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TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE

By-election held for 19 vacant constituencies

BY-ELECTIONS began across Myanmar yesterday morning for the first time since the NLD Government took office a year ago.

Two million Voters went to the polls to cast their votes yesterday at the voting stations of all 19 vacant constituencies beginning 6 am yesterday.

Unlike the 2015 general elections in which long queues of people were waiting at the stations for their turn, less number of voters showed up at the polling centers this time.

Yangon Region opened 942 polling stations visited by diplomats including US Ambassador Mr. Scot Marciel and local and foreign watchdogs in four townships – Hlaingthaya, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Dagon Myothit (East) and Kawhmu—for the Pyithu Hluttaw and seven townships – Kamayut, Kyimyindine, Seikkan,



Teachers volunteer for counting votes at the polling booth at Hlinethaya BEHS-1 in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

The results of the by-elections will be announced on 2nd April at the Union Election Commission's office.

Latha, Hline, Lanmadaw and Ahlone – for the Amyotha Hluttaw No 6 constituency for 1006252 eligible voters. The Yangon Region police force used half of its strength to ensure safety for the by-election,

The Yangon Region Chief

Minister U Phyo Min Thein cast his vote at a polling station in Ward 10, Kamayut Township, while Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint voted at Ward 4 in the same township and Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint in Hlinethaya Township.

"Voting was convenient for me as I could draw my ballot in advance. Only a few voters were at the station in the morning. I chose the one whom I believe would serve the country well," said Daw Aye Myat Mon who cast her vote in Hlainthaya Township.

A Japanese observer said the by-election could draw less public interest as the number of voters who came to the stations in Latha Township were much smaller than the number of voters who came to the general elections. How the NLD government would solve the economic and ethnic problems and fulfill the public wishes together with its accomplishments during the first year in office was in the public minds, he assumed.

"I chose the person whom I believe would help develop our ward and community. It was a free and fair election. We pinned our hopes on him," said U Thein Naing who voted in Hline Township.

Another voter Daw Lwin Lwin Khaing said my only hope was the progress the one I had voted for would bring to the best of his ability.

After the closure of polling stations at 4 pm, volunteers started counting and documenting the ballots through valid and invalid vote scanning process.

The results of the by-elections will be announced on 2nd April at the Union Election Commission's office, said Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein.

Kyethee and Mongshu, which did not hold the general election in 2015, also held the 2017 by-elections, said U Hla Thein.— GNLM

Myanmar trains midwives to tackle maternal death rate



Midwives attend patients in Central Women's Hospital in Yangon, Myanmar March 17, 2017. Picture taken March 17, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

YANGON,—Myanmar is training up hundreds of midwives in an effort to reduce the number of women who die in childbirth, one of many social policy reforms launched by the country as it emerges from decades of military rule.

Statistics show childbirth and pregnancy-related complications are the leading causes of death among women in Myanmar, mainly due to delays in reaching emergency care.

According to the most re-

cent census, 282 women die per 100,000 births in the country, equivalent to about eight deaths every day, double the regional average and far above the mortality ratio of 20 deaths per 100,000 in neighbouring Thailand or six per 100,000 in Singapore. Nay Hnin Lwin, 19, is among 200 midwifery students currently studying at the Central Midwifery School in Yangon. She said her parents, who live in a rural area, still do not recognise the importance of midwives, relying instead on traditional birth

attendants.

"If there is an emergency situation, they cannot save lives. Mothers are losing their lives because of them. I'm proud to be a midwife to save them from these situations," she told Reuters Television.

At the end of the two-year course, Nay Hnin Lwin and other trainee midwives will be deployed to remote clinics with poor infrastructure and bare-bones medical facilities.

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Journalists interview authorities, visit IDP camps in Sittway



Local and foreign journalists visit IDP camp and interview officials concerned in Sittway, Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

A media team comprising local journalists and foreign correspondents interviewed local authorities and visited the internally displaced camps in Sittway yesterday.

At the meeting, Minister for

Electricity, Industry and Transport of the Rakhine State Government U Aung Kyaw Zan and State Minister for Development Affairs of the government U Min Aung clarified the efforts of the government.

Rakhine State Government has been making efforts for the stability, improvement of transportation and supplying power to Maungtau, Yathedaung and Buthidaung townships, according to the ministers.

Meanwhile, the government would shut down unnecessary IDP camps, according to the government.

During the visit to the Bawdupha, Thetkeyyin and Darping camps, displaced persons

expressed the hope that they want the situation in Rakhine State to return to the normality before 2012.

The team arrived back Yangon yesterday.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Robbers attack family in Maungtau

A FAMILY of Bawtali (1) village in Maungtau township in Rakhine State was attacked with rods, knives and axes and robbed of gold and cash by their own villagers who also took away with them two young men.

While Abutarhel was sleeping together with his family at home, 25 villagers including Sweyautusaung broke into the

house through the door with rods, knives and axes at about 2 am on 31 March and attacked the family of five with tier weapons.

The attackers took away Kyat 1020000, one gold chain, one pair of earring, one hand-chain total worth Kyat 2870000 and tied up and abducted two young men, 15 year old Eibraheim and 21 year old Abdular-

hardularme.

The security forces were able to find Abdularhardularme in robe bondage, but Einraheim is still missing.

In the evening, six attackers including Sweyautusaung were arrested and investigation was being carried out to arrest the remain attackers.—*Myanmar News Agency*

11 murder suspects arrested in Maungtau

LOCAL police arrested 11 suspects who are believed to involve in murder cases happened in Sintaung Village on 12nd March and in Ngarsarkyu Village on 27th March in Maungtau Township.

Acting on a tip-off that

the suspects were in Dotan Village, the local police carried out an area clearance operation in the village on 31st March and arrested the suspects including Mamud Fawri, aged 19.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Villager found dead in Buthidaung Tsp

A 46-year-old man who gave interview to journalists on 29th March about terrorist training in his village was killed by unidentified attackers yesterday.

Seven masked Muslim men

entered the house of Harmis Dullah, in Tinmay Village, Buthidaung Township, and attacked his family with knives and batons at 1.15 am yesterday.

He was found dead with

stabs and cuts at his neck and chin. Police led by South Bazaar station commander are investigating the incident and working to arrest the attackers.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Employees with social security reach about one million nationwide

THE number of employees with social security insurance reached about one million across the country and the Social Security Board issued social security cards to over 300,000 workers after the new Social Security Law came into force with effect from 1 April 2014, according to the ministry.

The SSB under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population offered social security benefits worth Ks11.749 billion

including Ks721.408 million family assistance to over 200 employees with social security insurance over the past 35 months in line with the new law, said U Maung Maung Aye, acting director-general of the Social Security Board at a recent ceremony.

The SSB provided about Ks7 million social security benefits including funeral expenses plus family assistance benefit to two workers—U Maung Chin, who died in workplace accident,

and U Kyaw Min from Max Myanmar Co, who are now suffering from kidney disease.

According to the SSB, there were a total of 341,659 cases in the past three years.

The Social Security Board is offering healthcare services to individuals with social security insurance through almost 100 clinics plus three workers' hospitals and one traditional medicine hospital.—*Min Min Latt (Man Takkatho)*

Four men attacked by 30 people in black mask

FOUR people in Thetkainnyar village in Maungtau township were attacked by a group of black masked people.

The attackers broke into the house with rods and knives at the mid night of April 1, while 35 year old Shaungsuarlong, 35 year old Alzarhusaung, 30 year old Sawdularme and 40 year old Marmathusein were present at the Shaungsuarlong's house.

The attackers abducted two of them, Shaungsuarlong who is a clerk in the village administration office and Alzarhusaung, a labour.

Sawdularme and Marmathusein who ran away while the attacker were beating them were injured in their head and body. Security forces are investigating the case.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar trains midwives to tackle

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"The role of midwives is very important because two thirds of our country is in rural areas.

They are not only work-

ing on healthcare, but also documenting and compiling data for the country," said Dashi Hkwan Nu, head teacher at the Central Midwifery School.

Myanmar's healthcare -- particularly in far-flung areas -- is plagued by ramshackle services, with hospitals lacking basic equipment.—*By Aye Win Myint/Reuters*

Masked men abduct former village administrator

A group of masked men abducted 39-year old former administrator of Kyunpaukyusu Village in Maungtau Township, Rakhine State on 30 March.

While sleeping together with family at his home, Namamhed was taken

away after midnight by about 30 masked men who broke into the house by destroying the bamboo wall at the back of the house.

Security forces are investigating the case to expose the abductors.—*Myanmar News Agency*