TIME HAS ARRIVED TO JOIN RAKHINE'S JOURNEY TO PROSPERITY PAGE-8 (OPINION)

NATIONAL

Gunfight, car crash scenes from Line Walker-2 shot on Sule Pagoda Road

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye attends 72nd Session of CEDAW in Geneva

THE constructive dialogue between Myanmar and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on the Exceptional Report submitted by Myanmar at the latter's request was held on 22 February 2019 during the 72nd Session of CEDAW in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Myanmar delegation was headed by Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. The delegation includes representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the President's Office, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Union Attorney's General Office as well as the Permanent Mission of Myanmar in Geneva.

Union Minister, in his opening remarks, stressed that the reason of Myanmar delegation's visit led by Union Minister himself, who is taking a leading role on Women's rights, was a testimony of the Government's cooperative contribution to the work of CEDAW and that Myanmar as a responsible member of CEDAW submitted the Exceptional Report to the Committee, and Myanmar is a society in which women enjoy equal rights with men in every aspect.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye speaks during the constructive dialogue between Myanmar and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on the Exceptional Report submitted by Myanmar in Geneva, Switzerland. **PHOTO: MOSWRR**

> The issue in northern Rakhine State has hindered the Government's efforts. Notwithstanding those challenges, Myanmar is now striving to ensure that democracy takes firm root, although this process takes time.

Union Minister further mentioned that Myanmar is currently in the best of times and also in times of facing challenges. The best is that the country is undergoing a transition from half-a-century-long military rule to a democratic state, whereas the bigger challenges are the people's hopes highly placed on the Government and the responses of the international community when the Government inherited the internal conflict, deep-rooted backwardness, lack of human resources and efficient institutions. The issue in northern Rakhine State has hindered the Government's efforts. Notwithstanding those challenges, Myanmar is now striving to ensure that democracy takes firm root, although this process takes time. Rights of women and girls in northern Rakhine State have also become the focus of international attention.

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Meeting between MOI, television and radio broadcasting business persons held in Yangon

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint attended a book donation ceremony by a private broadcaster and met with television and radio broadcasting business persons at the Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

At the ceremony, Forever Group Co., Ltd. Chief Executive Officer U Win Maw explained about donating books, and author Kyaw Oo reviewed the aims of writing a book.

Also, CEO U Win Maw donated 600 books of Bagyi (Artist) Ba Kyi's "Ten epic stories of Buddha," author Kyaw Oo donated 600 books of "Moe Yay Hlaung Kan" (Rain Water Collecting Pond), along with donations of Myanmar-English-Pali and Pali-Myanmar dictionaries, which were accepted by the Union Minister.

Following the book donation ceremony, the meeting between MoI and private broadcasters continued in the same meeting room.

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint meeting with the television and radio broadcasting business persons. **PHOTO: MOSWRR**

During the meeting, the Union Minister spoke of enacting a Broadcasting Law that was in line with the modern age, and discussed arrangements to enact the rules, as well as the possibility of new audio, video and community radio broadcasting projects.

Also, television and radio broadcasting business persons in attendance discussed the status of current projects and their requirements, and the Union Minister coordinated the discussions and requirements.

The meeting was attended by Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, MRTV Director General U Myint Htwe and television and radio broadcasting business persons.

Earlier in the morning, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung went to Kyauktada Township, Sule Pagoda Road, where Line Walker-2 was being filmed, and observed the filming activity. He greeted the producer, script writer, director, actors and film crews of Line Walker-2.—MNA *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye attends 72nd Session of CEDAW in Geneva, Switzerland

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However, he added that the Government took important measures making every effort to protect and promote rights of all women and girls, residing in the country. The Government restructured the Myanmar National Committee on Women and implemented a national mechanism with the inclusion of seven leading local non-governmental and civil society organizations that are very active in gender equality and women empowerment issues.

He said that to strengthen legal protection for women, the "Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women Law" has also been drafted. In addition, the Government signed the Joint Communique with the United Nations to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence in Myanmar on 7 December 2018. On 7 January 2019, the Government formed a Committee on the Prevention of Grave Violations against Children in Armed Conflict, with the representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Defence.

> The Union Minister suggested that the international community best assist Myanmar by rendering constructive engagement and positive support, by taking into account both international best practices and the local realities.

Many specific porgrammes have been carried out for the socio-economic development of women and girls in Rakhine State. The Government has prioritized social-cohesion in implementing the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State.

Union Minister informed that the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICoE) was established to investigate allegations of human rights violations and related issues following the terrorist attacks by ARSA with a view to seeking accountability and formulating recommendations on steps to be taken to ensure peace and stability in Rakhine State. The ICoE has recently launched its Call for Submissions, inviting those with evidence and supporting data related to allegations of human rights violations in Rakhine, to come forward and submit them for further action.

He emphasized that when building a Democratic Federal Union in Myanmar, the rights of all people regardless of race, religion, gender and disabilities will be respected in accordance with the Union Accord. The Union Minister suggested that the international community best assist Myanmar by rendering constructive engagement and positive support, by taking into account both international best practices and the local realities.

During the dialogue, the Permanent Representative of Myanmar and the representatives from the line Ministries responded to the related questions posed by the members of CEDAW Committee and they exchanged views on measures taken by the Government of Myanmar. In the closing remarks, the Myanmar delegation welcomed the constructive dialogue, which represented an important day in the history of cooperation between Myanmar and the Committee. The Myanmar delegation stressed that there was a gap between the Committee's perceptions and the realities on the ground; and Myanmar could not accept some questions raised by some members of the Committee as they were based on allegations with no concrete evidence and the exaggerations; despite all the challenges, Myanmar has been working towards the rule of law, stability, sustainability and social harmony in Rakhine State. —MNA ■

Tatmadaw True News Information Team holds press conference in Yangon

THE Tatmadaw True News Information Team held a press conference yesterday afternoon at the Yangon Command Yadana Thiri Golf Club, Mayangon Township, in Yangon.

The press conference was called to discuss the status, after the passing of two months, following Tatmadaw announcing the ceasing of military operations to enable Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) that had not signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) to conduct discussions on ceasefires and eternal peace, as well as amending the Constitution. The press conference was conducted by Tatmadaw True News Information Team Chairperson Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo and Vice Chairperson Maj-Gen Tun Tun Nyi, while the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson also responded to questions raised by local and foreign news media.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*