

**State level peace talks between Union
Peace-making Work Committee and Taaung
(Palaung) National Liberation Army (TNLA)**

Nay Pyi Taw, 31 July — A state level peace talks between a delegation led by Vice-Chairman of Union Peacemaking Work Committee Union Minister U Aung Min and a delegation led by General Secretary of Taaung (Palaung) National Liberation Army (TNLA) Lt-Col Tar Ohn Kyaw and Vice-Chief of Staff Major Tar Khu Lan was held at Shweli Yeiktha in Muse this morning.

In his greetings, Union Minister U Aung Min said that he was there as the delegation members including the President were peace loving people. He vowed to move towards peace through the peace talks with Taaung (Palaung) National Liberation Army, putting all-out efforts in it. He continued that peace was an essential prerequisite for the Union and all national races. Without peace, democracy could not be achieved. He added that the peacemaking processes were being implemented by the committee with a good brotherly feeling and sense of equality, holding talks with all national brethren in any part of the country.

Next, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Socio-economic Development Committee U Maung Maung Swe, the State chief minister, the commander and officials of Palaung self-administered zone reported on ongoing works for peace and stability and socio-economic development.

Then, General Secretary of Taaung (Palaung) National Liberation Army (TNLA) of Lt-Col Tar Ohn Kyaw gave an account of ceasefire, peace and requirements for regional development. Afterwards, both sides exchanged views on matters related to security and development of the region and eradication of narcotic drugs.

After the meeting, Vice-Chairman Union Minister U Aung Min presented a commemorative peace bell and Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Maung Maung Swe, Union Minister U Ohn Myint, the Shan State chief minister and the commander gifts to members of TNLA.

Both side agreed to say that the today's peace talks was a successful one, prepare for the next meeting to be able to sign a ceasefire agreement and continue to hold a political dialogue after ceasefire.

The meeting was attended by Vice-Chairman of Union Peace-making Work Committee Union Minister U Aung Min, Union Ministers U Win Tun and U Ohn Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Maung Maung Swe, Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Aung Soe and members, General Secretary of Taaung (Palaung) National Liberation Army (TNLA) Lt-Col Tar Ohn Kyaw and Vice-Chief of Staff Major Tar Khu Lan and members, observers from KNU, SSPP/ SSA, UWSA, NMSP and KIA and responsible persons of Myanmar Peace Centre.

While the peace talks in progress, local Palaung nationals expressed their expectations for the success of peace talk, performing traditional dances near Shweli Yeiktha.

“I am very pleased to see the peace talks between TNLA and the government. If cooperation for regional development emerges, it will make me so happy. We, people, are willing to see community peace and tranquility and better livelihoods. Local people in some parts of the region that lack peace and stability have a difficult life. I would like to see peace as quick as possible and urge the government to provide more assistance for better livelihood of Palaung nationals. I wish to bring peace on the region through the meeting”, said a Palaung national, Lway Ei Mo Aye.

“The meeting is good. Ceasefire is needed for national reconciliation in Myanmar. Ceasefire is the beginning of the problems we want to resolve. Bringing the more than 60-year-old internal conflict to an end what the President and U Aung Min said is a must. Ceasefire should be the first to end the war. I believe the today’s meeting could be translated into a success. Peace cannot be made at once. A series of negotiations will a plus sign of achieving success,” said CEC member Naing Tala Nyi of New Mon State Party who was there as an observer.—MNA
