Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets Norwegian Deputy FM, Italian Ambassador

SPEAKER of the Pyidaungsu-Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, Mahn Win Aye Myint met the Foreign Minister of Norway Mr. Tore Hattrem at 1:30pm and Foreign Minister of Norway Mr Tore Hattrem at 3:30pm in his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Their discussions focused on creating new levels of mutual cooperation and strengthening friendly ties. The Norwegian foreign minister was accompanied by Ambassador of Norway to Myanmar Ms Ann Ollestad.—Myanmar News Agency

MoC, UNESCO take further steps for Pyu cities, Bagan

THE Ministry of Culture and the UNESCO held a meeting recently in Yangon, focusing on tasks to be continued in three ancient Pyu cities and for the Bagan cultural heritage zone to be put on the world heritage list. During the Meeting for Planning MoC-UNESCO World Heritage Cooperation Activities, Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu clarified future plans and experts from the UNESCO-Bangkok discussed with participants of the meeting tasks to be carried out for the preservation of Pyu ancient cities as well as Bagan, with funding from Italy and Japan.

The Pyu Ancient Cities includes the remains of three brick walled and moated cities of Halin, Beikthano and Thatay Khitara located in vast irrigated landscapes within the dry zone of the Ayeyawaddy (Irawaddy) River basin.—Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw session goes on with parliamentary committee formation

THE second Amyotha Hluttaw’s first regular session went on for its eighth day with the process of creating parliamentary committees yesterday. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Aye Myint announced the parliamentary approval of the formation of the Education Promotion Committee, the Local and Overseas Employment Committee, the Citizens’ Fundamental Rights and the Democracy and Human Rights Committee with 15 members each.

According to the Speaker, Dr Win Myat Aye of Bago Region Constituency 4 was appointed as chairman of the Education Promotion Committee while U Kyaw Hlway of Yangon Region Constituency 8 as chairman of Local and Overseas Employment Committee and Dr Huy Kywe of Yangon Region Constituency 1 as chairman of Citizens’ Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Committee.

Next, the Speaker proposed to create a Mineral, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee with 15 members, naming U Kyaw Thih Thih of Mandalay Region Constituency 12 as chairman of the committee.

The eighth-day session came to an end, with the Speaker announcing that the next meeting for the ninth day is set for 22 February.—Myanmar News Agency

Induction Programme for MPs concludes

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday concluded its induction programme aimed at empowering its representatives to deal with parliamentary functions whilst meeting international standards.

British MP Ms Meg Munn and Ms Janelle Saffin, together with former local representative Daw Dwe Ba, gave talks on the role of female representatives and their effectiveness.

On the fourth day, Mr Paul Tse Wai Chun and Ms Nola Marro, parliamentarians from China and Australia, gave talks on legislative procedures and the role of MPs. The programme was jointly conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Nay Pyi Taw from 15 to 19 February.

The five-day programme drew 465 representatives who have actively participated in panel discussions and group discussions.—Myanmar News Agency