Pyithu Hluttaw forms three committees

THE Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday discussed the formation of a committee for banks and monetary affairs development, a committee for agriculture, livestock breeding and fishery development and a committee for education promotion.

Deputy Speaker U Ti Khun Myat briefed the parliament on the responsibility, power, rights and tenure of each committee, followed by parliamentary approval of the three committees.

Speaker U Win Myint appointed Dr Than Myint of the Hlaingthaya constituency as chairman of the Banks and Monetary Affairs Development Committee, U Yan Lin of the Kyaukse constituency as chairman of the Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery Development Committee, and Dr Tin Aung of the Kyaukse constituency as chairman of the Education Promotion Committee. The committees are staffed by 15 members each. —Myanmar News Agency

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets foreign guests

SPEAKER of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received a British parliamentary delegation from the House of Commons of the UK led by Mr. Paul Scully of the British parliamentary delegation poses for photo together with Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and MPs. —Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw approves, forms parliamentary committees

THE Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) held its seventh day session yesterday, approving and proposing parliamentary committees.

Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than announced parliamentary approval of the formation of the Ethnic Affairs Committee chaired by Daw Shila Nan Taung alias M Nan Taung of Kachin State Constituency, the Farmer Affairs Committee by U Ba Myo Thein and the Women and Children’s Rights Committee by Dr Mya Thein, with 15 members each. Next, the Speaker proposed the Education Promotion Committee, the Local and Overseas Employment Committee and Citizens’ Fundamental Rights, the Democracy and Human Rights Employment Committee and Citizens’ Fundamental Rights Committees to be formed with 15 members each, announcing the list of chairmen and secretaries.

Dr Win Myat Aye of Bago Region Constituency 8 and Dr Htay Kywe of Yangon Region Constituency 1 were named chairmen of the proposed three committees respectively.

The second Amyotha Hluttaw’s first regular session continues for its eighth day today. —Myanmar News Agency

Millions of under-five children to receive polio vaccines on 20-22 Feb

THE Ministry of Health launched a national immunisation programme in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday as part of reducing the under-five mortality, with an address by Union Minister Dr Than Aung.

The nationwide immunisation campaign, scheduled from 20 to 22 February, is expected to see 4.6 million children under five vaccinated against polio.

The union minister said that the country has conducted vaccination programmes for children under five years of age before, giving fresh momentum to the campaign since 1996.

All ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, including Myanmar, were declared polio-free in March 2014, he quoted the World Health Organisation as saying.

The vaccination campaign conducted last month covered 2.45 million children under the age of five from 171 potential pandemic townships across the country with the union minister estimating the vaccination rate at 99.8%.

Two cases of vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (VDPV2) have been confirmed by officials in Myanmar in December last year.

A 16-month-old boy who developed acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) on Oct 5 tested positive for VDPV2. The child had received oral polio vaccine (OPV), which on rare occasions can cause the disease, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The WHO also said that a 28-month-old child who developed AFP on Apr 16 also tested positive for the same VDPV2 strain. Both children live in the same township in Rakhine state in southwest Myanmar on the Bay of Bengal.—Myanmar News Agency

A child receives polio vaccine in Nay Pyi Taw. —Myanmar News Agency