Pyithu Hluttaw discusses proposal to suspend construction of high-rise buildings in Yangon

THE Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) discussed an urgent proposal today that would suspend the construction of high-rise buildings in Yangon until they meet all existing rules and regulations for construction.

The parliament put the urgent proposal on record, pledging that it would monitor the issue. Regarding the proposal, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint replied that the ministry is closely supervising buildings that are being built by the ministry to ensure that they follow the rules.

However, he added, the Yangon City Development Committee has set up a subcommittee of experts to supervise the construction of buildings higher than 11 stories.

The construction of buildings across the country should follow the existing construction rules and regulations, the deputy minister said.

Also at yesterday’s Lower House session, MPs asked questions about the upgrading of a school in Pakokku Township, the drinking water supply in Bilin Township, the repaying agriculture loans in Tamu District and about permissions to use virgin and fallow lands.

MP Dr Soe Moe Aung from Bilin Constituency asked whether the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has a plan to supply drinking water from the townships’ Kazau Dam to the wards that face a scarcity of water every summer.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw replied that the ministry mainly supplies irrigation water to local farms. However, the deputy minister said, the ministry will cooperate with local development affairs departments to supply drinking water to the wards if the departments report on the issue to the ministry.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives former British PM

THURA U Shwe Mann, the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, received Mr Tony Blair, former British Prime Minister, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo called on courts to promote public relations and to aid the development of public trust in the judiciary sector.

At the 10th work coordination meeting of judges from region and state courts in Nay Pyi Taw, the chief justice of the union stressed the importance of the cooperation of the people in proper administration of justice.

The Supreme Court of the Union heard 1,675 criminal cases from January 1 to December 31, 2015, and has already passed judgment on 1,269 of those cases while 2,072, out of the total 3,193, civil cases that were heard in that period have been have ruled on.

In his concluding remarks, U Tun Tun Oo called on judges across the country to strive to hear and settle cases efficiently and justly.

The meeting will end on 9 January.—Myanmar News Agency

NCA parties to set up truce monitoring scheme in Shan State

225 reported fires in Yangon Region during 2015

The leading causes of fire outbreak in Yangon in 2015 have been determined as being general negligence and electric short circuiting. Yangon Region saw more than 225 total fires in 2015.

The Yangon Region Fire Services Department said in its statement yesterday that out of the fires that broke out in 2015, 99 were caused by electric short circuiting and 88 were due to human negligence. Fires in 2015 caused more than K 365 million worth of damage. There were 266 recorded fires in 2014, causing more than K 328 million worth of damage.

With more than 670 firemen and 20,000 auxiliary firemen the Yangon Region Fire Services Department is taking measures to reduce the number of fires in future. The department has installed CCTV cameras at eight high rise buildings in the region, keeping them under close watch around the clock in an attempt to pre-empt destructive fires.

There are 45 fire stations in 45 towns and 103 fire engines, 23 water tankers and supporting vehicles.—Ko Moe