

## 1.1 million in Myanmar's Rakhine barred from voting



Myanmar's political leader Aung San Suu Kyi speaks during an event  
AFP | Yangon

More than 1.1 million voters in Myanmar's western Rakhine state will be disenfranchised in upcoming national polls, according to data released by the election commission yesterday, a move experts warned could fuel yet more conflict.

Civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) is widely expected to power in the November 8 election -- only the second since the country emerged from outright military rule.

But with virtually all Rohingya Muslims stripped of citizenship and voting rights, many observers had already dismissed the polls as lacking credibility.

Yesterday the election commission said security reasons meant voting would not take place in areas with hundreds of thousands more people -- including more than 800,000 in Rakhine.

Over half of the 600,000 Rohingya remaining in Myanmar live in Rakhine, bringing the total number of disenfranchised in the state to more than 1.1 million, nearly two thirds of the state's population.

"Those particular areas can

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

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not guarantee conditions to hold free and fair elections and that is why the election is cancelled," read the announcement posted yesterday.

One million more stateless Rohingya languish in refugee camps in Bangladesh.

Arakan Army (AA) militants are locked in battle with the military in Rakhine's northern fringes as they fight for more autonomy for ethnic Rakhine Buddhists.

The unrest has killed or injured hundreds and forced 150,000 from their homes since the civil war intensified in late 2018.

# Twitter briefly restricts Trump campaign account

Twitter temporarily blocked the Donald Trump's re-election campaign's Twitter account after it posted a video about Joe Biden's son



US President Donald Trump wipes his face during a break in an NBC News town hall event in Miami

## ● Republicans decry company's actions

Reuters | Washington

US President Donald Trump's re-election campaign's Twitter account was briefly restricted late Thursday, causing an outcry from Republican lawmakers

who accused social media companies of acting like "speech police" and vowing to hold Twitter responsible.

Twitter temporarily blocked the @TeamTrump account from sending tweets after it posted a video about Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden's son that it said violated its rules.

The video referred to a New York Post story from Wednesday that contained alleged de-

tails of Hunter Biden's business dealings with a Ukrainian energy company and said the former vice president had met with an adviser of the company.

Biden campaign spokesman Andrew Bates said in a statement that Republican-led Senate committees have previously concluded that Joe Biden engaged in no wrongdoing related to Ukraine. He also denied such a meeting had taken place.

A Twitter spokesman said earlier on Thursday that the @TeamTrump account, and the accounts of White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany and the New York Post, had been blocked from tweeting because of the company's policies on hacked materials and posting private information. He said the accounts may need to delete the

The Trump campaign, with 2.2 million followers, was sending tweets again late Thursday. It said in a new tweet it was "re-posting the video Twitter doesn't want you to watch"



**”**

It's going to all end up in a big lawsuit and there are things that can happen that are very severe that I'd rather not see happen, but it's probably going to have to

DONALD TRUMP

rule-breaking posts to continue tweeting.

Twitter policy chief Vijaya Gadde said late on Thursday the company has decided to make changes to its hacked materials policy following feedback on its enforcement earlier.

"We will no longer remove hacked content unless it is directly shared by hackers or those acting in concert with them," Gadde said in a tweet. "We will label Tweets to provide context instead of blocking links from being shared on Twitter."

Twitter also said that despite the new policy the New York Post story would still be blocked. A company spokesman said the stories would still be blocked for "violating the rules on private personal information."

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## Japan to release treated Fukushima water into sea

● Water from the Fukushima plant has been filtered to reduce radioactivity

AFP | Tokyo

Japan will release more than a million tonnes of treated water from the stricken Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea in a decades-long operation, reports said yesterday, despite strong opposition from local fishermen.

The release of the water, which has been filtered to reduce radioactivity, is likely to start in 2022 at the earliest, said national dailies the Nikkei, the Yomiuri, and other local media.

The decision ends years of debate over how to dispose of the liquid that includes water used to cool the power station hit by a massive tsunami in 2011.

A government panel said earlier this year that releasing the water into the sea or evaporating it were both "realistic options".

As of last month, there were 1.23 million tonnes of waste water at the facility, the Nikkei reported.

Environmental activists have expressed strong opposi-



Reactor buildings and storage tanks for contaminated water at the Fukushima nuclear power plant



Local media say release could begin in 2022 and would take decades to complete, but local fishermen say move will destroy their industry

tion to the proposals, and fishermen and farmers have voiced fear that consumers will shun seafood and produce from the region. South Korea, which bans imports of seafood from the area, has also repeatedly voiced concern about the environmental impact.

Japan's government has been deliberating the issue for more than three years, but a decision is becoming urgent as space to store the water -- which also includes groundwater and rain that seeps daily into the plant -- is running out.

Most of the radioactive iso-

topes have been removed by an extensive filtration process -- but one remains, called tritium, which cannot be removed with existing technology.

The expert panel advised in January that discarding the water into the sea was a viable option because the method is also used at normal nuclear reactors.

Tritium is only harmful to humans in very large doses, experts say. The International Atomic Energy Agency argues that properly filtered water could be diluted with seawater and then safely released into the ocean.

## Swedish developer offers reward for 'stolen police officers'



A general view outside the former police station in Malmo

AFP | Malmo

A Swedish housing developer yesterday offered a cash reward for any tips leading to the return of two police officers missing from a police station -- or more precisely, statues depicting them.

The two bronze statues, named "Vaktaren" (The Guardian) and "Poliskonstapeln" (The Police Constable), have guarded the gate of a former police station in the southern city of Malmo since it was built in 1934.

Developer Riksbyggen is converting the station into apartments, but said the statues were an important part of the building's history.

"We want to maintain the history and retain as much of the heritage that exists," project manager Emil Nilsson told AFP.

The officers have been missing for a few months already and with no leads Riksbyggen is now offering a reward of 10,000 Swedish kronor (\$1,100, 960 euros) to anyone with information leading to the "unharmful" return of the police officers.

Riksbyggen said "Vaktaren" was last seen wearing an overcoat, a cap and clogs, while "Poliskonstapeln" wore the 1926 standard police uniform with a striped coat and boots "at the time of the disappearance."