Press conference for Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong

Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong press conference held in Nay Pyi Taw.
PHOTO: PHO HTAUNG

By Ye Kaung Nyunt

A PRESS conference following the first day meeting of the Third season of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong was held at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw at 4:30pm yesterday.

Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) secretaries U Hla Maung Shwe, U Zaw Htay, Dr. Salai Hlyan Hmon Sar Khaung and Sai Kyaw Nyunt explained the third session's progress, the 14 points pertaining to the political, economic, social, land and natural environment sectors submitted for inclusion in the second part of the union agreement, and the separate individual meetings among the northern alliance, the State Counsellor and the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Service.

U Zaw Htay said the representatives of the seven non-signatories were present at the UPC third session as well as Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) representatives. The KNPP is in talks to sign the nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA). He said the northern organisations met with the Commander-in-Chief yesterday and will meet with the State Counsellor today. Reporters will not be allowed at the meetings, but will receive details of the news later. The KNPP is also in discussions to meet with the Peace Commission separately. The northern organisations are focusing on mainly discussing military affairs.

The press conference revealed there will be meetings with both signatories and non-signatories of the NCA.

Dr. Salai Hlyan Hmon Sar Khaung said they are hoping for non-signatories to sign the NCA as soon as possible. So far there are ten signatories to the NCA, but numerous non-signatories are attending the peace conference, he said. "The State Counsellor and Commander-in-Chief invited them to participate and so does the entire nation," he said. "The platform is ready for us to strengthen trust so the conference will be immensely beneficial."

The UPDJC working committees have submitted four points for the political sector, one for the economic sector, seven for the social sector and two for the land sector, a total of 14 points, in the second part of the union agreement.

U Hla Maung Shwe said 10 points of the economic sector were originally submitted to the UPDJC, but a mutual agreement was reached on only one point. He said this doesn't mean the other points are annulled, but rather they will be brought up for discussion in a future UPDJC meeting.

This was followed by a question-and-answer session. Political Parties Group Representative Sai Kyaw Nyunt announced that the speech delivered by Daw Aye Nu Sein, Vice Chairof the Arakan National Party, expressed only the opinion of the respective part and not of the Political Parties Group.

U Hla Maung Shwe said the Peace Commission will meet with KNPP today to discuss signing the NCA. ■

UPDJC releases announcement of Political Parties Group

Date: 11 July,2018

1. At the opening ceremony of the third session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong at the Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 July 2018, Daw Aye Nu Sein, Vice Chair of the Arakan National Party (ANP), delivered an opening address.
2. Regarding her remarks made at the ceremony, the Political Parties Group of the UPDJC released the following announcement.

A. Her remarks in her address do not represent the platform of the Political Parties Group of UPDJC.
B. Without discussion with the Political Parties Group, she clarified only her party's platform.
C. Some of her remarks in her address are not directly related with the current efforts for peacemaking.

Political Parties Group
Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee

VP U Myint Swe highlights importance of family planning

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The Vice President said family planning can go a long way in supporting socio-economic development, reducing mortality rates of mothers and children, allow more women to enter the workforce and thus reduce poverty, ensure children receive adequate nutrition, ensure enough learning institutions are available for all children to receive education, and reduce spending on mother and child protection services.

The Ministry of Health and Sports is collaborating with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and mother and child protection organizations to promote family planning operations, distribute contraceptives and birth control pills, and provide educational workshops, said the Vice President.

Next, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe explained facts related to the theme "Family Planning is a Human Right". This was followed by an explanation on World Population Day by UNFPA Acting Representative to Myanmar Ms. Kaori Ishikawa.

Afterwards, a video on family planning and a short animation on this year's World Population theme were played to the audience.

After the ceremony, attendees viewed the World Population Day exhibits on display. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Squatters in Maungtaw relocated

MAUNGTAW Township authorities have relocated squatters near Thinbawgway Village in Maungtaw to a temporary shelter established at a monastery in a nearby village.

Following the relocation on Monday, the authorities also provided food and clothes to 24 families of squatters illegally settling in the village.

The Maungtaw Township General Administration Department issued two orders in February warning the squatters not to settle in the village without seeking permission from authorities. They were warned that action would be taken in accordance with the law against those who do not comply with the order.

Squatter camps near Thinbawgway Village in Maungtaw.
PHOTO: MIN THIT (MNA)

Thirty-seven families from the same area were relocated to a new site near Indin Village on 25 February.

To accommodate the squatters, 100 buildings are under construction in a new area with the arrangement of the Rakhine State government.— Min Thit (MNA), Ko Min ■