figure reaches 419

KBZ MS grants health, life insurance coverage to top agents

THE KBZ MS General Insurance hosted a ceremony to present health and life insurance coverage to top insurance agents as its Agent Health and Wellness Safeguard Programme at Strand Square yesterday.

The Vice-Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and officials presented health and life insurance policies to the agents.

"It is the 2nd time that we give health and life insurance to the agents who conform to our specifications. The insurance policy was given to 81 agents last year and to 79 this year.

If the agents who try to protect the lives and properties of customers incur losses due to the unpredictable negative situations, they can get the really needed aids under the proper insurance coverage.

They will need such aids during this challenging situation," said Mr Jyothish Parameswaran Monhini, Head of Commercial.

The Agent Health and Wellness Safeguard Programme will offer fixed insurance coverage in case of illness, accidents, surgical operation, abortion and death under Aryawjan programme or Sandar programme or Drown programme of Corporate Package which is one of the insurances of KBZ MS.

KBZ cooperated with Japanese insurance company MS and started the business five bus lines from Bandoola Transportation Company and 15 bus lines from YUPT Company.

YRTA sells over 40,000 YPS cards as of 17 August

KBZ MS hosts a ceremony to present health and life insurance coverage to top insurance agents on 21 August 2020. PHOTO: KBZ MS

(Translated by Khine Thanzin Han and Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)
POSCO International donates diagnostic kits to MoHS


Deputy Minister U Soe Win and Dr Tun Naing, Minister for Electricity and Energy U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, Permanent Secretary U Than Zaw, officials from relevant departments, POSCO International Corporation (Myanmar E&P) Managing Director Mr Jung Hwan Lee and officials, electricity, and energy partner companies’ officials and invited guests.

Union Minister U Win Khaing said that POSCO International Corporation was implementing Corporate Social Responsibility - CSR programmes in education, health, social, infrastructure and environmental conservation sectors at their projects’ areas.

The Union Minister expressed thanks to the corporation for not only donating to the project areas’ quarantine centres and hospitals but also for contributing some US$200,000 for COVID-19 preventive materials for the hospitals in Yangon where most of the COVID-19 patients are being treated.

The cooperation also donated diagnostic reagents, which were imported from Korea and can do 16,000 tests, to MoHS on 18 April.

The Union Minister thanked to other Electricity and Energy partnership companies and Oil and Gas partnership companies for their donations for combating COVID-19.

POSCO International Corporation (Myanmar E&P) explained its CSR programmes with video clips.

Union Minister U Win Khaing handed over the RT-PCR machine and other medical supplies donated by POSCO International Corporation (Myanmar E&P) to Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe, who returned certificates of honour.

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement holds virtual meeting and provides cash assistance for IDPs in Rakhine State on 21 August.

POSCO International Corporation (Myanmar E&P) to Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe (centre right) accepts the diagnostic kits donated by POSCO International Cooperation (Myanmar E&P) on 21 August. PHOTO:MNA

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Deputy Ministers U Khin Maung Win and Dr Tun Naing, Permanent Secretary U Thant Kyaw gave certificates of honour to the officials of 23 companies which donated medical equipment for combating COVID-19.

POSCO International Corporation donated diagnostic kits to MoHS for combating COVID-19, and the donated RT-PCR machine and diagnostic reagents will be greatly beneficial for combating COVID-19 after timely testing people for the virus.

The ministry is currently working on controlling the spread of COVID-19 that was recently found in Rakhine State by issuing instructions and setting up plans in line with the central committee’s guidelines not to spread the virus in other regions.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung and Khine Thazin Han)

POSCO International donates diagnostic kits to MoHS

The ministry is currently working on controlling the spread of COVID-19 that was recently found in Rakhine State by issuing instructions and setting up plans in line with the central committee’s guidelines not to spread the virus in other regions.—MNA

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held an online discussion yesterday to provide cash assistance to internally displaced persons at IDP camps in Rakhine State under the Government CERP and to construct temporary quarantine centres for the patients with suspected or confirmed cases COVID-19.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, ministers of state government, directors-general, deputy directors-general of the ministry joined the meeting.

The Union Minister said that the ministry made preparations since WHO declared coronavirus a pandemic and set standard operating procedure (SOP) for preventing COVID-19 at the IDP camps and refugee camps in Rakhine State.

The procedures are also set how to do if some suspected patients are found at the camps and the cash assistance is contributed to construct shelters to place such patients.

When the government conducted CERP the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Health and Sports and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement main carried out for the sake of people, said the Union Minister, adding the cooperation works to settle the current difficulties of Rakhine State government.

The Director-General of Social Welfare Department and the Deputy Director-General of Rehabilitation Department briefed the programmes regarding cash assistance to elderly between the age of 80 and 85 years, people with disabilities and expecting mothers across the nation for one time under CERP.

They continuously explained that the MCCRT programme intends to support cash assistance to the pregnant women in Rakhine State until their child reaches two years old and so they would not be concerned with this one-time cash assistance programme. But they will receive the assistance of MCCRT programme in accordance with the rules set in COVID-19 pandemic.

Director of Rakhine State Disaster Management Department presented a total of Kt604,120,000 cash assistance for 40,103 households at IDP camps in Rakhine State under CERP and K266,400,000 to construct 30 Long Houses to place the infected or suspected patients under the ministry’s plan to the Rakhine State Chief Minister.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Govt provides cash for IDP camps, assistance for COVID-19 temporary quarantine centres in Rakhine

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement holds virtual meeting and provides cash assistance for IDPs in Rakhine State on 21 August. PHOTO:MNA

POSCO International donates diagnostic kits to MoHS

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement holds virtual meeting and provides cash assistance for IDPs in Rakhine State on 21 August.

When the government conducted CERP the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Health and Sports and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement main carried out for the sake of people, said the Union Minister, adding the cooperation works to settle the current difficulties of Rakhine State government.

The Director-General of Social Welfare Department and the Deputy Director-General of Rehabilitation Department briefed the programmes regarding cash assistance to elderly between the age of 80 and 85 years, people with disabilities and expecting mothers across the nation for one time under CERP.

They continuously explained that the MCCRT programme intends to support cash assistance to the pregnant women in Rakhine State until their child reaches two years old and so they would not be concerned with this one-time cash assistance programme. But they will receive the assistance of MCCRT programme in accordance with the rules set in COVID-19 pandemic.

Director of Rakhine State Disaster Management Department presented a total of Kt604,120,000 cash assistance for 40,103 households at IDP camps in Rakhine State under CERP and K266,400,000 to construct 30 Long Houses to place the infected or suspected patients under the ministry’s plan to the Rakhine State Chief Minister.—MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)
Glazed Cetis in Bagan

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

A RCHITECTURAL works, masonry floral works and mural paintings as well as glazed works can be seen in Bagan world’s heritage site where there remain 3,882 ancient buildings including stupas, temples and virgin mounds. In Bagan era, people built temples and stupas decorated with earthen wares coated by glaze and shale wares coated by glaze.

As such, glazed earthen wares can be seen at 26 Cetis and glazed shale works at five Cetis in Bagan cultural area.

Art of glaze coating

Glaze wares were used on a wider scale in Bagan in 8th Century AD. Glaze was used not only in making utensils but also at religious edifices such as temples and stupas. An art of coating glaze on shale pieces developed in Bagan era from 11th to 13th centuries to create works of Jataka and make glazed terracotta decorated on the walls of stupas and temples.

Mostly, glazed terracotta plaques depicted plots of Jataka from 500 lives of the Lord Buddha. Some plots were captioned. Bagan’s glazed terracotta plaques are tangible cultural heritages and its making art, intangible cultural heritages.

Glaze in Bagan

The UNESCO recognized Bagan cultural area as the World Heritage Site in 2019 as the area has been a focal point of national favours and cultural heritages.

Bagan located in NyaungU District of Mandalay Region, takes a position on the eastern bank of Ayeyawady River, four miles from NyaungU. Bagan is located on 13 kilometres long and six kilometres wide. It is 612 kilometres from Yangon along motor road and 468 miles along the water course of Ayeyawady River.

Ancient Bagan City State was ruled by the dynasty from King Pyinpya (846-876 AD) to King Saw Mon Nit (1325-1368 AD) but experts remarked there was no firm historical evidence for early kings of Bagan before King Anawrahta. In the reign of King Anawrahta, Bagan became the united first Myanmar Empire.

Bagan was very prosperous in the 10th century AD when kings and people built stupas and temples, religious edifices and monasteries. Bagan flourished after deterioration of Sri Kestra, so Buddhism of Sri Kestra moved to Bagan as a support from Su-vannabhumi, according to the remarks of Saya U Bo Kay. Nga-kywe Nataung Stupa and other stupas with Pyu architectural works similar to Bawbawgyi and Phuyagyi stupas from Sri Kestra can be seen in Bagan till today.

At that time, art of sculpture, art of painting and art of construction from India might flow into Bagan so as to emerge an
art of Bagan.

In Bagan era when cultural works strengthened, glazed ware production much flourished. As such, art of glazed wares developed in Pinya, Irrawaddy, Toungoo, Nyaungyung and Konbaung eras. Some evidences were found that some parts of Haktine area used glazed wares.

After the reign of King Anawrahta, stupas and temples built around Bagan were decorated with glazed wares on a wider scale. As of 11th century AD, stupas and temples in Bagan were seen with glazed works.

Glazed wares were used in Bagan era with evidences which showed the ink inscriptions expressed on the wall of the prayer hall of Alodawpyae Pagoda in 556 AD.

Shwegugyi Pagoda, Sintkawani Temple, Nagayon Pagoda, of Alodawpyae Pagoda), Culam-Nataung Stupa, Glaze Ceti (west of Bagan), Thayetkyin Pagoda, Ngakywe Nataung Stupa, Pha Pagoda, Shwehsandaw Pagoda, Hsinmyatoo Ceti, Dhamma Razaka Pagoda, Htilo Minlo Pagoda, Mingala Stupa built by King Narapatisithu in 1090. Buildings on four sides of the temple were roofed with tiers. Interior and exterior of the temple tunnel were decorated with Buddha images, statues and picture of Jatakas. Four standing Buddha images were kept in four dimensions of the cave of the temple.

Ananda Temple was decorated with Myanmar architectural works, stone sculpture, masonry, wooden sculptural works and bronze works. Base and roof of the temple were filled with colourful glazed terracotta plaques. More than 920 years old Ananda Temple is the most eminent among ancient stupas and temples in Bagan.

The glazed terracotta plaques at Ananda Temple are the best among others in Bagan. Experts assume such kinds of glazed terracotta plaques at Ananda Temple might be made before baking. Moreover, Ananda Temple was not built with ladder leading onto the upper terrace, so things on the terrace could be kept away from touching of people. Mingala Stupa's four corners were built with four encircled Cetis. Two of them in south-east and south-west corners were decorated with glazed bricks on which ornamental motif in stucco depicting an ogre were illustrated. Dhamma Razaka Pagoda filled with glazed terracotta plaques takes a position near Thitmahtee Monastery in Pwassaw Village. It was built by King Narapatisithu in 556 ME. Three terraces in pentagonal shape were decorated with 556 Jataka plots on glazed-coated bricks. Most of glazed works were damaged. Glazed terracotta plaques on the fourth terrace were shaped in diamond.

Bagan's glazed kiln

Seven old glazed kilns were found in Bagan. No 1 kiln was excavated by Senior Research Officer U Kyaw Nyein of Myanmar Research Work Group and Mr S. D. Strologo of Public Housing Rehabilitation Board-PHRB in July 1963. Such kiln was 150 yards southeast to Myinkapa Village. They found baked soil mixed with glaze, broken pieces of pots and glazed-coated earthy wares. But, it was just a kiln to bake glazed pots and cups, not related to glazed terracotta plaques from stupas and temples in Bagan, according to the year report of the Division of Archaeology (1962-63). Bagan glazed kiln No 1 was unearthed again by a glaze expert from Australia and staff from Bagan branch of Department of Archaeology.

No 2 glazed kiln located in a residence near Nann Pagoda, south of Myinkapa Village, was on the lane of cycling before 1988. So, the Department of Archaeology built a detour to the kiln and excavated it to be maintained. Brims of the kiln were dyed with green and yellow glaze.

No 3 kiln took a position, southwest of Myinkapa Village and south of Thitmahtee monastery, 250 metres from No 2 kiln and near the bank of Ayeyawady River. The kiln excavated in 1989 is under maintenance of the Department of Archaeology.

No 4 kiln, east of Laytha monastery which is located northwest of Apei Yadana Pagoda, was in shape of oval, different to other shop. Fire hole of the kiln was built on the east wing. Brim of the kiln was dyed with green glazed pieces. No 5 kiln, 30 metres west of Apei Yadana Pagoda, was formed with fire hole and smoke hold. Broken pieces of glazed pots and glazed lava were found near the kiln.

No 6 kiln was located 137 metres west of Seinnyet Nyamap Pagoda, and pieces of glazed wares were found. No 7 kiln took 18 metres southeast of Apei Yadana Pagoda.

Firm evidences proved that glazed wares were produced in Bagan after glazed kilns were found in Bagan. Veteran historian Saya U Bo Kay remarked Ngakywe Nataung Stupa was the most famous one for glaze in Bagan, and glaze became a plaque on some bricks of the pagoda, so glaze was coated on the pagoda after it was built of bricks.

Not only advanced Myanmar architectural works but also glaze culture polish prestige of Bagan.

(Translated by Than Tun Aung)

References:

Glaze works and glazed kilns in Bagan (Minbu Aung Kyaw) Guide to Research in Bagan (U Kyaw) Yearly reports on archaeology.
MFF holds Players’ Status Committee Meeting

MYANMAR Football Federation held Players’ Status Committee (1/2020) meeting yesterday at its headquarters in Yangon.

Chairperson of the Players’ Status Committee U Khun Naung Myint Wai, committee members, Myanmar Football Federation General Secretary U Ko Ko Thein and Myanmar National League Chief Executive Officer U Soe Moe Kyaw and officials attended the meeting.


Football authorities also focused on rules and regulations to be used in contracts of local and foreign players’ transfer issue. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Majority of Japanese firms against holding Olympics in 2021: poll

TOKYO — More than half of nearly 13,000 Japanese companies surveyed are opposed to the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics being held in the summer of 2021 following a one-year postponement due to the coronavirus pandemic, a research firm said Thursday.

In the online survey by Tokyo Shoko Research covering 12,857 companies, 27.8 per cent said they want the Tokyo Games to be cancelled while 25.8 per cent said the sporting event should be postponed again.

Under the current plan, the Olympics will begin on July 23, and the Tokyo Games’ organizers and the International Olympic Committee have agreed to simplify the event partly to ensure safety from the coronavirus.

The survey results appear to reflect falling expectations for the economic benefits that the event would bring, with fewer visitors to Japan expected.

Settled at last, Neymar ready to deliver for PSG on biggest stage

LISBON — Paris Saint-Germain’s fortunes in the Champions League in recent years have been inextricably linked to those of Neymar, even before they bought the Brazilian for a world record fee, and if he maintains his recent form in Sunday’s final it may make the difference against formidable Bayern Munich.

At 28, Neymar is desperate to get his hands on another Champions League winner’s medal, five years after he won the competition with Barcelona.

If he can play the starring role in a PSG victory – while Cristiano Ronaldo’s Juventus were absent altogether from the ‘Final Eight’ and Lionel Messi’s Barcelona went home in disarray – he will perhaps be accepted as the best player in the world, even with no Ballon d’Or in this pandemic year.

It would be good timing for Netflix too, with the streaming service currently working on a documentary series about his season in Paris according to reports in Brazil.

And for PSG and their Qatari owners, it would validate their decision to pay 222 million euros ($264 million) to take him from Barcelona three years ago, after his first two seasons in the French capital were overshadowed by injury and constant reports that he was unsettled. —AFP ■

Four share Northern Trust lead as PGA playoffs begin

SYDNEY — Australia’s Camerond Davis fired a seven-under par 64 to share the lead with Americans Harris English, Kevin Streelman and Russell Henley after Thursday’s opening round of the US PGA Northern Trust.

Davis, chasing his first US PGA title, made eight birdies against a lone bogey on his par-ultimiate hole to join the US pack atop the leaderboard in the FedEx Cup playoff opener at TPC Boston.

“My game suits this place pretty well,” the 25-year-old from Sydney said. “We’ve got to hit our irons well. I felt like all I had to do was play a nice solid round of golf.”

“I was able to get a few more putts to go in and that’s nice to see. Nice to finally get a low one.”

Davis opened and closed the back side, his opening nine holes, with back-to-back birdies on par-5 at six and added a 12-foot birdie putt at 14.

The Aussie added 21-foot birdie putts at the par-5 second and par-4 sixth but found brush at the par-3 eighth and took a bogey. —AFP ■

Neymar has put his first two, difficult years in Paris behind him to play an outstanding role in their run to this season’s Champions League final in Lisbon. PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE