

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw votes to postpone constitutional referendum

NAY PYI TAW, 22 July — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Wednesday voted in favour of postponing a constitutional referendum until after the 8 November general election.

The referendum on Section 59 (d) of the Constitution had been scheduled to be held in conjunc-

tion with the election, but the Union Election Commission proposed holding it separately at a later date.

The referendum will ask voters whether the term “military” in the section — which states the president of the union “shall be well acquainted with the affairs of the

Union such as political, administrative, economic and military” — should be changed to “defence.”

A majority of MPs backed the UEC proposal, saying the concurrent staging of the referendum with the election would pose several difficulties but would not reduce

costs significantly.

The Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw earlier this month said he would send a proposal to the Union Election Commission to hold a referendum on amendment of Section 59 (D) alongside the parliamentary elections on 8 November.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

In budget matters, MPs also discussed the Public Account Joint Committee’s report on the national budget for the second half of fiscal 2014-2015.

Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein said the government is making plans to reduce the number of its loans from the Central Bank of Myanmar.

MNA



Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw MPs raise queries on illegal liquor license, national sports plans

NAY PYI TAW, 22 July — Strict enforcement of regulations on reduction of illegal liquor sales will continue while the number of beverage license is being decreased year by year, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun told the Amyotha Hluttaw on Wednesday.

The ministry has issued 41,040 liquor licenses for

the fiscal year, 170 fewer than last year, under 30 categories. Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htike replied to queries about national sports plans. He said a total of 40 townships across the country do not have sports grounds or stadiums. He also urged other government agencies to inform the Union government and the sports ministry if sports

facilities are renovated for other purposes.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society Bill with an amendment from Pyithu Hluttaw was submitted for approval, and the report on the Arbitration Bill was read out. The Bill on the Brothel Suppression Act was submitted for approval, and was read out to the parliament. The report on the Bill amending the Blood and Blood Products Law was



Amyotha Hluttaw

submitted and with a call for suggestions from parliamentarians.—MNA

MPs discussed an issue on strict enforcement of regulations on liquor sales at Amyotha Hluttaw.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw discuss reservoir projects, Chindwin River conservation



Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein.

MNA

U Khin Zaw told the Pyithu Hluttaw on Wednesday.

The ministry had requested funds to complete the Swanye and Minhla reservoir projects this fiscal year but did not receive budget approval. Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein said K 26.8 million will be spent on dredging as part of waterway maintenance of the Chindwin River.

The Joint Bill Committee submitted the second amending bill on the Pyid- uangsu Hluttaw Law. Approval was sought for the bills on the Union Government Law and Homogenous Marriage.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 July — Construction of two reservoirs for the Zawgyi irrigation system in Sagaing Region’s Singu Township

can be completed next fiscal year provided enough funds are allocated in the budget, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation

Myanmar, Laos to promote cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 22 July — Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann held a talk with Vice President of Lao People’s Democratic Republic Mr. Boun-

nhang Vorachith and party at the hall of Hluttaw complex, here, Wednesday.

They discussed bilateral relations and further cooperation between the two

countries.

Mr. Bounnhang Vorachith and wife and party arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport Tuesday evening.—MNA

Networking, investment seminar draws more than 20 Japanese firms

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 22 July — More than 20 Japanese firms seeking to invest in Myanmar attended a business networking event Wednesday in Yangon held by the Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ.

Thirteen Myanmar companies and three from

Thailand also attended the event, which saw some 100 meetings arranged between participating firms, according to the organizer.

The Japanese companies represented diverse business sectors including food, consumer products, media, chemical products and construction.

BTMU senior executive Mr Makoto Kobayashi



Tokyo-based BTMU