Pyidaungsu Hluttaw being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. Photo: MNA

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday approved the Legal Aid Bill and the Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill after discussing them clause by clause. The two bills previously aroused disagreement between the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw, Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann discussed future steps to turn the bills into law.—Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw passes two bills, approves three reports

The Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday passed two bills and approved three progress reports submitted by committees.

The pesticide bill and the new plant varieties protection bill were brought before parliament by the Pyithu Hluttaw with remarks. The Rights Committee, the Public Complaints Committee and the Strategic Study and Research Committee presented their progress reports and sought parliamentary approval.

The Internal and External Non-governmental Organisations Committee and the Committee for National Races Affairs, Conflict Reduction and Peace Process also submitted their progress reports, which will come under discussion at the next session of parliament.—Myanmar News Agency

Patrol cars commissioned into service

The Yangon Region Police Force is now fielding 45 patrol cars which were provided by the Myanmar Police Force. The vehicles came into service on 30 December.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe sprinkled scented water on the cars at a ceremony held at the Yangon Region Government Office. One officer and two other ranks will be in each car during patrols around Yangon.

The cars have been distributed to four district police force headquarters and the Yangon Region Police Force.

As part of their efforts to enforce the rule of law in the region, the government of the People’s Republic of China donated the cars to the Ministry of Home Affairs of Myanmar. The Yangon region Police Force will announce the contact numbers of the patrol teams to the public in the near future.—Myanmar News Agency

Pyithu Hluttaw approves amendments to two bills

The Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) discussed and approved amendments to two bills, including the Presidential Security Bill, during its meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

U Tin Maung Oo from the Shwe Pyi Thar Constituency asked if the Ministry of Immigration and Population had a plan to amend the law and bylaw on issuing of household lists and citizenship identity cards to migrants and squatters.

In response to the question, the Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population replied that the ministry has no plans to amend the law and bylaw since the issue came from the internal migration of people.

Photo: MNA

U Khin Maung Nyo.

U Khin Maung Shwe.

Myanmar Peace Centre to host ... 

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According to U Hla Maung Shwe, who is also a secretary representing the government, the UPDC meeting is expected to run for three days until 11 January, ahead of the political dialogue, which is due to begin on 12 January in Nay Pyi Taw.

He confirmed his presence at the three-day pre-meeting in Yangon together with U Khin Yi and U Than Htay on behalf of the government.

Secretaries representing the stakeholder groups, including the government, parliament, Tatmadaw, ethnic armed organisations and political parties will consider topics slated for discussion at the first session of political dialogue, the secretary told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

Sai Kyaw Nyunt, representing the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, said political parties had made no preparations for the meeting.

“We will discuss subjects on the agendas established by the stakeholder groups of the government and ethnic armed organisations,” said Sai Kyaw Nyunt, who plans to attend the meeting as a secretary representing the political parties.

The main topics set to be covered at the first session of the peace conference include political, security, economic and social issues and land and natural resources policies.

“In my view, there will not be comprehensive discussions on the topics at the UPC, as the conference may last between one and 10 days, possibly as long as two weeks,” said the secretary representing the political parties.

He quoted Union Minister U Aung Min as saying no decisions will be made on the topics discussed at the UPC, and the first peace conference will serve as the foundation for the next government to work toward achieving lasting peace in the country.