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Friday, 25 December 2020

Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex (KMIC) groundbreaking ceremony held

groundbreaking ceremony of the Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex (KMIC) was held yesterday morning at the project area in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region in accordance with the COVID-19 guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a video statement at the event.

(Video speech of the State Counsellor is covered on page-4)

In his opening remarks at the event, Union Minister U Thaung Tun of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations said that Myanmar's Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) and South Korea's New Southern Policy share core values that could benefit the people of both countries and that the establishment of the KMIC would result in mutually beneficial cooperation.

Next, Chairman Mr Park Bok-Yeong of the Presidential Committee on New Southern Policy addressed that Korea considers Myanmar an important partner and that the Republic of Korea desired to participate not only in the KMIC project but also in various other ventures in Myanmar such as the construction of bridges, development of new urban centres and other infrastructure projects.



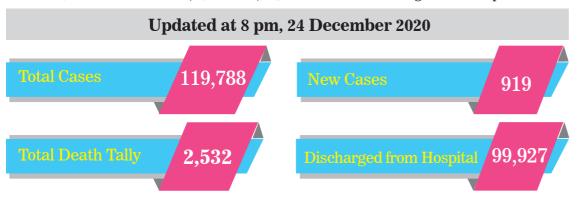
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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the video message to the groundbreaking ceremony of Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region on 24 December 2020. **PHOTO: GNLM**

919 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 24 December, total figure rises to 119,788

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 119,788 after 919 new cases were reported on 24 December according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 119,788 confirmed cases, 2,532 died, 99,927 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA





Ministry of Health and Sports

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NATIONAL

Benefits from working together

If we want the whole country to develop, we need to combine all our human, financial and material resources and work strenuously together. Only then shall we benefit. It will be of no benefit if the Bamars, the Karens, the Shans, the Kachins and the Chins are divided, each going their own way. We will enjoy benefits only if we work together. And you will find that out only if you try it out.

(Extract from a speech delivered by General Aung San on 11 February 1947 in Panglong at a dinner with Sawbwas)



Shwe-Kyet-Yet and Shwe-Kyet-Kya Pagoda. **PHOTO BY: THANT ZAW OO**

Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex (KMIC) groundbreaking ceremony held

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He further said he was confident that there would be more prominent projects like the KMIC in the future and that the ties of friendship between Myanmar and Korea would be further strengthened. He added that the establishment of the KMIC was the beginning of a journey that would bring significant economic growth to Myanmar.

Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein of the Yangon Region, Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Linn of the Ministry of Construction and Vice-Chair Mr Lee Yong-sam of the Korea Land and Housing Corporation also delivered welcoming remarks.



Union Minister U Thaung Tun, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Kyaw Linn, Chairman of the Presidential Committee on New Southern Policy Mr Park Bok-Yeong and party drive stake at the groundbreaking ceremony of Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex on 24 December 2020. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**



Union Minister U Thaung Tun holds talks with ROK's Chairman of the Presidential Committee on New Southern Policy Mr Park Bok-Yeong on 24 December 2020. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

The ceremony was also attended by Speaker U Tin Maung Tun of the Yangon Region Hluttaw, the cabinet ministers of the Yangon Region, Korea Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Sang-hwa, and Senior Officials from Ministries concerned and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea.



Picture shows Conceptual Design of Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

The Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex (KMIC) is a project approved by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC). It is a joint venture between the

Department of Urban and Housing Development, the Ministry of Construction of Myanmar, and the Korea Land and Housing Corporation (LH).

The project is strategically located 25 kilometres north of Yangon International Airport, and connected via road to Yangon port. The project is expected to support Myanmar's advancement within the regional and global supply chains. The KMIC will house around 135 enterprises, creating numerous jobs and facilitating transfer of skills and technology.

The KMIC is planned to be a smart and green industrial complex using advanced technology and renewable energy. This project will result in closer ties of friendship between Korea and Myanmar – based on the principles of "people", "prosperity" and "peace". — MNA

4 NATIONAL

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It is important for all to participate and join hands to control the spread of COVID-19

We take full responsibility for taking care of the public's health. We are proud of the fact that we can take care of people's health. However, we have a limited budget due to the situation in our country. I have frequently reminded our people about this. We would unavoidably have to reduce certain amounts of the budget in a specific sector to cover the expenditures in another sector. The costs for health services, COVID prevention and treatment, were taken out of the development funds. If our people expect development, immediate progress, and the situation to return to normal, it is important for all to participate and join hands to control the spread of COVID-19. We want all of you to take this seriously...

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's report on COVID-19 containment measures, on 12 December 2020)



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's video speech at groundbreaking ceremony for Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex (KMIC)

Greetings to all attendees and guests!

I am delighted to have the opportunity to deliver this speech at today's ground-breaking ceremony for the Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex. I would like to express thanks to everyone who worked hard for today's ceremony.

I would like to warmly welcome New Southern Policy Committee Chairperson Mr Park Bok-Yeong and Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr Lee Sang-hwa.

I would also like to thank Korea Land and Housing Corporation and Global Sae-A Co., Ltd for implementing this project to use public land for economic development effectively.

There is no doubt that the efforts of all those who came today are to create job opportunities, not only to bring prosperity to the people of Myanmar but also to strengthen the friendship between the people of Myanmar and Korea.

Today's ceremony is not only about developing an industrial zone but also about building a basic economic foundation for a better future for the people of Myanmar, including the residents in Yangon.

We all know that this is a challenging year. People are experiencing a recession and job losses. These difficulties are particularly affecting Yangon residents, who are facing long-term restrictions.

However, as we emerge from 2020, we will have to work hard for next year, and it is certain that KMIC and similar projects will bring sustainable and all-inclusive

economic recovery to our country.

Despite the difficulties and challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Myanmar is working hard in all aspects and still doing well.

According to the latest data released by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, Myanmar's GDP growth is still relatively stable compared to other nations in the region. Despite the losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are confident that the situation will continue improving in the years to come.

Regarding this, I remember some remarks made by President of the Republic of Korea Mr Moon Jae-in at the Myanmar-Korea Business Forum held in Seoul last year. He said that the KMIC would become a new step for supporting the creation of miraculous innovations on the Ayeyawady river basin. I wish to share this expectation fully.

In addition, as a result of the current government's reforms in investment and foreign economic relations, not only will the KMIC project be completed but similar new projects will also emerge.

As a result of these reforms, we will see a new industrial zone in our area.

After completing the KMIC project, by creating more opportunities for small and medium enterprises, it would be possible to expand local business enterprises and many industrial enterprises, including suppliers and restaurants.

Thanks to all for all your hard work in creating this KMIC. Myanmar has been

able to allow foreign direct investment projects since the current government took office, creating hundreds of thousands of new high-quality jobs.

To date, the industrial sector has contributed up to 38 per cent of the country's economy and contributed significantly to the employment of women in addition to jobs created by traditional factories. In addition, this sector has been able to make many high-quality jobs.

This kind of progress is not easy and does not come smoothly. But we can see the progress here in Yangon and across Myanmar with our own eyes vividly.

In implementing the KMIC project, our simple concept is that it is the government's duty to create a conducive environment for jobs and industrial growth. We can see that it is the most important thing.

The government alone cannot create jobs; it alone cannot bring sustainable development. So, the government creates linkages between MSMEs and investment capitals; helps people prepare for jobs that require advanced technical skills and lays the foundations for such investments that will generate 21st-century jobs. By doing so, workers, their families and the communities will get great business opportunities.

Foreign direct investments will bring innovations and expertise, which will strengthen the private sector. Such private sector development is also one of our government's priorities, as mentioned in the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP).

The jobs available through KMIC and similar investments are 21st-century jobs. These investments can help our country boost manufacturing and the industrial sector, and integrate them into regional and global value chains. Moreover, participation in the recently signed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) can help the economic sector. In addition, such investments can help us create high-quality "Made in Myanmar" brands.

Today's ceremony shows that we are on the right track to implement our goals successfully.

We must continue investing in creating infrastructures such as new roads, bridges, ports, schools, smart factories and highways. We must implement effective water and waste management systems, and we must work hard to create a sustainable and all-inclusive green economy. To do so, we must continue investing in basic organizational infrastructures and capacity building of our human resources.

The surest way to overcome any obstacle is to move forward without looking back. We have to continue marching forward.

The implementation of the KMIC project is an example of the strengthening of Korea-Myanmar cooperation and friendship between citizens of the two nations. That is why I believe this project will succeed.

Thank you all.

Ayeyarwady Foundation donates COVID medical supplies for hospitals in Ayeyawady Region



Ayeyarwady Foundation donates COVID-19 medical supplies for hospitals in Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: KO MOE**

AYEYARWADY Foundation donated COVID-19 medical supplies including one oxygen plant worth K350 million in total for the district/township hospitals in Ayeyawady Region on 23 and 24 December.

On 24 December, the foundation's officials handed over the COVID medical devices to the Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung and delivered the donated items to the relevant hospitals.

To support the hospitals in the battle against coronavirus pandemic, the foundation provided medical supplies for the district general hospitals of Pathein, Hinthada, Myaungmya, Labutta, Maubin and Pyapon, and township hospitals of Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun, and Yekyi in Ayeyawady Region.

The donated items included one oxygen plant, 36 sets of HDU beds, 17 ECG devices, 42 syringe pumps, 10 HFNC devices, and 135,000 surgical masks.

Ayeyarwady Foundation has been working on the COVID-19 control processes in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Sports since March when the COVID-19 outbreak began in Myanmar.

The foundation also constructed 1,000-bed Ayeyawardy Centre (Yangon) and 375-bed Ayeyawardy Centre (Mandalay) to treat the COVID-19 patients, bearing the daily costs for foods and accommodations of the patients, healthcare workers and volunteers.

—Ye Yint Shin

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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Tatmadaw (Navy) holds 73rd Anniversary with warships' commissioning ceremony

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the commissioning ceremony of naval vessels at the No 3 Naval Jetty in Yangon in commemoration of 73rd founding anniversary of Tatmadaw Navy yesterday.

Chief of Staff (Navy) Vice-Admiral Moe Aung explained the salient points of the naval vessels.

Vice-Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C), Eastern Naval Command (ENC), talked about the matters relating to the hand-over of a submarine.





Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the commissioning ceremony of naval vessels at the No 3 Naval Jetty in Yangon to mark the 73rd Anniversary of Tatmadaw Navy on 24 December 2020. PHOTO: MNA



The Commander of Naval Dockyard Command Headquarters handed over the papers of the naval vessels to the commander of the Naval Fleet.

The Senior General and party inspected the naval vessels including Minye Theinkhathu Submarine, two 63-metre an-

Minye Theinkhathu Submarine is seen during the 73rd Anniversary of Tatmadaw Navy on 24 December. PHOTO: MNA ti-submarine warfare ships, one 49-metre fast assault craft, one 56-metre tank landing ship, and two 26-metre tow/tugboats.

The Senior General presented gifts of honour to the officers and other ranks who took part in the construction of the commissioned naval vessels.

He then delivered speech at the ceremony, according to the news released by the Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Union Minister Dr Than Myint addresses Myanmar Korea Desk



24 December 2020. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint addressed the opening ceremony of Myanmar Korea Desk held in Lotte Hotel, Yangon, through a video message

yesterday afternoon. He firstly expressed words of thanks to officials from both Korea and Myanmar for their efforts to challenges and restrictions of the COVID-19 crisis.

He added the MoU between Korea Trade-Investment Proopen the Korea Desk despite the motion Agency of the Ministry of

Trade, Industry and Energy of the ROK and the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and the Ministry of Commerce from Myanmar, during the Korean President Mr Moon Jae-in's visit to Myanmar. The Union Minister said the Korea Desk would be able to provide trade and investment information to Korean and Myanmar entrepreneurs, to share business guidelines and facilitate trade and investment between the two countries, as well as relevant government departments and agencies.

Although trade between Myanmar and Korea increased by 17.3%, the agricultural sector, technology and e-commerce sectors are still in need of cooperation. On 15 November, Myanmar signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the world's largest free trade agreement with 15 countries, providing an opportunity for foreign investment and job opportunities including from ASEAN countries.

On the other hand, he said, local businesses need to study and prepare in advance as economic competition will increase. The ceremony was attended by Economic Advisor to the President Office of the ROK, the Korean Ambassador to Myanmar. officials from KOTRA and KO-CHAM, Ministry of Commerce and UMFCCI.—MNA (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

ROK delegation meets with MIFER Minister, visits Hyundai Motor

AROK delegation led by the Republic of Korea's Chairman of the Presidential Committee on New Southern Policy Mr Park Bok-Yeong, who were arriving in Myanmar on a goodwill visit, met Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun at the

ministry yesterday. The ROK Chairman of the Presidential Committee on New Southern Policy and party then participated in the groundbreaking ceremony of Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex-KMIC in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region. They also attended the Korea Desk at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon, and visited Hyundai Motor Plant. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

> A Hyundai factory worker assembles a car on the production line at the factory in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA



OPINION NATIONAL / ARTICLE THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Enforcing law, educating people a must to conserve habitats of endangered birds

RECENT report on poaching hornbills, which are listed as an endangered species under the Biodiversity and Conservation of Protected Area Law, in Kyauktaga Township, Bago Region, hit the headlines and has alerted us that the endangered species is under the threat of hunters.

Those who

poach or sell

wildlife, possess

the wildlife or

its part without

permission, or

traffic or transfer

them, will face no

more than five

years in prison, a

fine of K300,000

to K1,000,000, or

both.

protected

Public weakness of knowledge about endangered species has been a big blow to our avian heritage for decades.

> Local people don't know about the law which gives protection to endangered species in our country.

Those who poach or sell protected wildlife, possess the wildlife or its part without permission, or traffic or transfer them, will face no more than five years in prison, a fine of K300,000 to K1,000,000, or both.

Now, migratory birds from foreign countries are coming to our country for hibernation since the winter began in No-

To protect the visiting migratory birds from hunting, authorities have sought to educate local residents by erecting billboards warning not to kill the birds, which eat harmful snails in paddy fields

Migratory birds from Russia, Siberia, and northern China are found in the winter in large lakes, such as Indawgyi Lake in Kachin, Palake Lake

and Taungthaman Lake in Mandalay Region, Meiktila Lake in Meiktila, Moeyungyi Lake in Bago Region and some lakes in southern Myanmar.

Local authorities have erected signboards at the wetland areas, warning residents not to kill migratory birds. Authorities also perform surprise checks at local markets to prevent the sales of migratory birds, while raising awareness about these birds. This is a good job to conserve and give protection to avian visitors in which endangered species are also included, but these efforts should be expanded from just wetland areas and just in winter to habitat areas of other species of birds the whole year.

Our country is home to 331 endangered species, according to the latest research by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), including birds, orangutans, elephants, deer, freshwater turtles, pangolins and tigers.

In our country, more than 300 species are facing the threat of extinction.

Our failure to effectively enforce the law should not give hunters and people with little knowledge about endangered species a free pass to continue destroying our endangered species until there is nothing left.

Driving force for greater win-win partnership: KMIC and Korea Desk

By Mr Lee Sang-hwa, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea



to 200 Korean companies. Further-

more, it is encouraging to see that

prominent MSMEs and big com-

panies with global standing, are

showing keen interest in this en-

deavour. As the first-ever G-to-G

overseas project to build a smart,

green industrial complex, by qua-

si-governmental organization, LH

(Land & Housing Corporation),

KMIC is strongly supported by

the Korean government for this

key initiative. As such, it is no sur-

prise that KMIC was specifically

mentioned as a flagship project

when the Korean government un-

veiled seven key priority areas un-

der the banner of New Southern

Policy Plus (NSP Plus). With the

SEZ-type one-stop-service built

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and President of Korea Mr Moon Jae-in hold the bilateral meeting between Myanmar and ROK at the Westin Chosun Busan Hotel on 26 November 2019. PHOTO: MNA

Expected to be completed in October 2022, it will become a shining symbol for a more prosperous Yangon. Exactly two years after its ceremony, on the date of 24 December 2020, Korea-Myanmar industrial complex (KMIC) held its ground-breaking ceremony. In Myanmar, the number nine (9) seems to be an auspicious digit. For instance, in the Shwedagon Pagoda, people pay homage to Buddha images by pouring water nine times thereon. To note, and coincidently, when you add the individual digits of the date "24" (2+4) and the digits of the month of December "12" (1+2), it equals to the number nine. While this numerical permutation may just be a pure and lucky coincidence, there is no doubt that 24 December, also a Christmas Eve, has a special place in terms of win-win partnership between the two long-term friends - Korea and Myanmar.

In the context of business partnership, KMIC will serve as a new, powerful engine for Korean investment in Myanmar. As a Korean government-led industrial complex, the first of such nature and scale in Myanmar, KMIC is highly expected to strengthen Myanmar's industrial sector and in return, contribute positively in creating new jobs. Ever since Myanmar started its arduous journey for democracy and economic reform, the country has been considered as the last frontier market in the region. Such perception has since been gaining more traction and momentum, especially under the COVID-19 context, which served as a wake-up call for restructuring global value chains. As the most in the complex, KMIC is set to resourceful country in the Mekong be a smart green industrial com- Conceptual Design of KMIC.

region, Myanmar is positioned to plex. It will introduce sophisticatoffer the most attractive environed elements of the 4th industrial ment for foreign investors. Many revolution, such as smart factory, Korean entrepreneurs stationed big data and IoT, in line with the in neighbouring countries, such as modern digital technology trend. in China and Viet Nam, are consid-In addition, KMIC will showcase eco-friendly design by being sigering relocating their factories. In doing so, they look to Myanmar as nificantly energy self-reliant. In a viable option. Moreover, with the doing so, it aims to use renewable overwhelming victory by the NLD energy as much as possible. In a government in the recent election, nutshell, Smart green industrial Myanmar is on track to carry on complex is a hallmark of Korean its key economic policies in a staoverseas development projects. ble and sustainable atmosphere.

The groundbreaking cere-Against this backdrop, KMIC is mony of KMIC received its due expected to draw as many as 150 recognition and was honored with many key VIP guests in attendance. On the Myanmar side, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a speech via video conference, appreciating the fast-growing relationship between our two countries. High-level dignitaries, including Union Minister U Thaung Tun for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Linn for Construction, were present. On its part, the Korean government sent Mr Park Bokyeong, chairman of the Presidential

Plus, coupled with recent decision of elevating Korea-Mekong ties to strategic partnership, will surely bring Myanmar-Korea bonds stronger than ever. The launching of Korea Desk made 24 December this

Committee on New Southern Pol-

icy. It is particularly noteworthy

that Mr Park chose Myanmar as

his first trip among the ten (10)

ASEAN partners following the an-

nouncement of NSP Plus. NSP

for augmenting trade between Myanmar and Korea. year even more special. Located in two offices, DICA (Directorate of Investment and Company Ad-

that all would agree that the year 2020 was an eventful year. As 2020 draws to an end and as we usher in the new year, I am grateful that even the COVID-19 global pandemic crisis was no match for us in deterring our firm, joint commitment to enhance cooperation between our two countries. The successful inauguration ceremony of KMIC and the launching of Korea Desk speak for themselves. Building on this precious momentum, the year 2021 will mark a milestone for a greater win-win partnership between Myanmar and Korea, with a lasting impact. The world is watching us, and the next chapter has just begun.

ministration) and Yangon Office

of Ministry of Commerce, Korea

Desk will serve as a one-stop-ser-

vice entry point for incoming Ko-

rean businessmen. Korea is only

upon setting a Korea Desk be-

fore the end of the year. The Joint

Commission covers four sectors

- Trade, Investment, Industries,

and Energy. Both Myanmar and

Korea share the view that trade

volume, which stands at around 1

US billion per year, can double in

the coming years. In this context,

the recently signed RCEP - Re-

gional Comprehensive Economic

Partnership – is also expected to

provide a favorable atmosphere

To conclude, I have no doubt

The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author.—Ed.

73rd Independence Day Anniversary (2021)

National Objectives

- 1. All Union nationals to protect and strive with "collective strength" for Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of National Unity, and Perpetuation of National Sovereignty.
- All citizens to be able to enjoy on the same level social equality, economic equality, political equality, equality as citizens, equal opportunity, and equality before the law.
- 3. To strive towards the amendment of the Constitution for the emergence of a genuine Democratic Federal Union.
- 4. To build a modern developed Democratic Federal Union by nurturing Union spirit for the perpetuation of the Union.
- 5. The government, together with the people to confront with collective strength the challenges faced by the entire people with increased momentum for all-round development of the



BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 25th December, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Yangon Regions and Kachin. Eastern Shan, Chin, Kayin, Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong easterly winds may reach (30-35)m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-8) feet in Gul of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (4-6) feet Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT: Likelihood of isolated rain in Taninthayi Region.

Man jailed for impersonating ACC member

NYAUNGDON Township Court has sentenced a man to three years in prison for **Anti-Corruption Commission** yesterday.

U Min Thu, who lives tion on 27 February 2020. in 25th Thumida Street, No 1 Ward in North Okkalapa arrested after he was found guilty of impersonating ACC member and illegally taking K 3 million from two govern-

ment employees in Nyaungdon Township. After receiving a complaint, the commission impersonating a member of investigated the suspect, and filed a case against him at the Nyaungdon Myoma Police Sta-

The court in Nyaungdon sentenced the suspect one Township, Yangon Region, was year in jail in accordance with Criminal Section 170 and two years in accordance with Criminal Section 384. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

