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## SCORCHED EARTH

Amnesty, HRW show new evidence of 'mass-scale' torching of Rohingya villages by Myanmar troops, shooting of people at random; at least 80 large fires detected in the minority localities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have come up with new evidence pointing that the Myanmar army is deliberately burning Rohingya villages and shooting people, which is nothing but ethnic cleansing.

Amnesty termed it "mass-scale scorched-earth campaign" against the Rohingyas as Myanmar security forces and vigilante mobs are burning down entire Rohingya villages and shooting people at random as they try to flee.

"It is a targeted campaign to push the Rohingya people out of Myanmar .... Make no mistake: this is ethnic cleansing," said Tirana Hassan, crisis response director of Amnesty, in a statement yesterday.

The statement came a day after the UN said 4,00,000 Rohingyas crossed into Bangladesh fleeing violence in Myanmar, with 10 to 20 thousands arriving every day, and that the number may rise to a million by the year end if the influx continues.

The crackdown against the Rohingyas, who are denied citizenship despite living in Myanmar for generations, began in response to insurgent attacks on police posts and an army base on August 25.

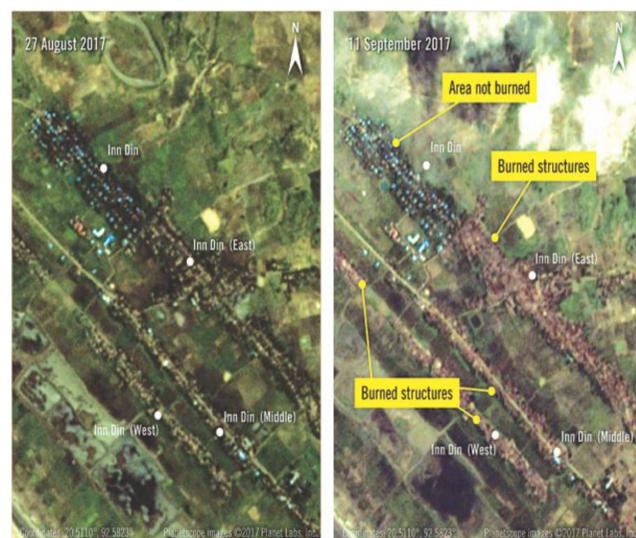
The Amnesty's analysis of active fire-detection data, satellite imagery, photographs, videos and interviews with eyewitnesses finds a clear and systematic pattern of abuse. Security forces surround a village, shoot people fleeing in panic and then torch houses to the ground.

"In legal terms, these are crimes against humanity," Tirana Hassan said, calling for the international community to wake up to the nightmares the Rohingya are living through.

"There must be much more pressure on Aung San Suu Kyi and Myanmar's military leadership who are still carrying out abuses to end this carnage," she said.

As Myanmar will be discussed at the UN Human Rights Council in a few days, this is an opportunity for the world to show that it has grasped the scope of the ongoing crisis and adopt a strong resolution to reflect this, added the rights body.

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Clockwise from top left, a burnt house in a village near Maungdaw on September 12. Two satellite images of Inn Din (Aan Daang) on August 27 and September 11. According to Amnesty, the before and after images show the areas allegedly burned by the Myanmar military. Smoke is seen billowing in an area in Rakhine State of Myanmar as seen from the Bangladeshi shore of the Naf River on Thursday. A house is on fire in Gawduthar village of Maungdaw on September 7.

PHOTO: REUTERS, AFP

**REPORTER'S Diary**

### Death, despair and destruction

OSAMA RAHMAN from Cox's Bazar

Six-year-old Hizbullah tightly grips his grandmother Shiriluk's hand.

He is wearing a dirty white tee-shirt and no pants. He seems clueless, his eyes searching the swarms of bodies for a familiar face. He wears a look of absolute puzzlement. He doesn't have the capacity to understand why he is here.

As I approach him, he looks up, a sudden shadow of fear falling across his face. It is evident that he has seen too much blood already.

"This is my grandson," his 70-year-old grandmother informs.

Where are his parents, I ask.

"They are dead. They cut his father and threw his body on the barbed wire fence. I saw my son's body draped across the fence with my own eyes," Shiriluk says.

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## The forgotten citizens of Rakhine State

ANANTA YUSUF, back from Cox's Bazar

The forebears of Mohammad Alam and Mohammad Ali, two Rohingya refugees, were Myanmar citizens. They had been in Myanmar for generations.

But Alam and Ali are not rightful citizens of the country. Having white cards, they had voted in the 2010 general elections. But now they have blue cards, under which they have very limited rights.

Escaping violence in Rakhine State, they entered Bangladesh early this month. The two along with their 31 family members have taken refuge at the unregistered Rohingya camp in Taknaf's Kanjhan Para.

The fate of the ethnic minority changed with the changing of policies by the government. Many legal Myanmar citizens from the Rohingya community became illegal immigrants as the colours of their identity cards changed over the years. The government curtailed some of their basic civil rights.

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Alam

Ali

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### Don't interfere in Myanmar's internal matters

Russia asks nations; US to send official

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Amid an international outcry over the military persecution of Rohingyas in Rakhine, Russia yesterday called on other countries to refrain from interfering in Myanmar's internal affairs.

"Moscow supports efforts to settle the crisis in Myanmar and calls on other states to refrain from interfering in the country's internal affairs," Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

"It is important to understand that the intention to meddle in the internal affairs of a sovereign

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### NEWS ANALYSIS

## An inconceivable resolution by JS

SHAKHAWAT LITON

This is inconceivable in modern democracy that the parliament passes a resolution to nullify a supreme court verdict. But our Parliament unanimously did it on Wednesday, setting a unique example.

Its resolution called for taking proper legal action to nullify the SC's recent verdict that scrapped the 16th constitutional amendment. In addition, it sought legal step for cancellation of some "objectionable, unconstitutional and irrelevant remarks" made by the Chief Justice in the verdict.

The resolution followed a huge outcry in and outside of the Parliament against the apex court for more than a year.

Some ministers and MPs in Parliament launched a vociferous attack on the High Court immediately after it declared the amendment unconstitutional and void in May 2016.

Again, they did the same in Parliament after the Appellate Division upheld the HC verdict in July this year. In both occasions, they participated in unscheduled discussions.

The attack on the apex court by ministers and ruling party leaders intensified manifold after the release of the apex

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### AIRSPACE VIOLATION

## Dhaka again protests

Myanmar envoy summoned

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The foreign ministry yesterday summoned the Myanmar envoy to Bangladesh and strongly protested the instances of violation of the country's airspace by Myanmar military drones and helicopter on September 10, 12 and 14.

Expressing concern, Bangladesh also mentioned that these provocative acts may lead to unwarranted consequences.

Diplomatic sources said the Myanmar military drones and helicopters violated the country's airspace more than 20 times in last three weeks.

Director General (South East Asia Wing) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned Aung Myint, charge d'affaires of the Myanmar Embassy in

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With missing body plates and a battered, gaping hull, a loaded dumb ferry, leaves Munshiganj's Shimulia terminal for Kathalbari of Madaripur. These ferries, which carry heavy vehicles, are not self-propelled and have to be towed by a tug. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## N Korea again fires missile over Japan

World powers split on next move despite condemnations from Russia, China; UNSC set to meet

REUTERS, Seoul/Tokyo

North Korea yesterday fired a missile over Japan and far out into the Pacific Ocean for the second time in under a month, again challenging the United States and other world powers to rein in Pyongyang's missile and nuclear programmes.

The latest missile test by North Korea, one of its furthest-reaching yet, has split world powers who united behind new UN sanctions just days ago.

The US said the burden of responding to the North should fall on China, its main ally, and Russia, which also has ties to the communist state.

But China suggested the US was shirking its own responsibility, while Russia condemned "aggressive" US rhetoric.

The missile fired over Japan had the range to hit the US territory of Guam. It reached an altitude of about 770km (478 miles), travelling 3,700km past Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido before landing in the sea, South Korea's military said.

It is the furthest any North Korean ballistic missile has ever travelled overground, Joseph Dempsey of the International Institute for Strategic Studies said in a tweet.

Amid international condemnations of the test, the UN Security Council was to meet later in the day to discuss the launch at the request of the United States and Japan, diplomats said.

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## PM flies to NY today to join UNGA

To raise Rohingya issue

UNB, Dhaka



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka today for New York to attend the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

She will leave Dhaka for Abu Dhabi by a Biman flight at 2:00pm. She will depart from Abu Dhabi for New York tomorrow morning by an Etihad flight, according to the Prime Minister's Office.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA M Ziauddin and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UN Masud Bin Momen will receive the PM in New York on Sunday afternoon.

During her visit, the PM will stay at Hotel Grand Col

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