Amyotha Hluttaw Round-up

THE 13th regular session of the first Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) entered its 26th day yesterday, with a question and answer session, an approval process for two reports and the submission of one report.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint responded to a question about a government-funded highway in Kayah State posed by MP U Hnin Wai of Kayah State Constituency No. 12. The MP asked whether upgrading and maintenance works are being undertaken with the use of annual funding allocations.

The Union minister said the ministry plans to upgrade roads, build bridges, culverts and rock retaining walls and install guardrails along the Toungoo-Leiktho-Yado-Loi-kaw-Hopong road during the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Moreover, the Hpahsaung-Maesenan-Maese-Nantmann road will be upgraded, and bridges and culverts on the road will also be built, the Union minister added.

The ministry and the Kayah State government have already coordinated the installation of new toll gates in the state, said the Union minister.

Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Min Aung also replied to a question about the Ministry of Education’s plan to reopen the Government Technological Institute (Insein), which was posed by U Nu of Yangon Region Constituency No 10.

In his reply, the deputy minister said short-term vocational training courses, including technical courses, are set to open in the main building of the institute.

The 120-year-old main building of the Insein GTI received a Blue Plaque from the Yangon Heritage Trust last December, acknowledging its status as a significant historic building.

Next, reports by the Mining, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee and the Bill Committee on respective activities undertaken during the first Amyotha Hluttaw were submitted for approval.

MP U Htay Maung, a member of the Amyotha Hluttaw Education, Health and Women and Children Affairs Committee, presented the committee’s report to the hluttaw.—Myanmar News Agency

Pre-paid toll card system rolled out on Lashio-Muse highway

SMALL vehicles travelling along the Mandalay–Lashio–Muse highway will be able to pay road tolls using pre-paid cards by July 2016, according to the Oriental Highway Company Ltd, which is implementing the system.

U Tin Ko Ko, the company’s project manager, explained that the pre-paid card system was initially rolled out on 1 January of this year, with around 200 large vehicles currently using the system along the highway.

“We’ve got about 200 large vehicles currently using the system and have estimated that it will be made available for small vehicles by the end of July, as we’ve still got some preparations to take care of. [The pre-paid card system] will make it quick and easy to pay road tolls, mitigating any additional charges that might otherwise be incurred. [Drivers] will be able to check their remaining balance as they pass through the toll gates,” he said.

In order to use the pre-paid cards, one must submit an application with their vehicle’s registration and the name of the primary driver. A minimum balance of K50,000 must be initially added to each new card.

The Oriental Highway Company Ltd has announced that the pre-paid cards will not be transferrable between different vehicles.

The Mandalay–Lashio–Muse highway has a total of 14 toll gates. Pre-paid cards can be topped up along the way at the toll gates at Kyauk, Kyaw (Mandalay), Kyaukme, Shaung Lan (Lashio) and 105 Mile (Muse).—Myitmakha News Agency

Five missing schoolgirls returned to parents

FIVE schoolgirls aged 15 and 16 were returned to their parents on 17 January, according to police women in Hlaingthaya Township, Yangon Region. They had previously run away from their homes leaving no explanation, fuelling speculation that they had been abducted.

The high school students were reported to have left Hpa-an, Kayin State, on 16 January and to have arrived in Yangon in the late evening, with the local police saying the girls spent the night at the house of bus conductor Myo Myint Zaw, with whom they became friends on the way.

Following a tip-off about their arrival in Hlaingthaya, local police found the five schoolgirls in the township and returned them to their respective parents.—Police Information Centre

President with remarks.

National Planning and Economic Development Minister Dr Kan Zaw responded to queries raised by four representatives in connection with the National Comprehensive Development Plan 2010-2030, which was re-submitted to parliament by the Union government.

During the discussion, MP U Hnin Wai of Kayah State posed by MP U Hnin Wai of Kayah State Constituency No. 12. The MP asked whether upgrading and maintenance works are being undertaken with the use of annual funding allocations.

The Union minister said the ministry plans to upgrade roads, build bridges, culverts and rock retaining walls and install guardrails along the Toungoo-Leiktho-Yado-Loi-kaw-Hopong road during the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Moreover, the Hpahsaung-Maesenan-Maese-Nantmann road will be upgraded, and bridges and culverts on the road will also be built, the Union minister added.

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