Pyidaungsu Hluttaw debates extension of retirement age
[incl. Boiler, television and radio broadcasting, preservation and maintenance of ancient artefacts bills+village-tracts in Rakhine and Shan States, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions]

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 July — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw heard vigorous debate Thursday from MPs arguing for and against extending the retirement age for civil servants from the current 60 years. Fourteen representatives discussed two separate proposals on the issue — one seeking to keep the retirement age at 60 and the other pushing to raise it to 63. U Khin Maung Nyo of Loikaw constituency supported maintaining the status quo, while Lt-Col Hlaing Win, representative of defence services, spoke in favour of raising the age, arguing civil servants aged 60 and above with rich experience would contribute a lot to the country, provided they were healthy enough to continue working. U Htan Lain of Mintut constituency was against the proposed extension, saying it could become a barrier to promotion for subordinates. In a similar vein, U Sai Than Naing of Phapun constituency said extension of the retirement age would fuel the unemployment problem. U Kyaw Thu, Chairman of the Union Civil Services Board, said the issue had undeniable pros and cons, but hinted that the board would extend the retirement age if it was deemed to be in the interests of the country and civil workforce.

The parliament approved three bills — the boiler bill, the election commission amendment bill and the dams bill — that came from the president with remarks. The parliament also put on record four bills concerning television and radio broadcasting, preservation and maintenance of ancient artefacts and buildings, and development of border areas and national races. Also put on record were issues related to reformation of village-tracts in Rakhine State, Shan State, Mandalay Region, Yangon Region and Ayeyawady Region. --MNA

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