

More than 6,000 Bengali families in Rakhine State participate in census

Yangon, 24 April — Bengalis in Rakhine State who contacted respective local census offices and participated in the census number more than 6,000 families so far, according to the Immigration and National Registration Department.

“Over 6,000 families, mostly from Buthidaung, Maungtau and Sittway townships, have been registered because they accepted themselves as Bengalis in the national census,” an official of the Immigration and Population Ministry said.

If they note their nationality as that they mentioned in the previous census, the ministry will extend the census-taking until the end of May, according to the ministry. “We have conducted the census for the development of the country. So, they can note their nationality or skip it on the census form,” Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi said.

Bengalis in Myanmar called themselves Bengalis in previous censuses taken in 1931, 1973 and 1983, and also registered themselves as Bengalis when the current government collected data in Rakhine State in May, 2012.

More than 90 percent of the national census has been taken and the whole process will be completed at the end of May as the remaining 10 percent of the data from far-flung areas is still being collected, according to the ministry. *NLM*
