

Information Ministry discusses ongoing and future plans

ONGOING and future plans to be implemented by the Ministry of Information set by the Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee of the Amyotha Hluttaw were discussed in Nay Pyi Taw Amyotha Hluttaw's Dining Hall yesterday afternoon.

In the meeting, Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Thar Aung said it is the duty and responsibility of the Ministry of Information to not only distribute and issue news and information but also the policies, notions and workings of the current government in these

changing times to the people in a clear and transparent way, and with the changing of systems and a new era, to inform and raise awareness of these changes to the people. That is why news and information is an important part of any country and government.

Next, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint clarified the Ministry of Information's workings, procedures, visions, along with necessary legal support for developing media and information, recording of the new government's reform efforts, and current reform efforts for



Deputy Speaker U Aye Thar Aung speaks to MPs before Ministry of Information's ongoing and future plans are discussed. PHOTO: MNA

the citizens.

The Hluttaw representatives in attendance raised questions on the distribution of national edicts, donating of books and journals to libraries in the national races

development university, college and schools, printing and distribution of school course books, formation of the Sarpay Beikman Literary Union, digitisation into online services of Burmese lit-

erature and the language, and inclusion of a sector in newspapers promoting people's voices. The Union Minister and Departmental heads replied to questions in their sectors. —Thura Zaw

U Myo Aye concurrently appointed as Ambassador to Bulgaria

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myo Aye, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Serbia, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Bulgaria.—*Myanmar News Agency*

U Kyaw Soe Win presents credentials to President of Vietnam

U Kyaw Soe Win, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Tran Dai Quang, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on 8 March 2017, in Hanoi.—*Myanmar News Agency*

U Zaw Htay appointed DG

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Zaw Htay, Deputy Director-General of the President's Office as Director-General of the Ministry of the State Counselor's Office on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Singapore's Senior Minister visits Nay Pyi Taw



FORMER 2nd Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, Emeritus Senior Minister Mr. Goh Chok Tong led a delegation to Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening. The Senior Minister and entourage were warmly welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun, Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Zay Ya from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials.—*MNA*

42 weapons still lost in Maungtaw following 9 October attack

THERE are still 42 lost weapons in the hands of the violent armed men who attacked the border outposts in Maungtaw on 9 October and killed several policemen.

Since the 9 October attacks, regional instability occurred up to 14th March at the cost of 17 policemen and civilians who

were killed and 15 who were injured. Two weapons from the Tatmadaw were lost and out of 68 arms lost from the police, 28 have been recovered and 40 are still missing.

Security forces seized two home-made short guns and two long guns, one home-made gun, one revolver, one pistol, one

M-22 gun totally eight arms and 15 bullets, 70 machetes and one harpoon from the violent attackers.

Moreover, 38 local people had been attacked and some were killed by the violent attackers from 5 October 2016 until 14 March 2017.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Be alert after an earthquake

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As regards to the frequent quakes, Daw Hla Hla Aung of Myanmar Earthquake Committee pointed out that more earthquake monitoring machines have been installed in recent years, informing us of small tremors nearly all the time.

"It is difficult for us to say whether a strong earthquake might follow tremors. Tremors did not tremble from the same fault. Tremors are coming from many faults, so it is difficult to relate one to the other. If I were asked if there was a possibility of imminent quakes, my answer would be 'Yes.' Care and alertness is needed, especially in big cities. The Yangon populace felt a lot for the effect of Taikkyi earthquake. Especially, Yangon city dwellers must be careful about

earthquakes which will come from the Sagaing Fault," said Dr Myo Thant, vice-chairman of the Myanmar Earthquake Committee.

He added, "There is the West Bago Yoma fault nearby. It is assumed that tremors came from that fault, but there have never been any records of tremors reaching over a magnitude of 5 on the Richter scale."

The Myanmar Earthquake committee made studies of the interior of the Kabaw fault in concert with international experts.

The Chauk Earthquake in August 2016 did not ruin buildings apart from the many religious pagodas and stupas, which are buildings of great importance. There used to be strong earthquakes in Myanmar about once in a century. Dr Myo Thant assessed that a Bago earthquake is expected

to hit between 80-100 years.

"Yangon is over-crowded with the populace, so Yangon city dwellers need to be careful," Dr Myo Thant said.

To monitor earthquakes and alleviate earthquake-related danger, the Kabar-Aye Earthquake Observatory Center was set up in 1961, the Mandalay centre in 1966, the Sittwe center in 1984 and the Dawei center in 1985.

After a big earthquake, there can be dangerous tremors, risk of fire and damages to dams, the possibility of volcano eruptions, landslides and tsunamis.

In the history of major earthquakes across the world, the quake that the Manchurian Province in China on 4 February 1975 was predicted beforehand, according to earthquake records.—*Nay Lin (MNA)*

Quake destroys several buildings in Taikkyi

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Following the quake, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement delivered cash assistance and aid to the people affected by the quake.

The authorities refuted a Facebook post which said a man and a child died in the quake.

Members of fire brigades, the Red Cross, the Tatmadaw, police and social organisations carried out the evacuation and cleared debris and wreckage from the buildings on Monday.

Tin Soe Min, a regional representative for the ruling National League for Democracy (NLD)

party said he had no reports of any residents being seriously injured or killed in Yangon.

He said an old wall surrounding a local Buddhist monastery fell down and a few houses became tilted to one side. (*Reuters contributed to this report*)