

Scorched earth

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Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director of Human Rights Watch (HRW), said, "The United Nations and member countries should urgently impose measures on the Burmese government to stop these atrocities and end the forced flight of Rohingya from Burma [Myanmar]."

Myanmar denies its security forces are responsible for the burnings and claims Rohingya have been setting fire to their own homes, but Tirana Hassan said Myanmar's attempts to shift the blame to the Rohingya population are blatant lies.

Amnesty has also received credible reports of Rohingya militants burning the homes of ethnic Rakhine and other minorities, but has so far been unable to verify or corroborate these.

AMNESTY FINDINGS

Since August 25, Amnesty has detected at least 80 large-scale fires in inhabited areas across predominantly Rohingya areas of northern Rakhine.

While the extent of the damage cannot be independently verified on the ground, due to access restrictions by the Myanmar government, true number of fires and extent of property destruction is likely to be much higher. Cloud cover during the monsoon season has made it difficult for satellites to pick up all burnings.

Additionally, smaller fires go undetected by environmental satellite sensors. Satellite images from the village tract of Inn Din, a mixed ethnic area in south Maungdaw, clearly show how an area of Rohingya homes have been burned to the ground, while non-Rohingya areas alongside them appear

to have been left untouched, the Amnesty statement says.

SYSTEMATIC ATTACKS
Referring to eyewitnesses, Amnesty said soldiers, police and vigilante groups sometimes encircle a village and fire into the air before entering, but often just storm in and start firing in all directions, with people fleeing in panic.

As surviving villagers desperately try to leave the area, security forces torch houses using petrol or shoulder-fired rocket launchers.

One 48-year-old man told the rights body that he witnessed army and police storm into his village of Yae Twin Kyun in northern Maungdaw township on September 8.

"When the military came, they started shooting at people who got very scared and started running. I saw the military shoot many people and kill two young boys. They used weapons to burn our houses. There used to be 900 houses in our village, now only 80 are left. There is no one left to even bury the bodies," he said.

The organisation has been able to corroborate the burning by analysing photographs taken from across the Naf River in Bangladesh, showing huge pillars of smoke rising inside Myanmar.

In some areas local authorities appear to have warned local villages in advance that their homes would be burnt, a clear indication that the attacks are both deliberate and planned.

HRW FINDINGS
HRW said it got evidence that 62 villages in northern Rakhine State were targeted by arson attacks between

August 25 and September 14. It identified 35 of these villages with extensive building destruction, and an additional 26 villages that had active fires detected.

"Our field research backs that the Burmese military is directly responsible for the mass burning of Rohingya villages," said Phil Robertson of HRW.

In a detailed building damage assessment in six of the 35 affected villages, HRW identified nearly complete destruction in each case. The total number of destroyed buildings was 948.

"Satellite detection of multiple active fires on September 11 and 13 suggests that villages in new areas of Maungdaw township are now being targeted for destruction.

Because of heavy cloud cover, it is almost certain that the actual number of fire-affected villages in the townships of Maungdaw, Buthidaung, and Rathedaung is considerably higher.

Meanwhile, Md Motaleb, president of law and order committee of unregistered Rohingya camp in Leda of Teknaf, told The Daily Star that Myanmar army destroyed around 500 Rohingya villages out of 700 in three regions of Rakhine.

Motaleb, who has connections with the Rohingya community in Rakhine, said villages of around five lakh Rohingyas were burnt and their houses looted. Four lakh of them already fled to Bangladesh and one more lakh are on the way, he added.

"Even if there are no people in the villages, Myanmar forces are setting fire to empty houses so that the Rohingyas are not able to return," Motaleb said.

Solidarity

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Yunus Centre yesterday for adding in the open letter's list of signatories, said a press release issued by the Centre.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Nobel laureates, including Prof Muhammad Yunus and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and the global citizens, including former Norway Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland and former Ireland President Mary Robinson, send the letter to the UNSC.

In the letter they said, "We call on the UNSC to intervene immediately by using all available means. We request you to take immediate action for cessation of indiscriminate military attack on innocent civilians that is forcing them to leave their home and flee country to turn into stateless people."

They urged the UNSC to persuade Myanmar government to take immediate steps to implement the recommendations put forward by the Rakhine Advisory Commission that Myanmar itself established last year under the pressure of the international community.

The move comes at a time when around 4 lakh Rohingyas fled Myanmar Army's crackdown in Rakhine in the last three weeks and entered Bangladesh.

Cassini ends

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any damage to Saturn's ocean-bearing moons Titan and Enceladus, which scientists want to keep pristine for future exploration because they may contain some form of life.

"It will be sad to see Cassini go on Friday, especially as the instrument we built is still working perfectly," said Stanley Cowley, professor of solar planetary physics at the University of Leicester.

"But we recognize that it is important to bring the mission to an end in a tidy and controlled manner."

Three other spacecraft have flown by Saturn -- Pioneer 11 in 1979, followed by Voyager 1 and 2 in the 1980s.

But none has studied Saturn in such detail as Cassini, named after the French-Italian astronomer Giovanni Domenico Cassini, who discovered in the 17th century that Saturn had several moons and a gap in between its rings. Cassini launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida in 1997, then spent seven years in transit followed by 13 years orbiting Saturn.

Dwijen Sharma

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author was awarded Bangla Academy Award in 1987 and Ekushey Padak in 2015 for his contributions to language and literature.

A leading advocate for a nature-friendly city, Prof Dwijen worked tirelessly to nourish and create green patches within the capital Dhaka.

"I dreamt that Dhaka would be a garden city -- there would be parks, a riverfront on the banks of the Buriganga, open fields where children would play -- the whole city would be like Ramna Park..." he said in an interview in 2013.

His father, Vishak Chandrakanda Sharma, was a famous Kabiraj (herbal medicine practitioner) and mother Magnamayi Devi a social worker. At home his father had a large library that helped shape his worldview. After getting his MSC in Botany from Dhaka University in 1958, Prof Dwijen joined the BM College in Barisal and taught there till 1962.

He took part in the education movement in 1962 and was arrested and had to stay in security prison for three months in Barisal.

Later, he joined Notre Dame College where he taught till 1974. He designed a landscape garden that still beautifies Notre Dame's campus. That's one thing about Dwijen Sharma -- wherever he worked, he made gardens.

Renowned folklorist Shamsuzzaman Khan said, "When I was the DG [Directorate General] of the national museum, we made a botanical garden under his [Dwijen Sharma] supervision at the back of the museum. Again when I joined Bangla academy, we sought his guidance in planting trees on the premises of Bangla Academy."

Prof Dwijen's famous books include Shamoli Nishorgo (Green Nature), Shomajontore Boshobash (Living in Socialism), Jiboner Shesh Nei (No End To Life), Phoolgolo Jeno Kotha (Each Flower Is A Word) and Biggan Shikkha (Science Education and Our Responsibilities).

He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death. His last rites would be performed after his daughter Sreyashi Sharma returns from abroad, reports BSS.

Woman hurtin acid attack

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to the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), said police.

"She suffered burns on her face and neck," said Nayek Abdul Hamid of CMCH police outpost.

Around 6:30pm, Anwar carried out the attack in front of Hridom Shopping Centre and fled the scene. Sadia was going to her workplace in Bahaddarhat, said Abul Bashar, officer-in-charge of Chandgaon Police Station, quoting locals.

Sadia is an employee of Reshmi Beauty Parlour, and the couple has a two-year-old son, said the victim's family.

An aunt of the victim, who wished

not to be named, said Anwar married Sadia three years ago.

She alleged that Anwar was a drug addict and used to torture Sadia. For the torture, Sadia recently kept her son in her father's house in Khagrachhari and decided to get separated from Anwar, said the victim's relative.

Sadia returned to Chittagong from Khagrachhari on Thursday. Anwar started to follow her when she was going to her workplace in a rickshaw. When Sadia reached near the shopping centre, Anwar threw acid at her, said the victim's aunt, adding that a youth was with Anwar during the attack.

Police were trying to detain Anwar, said OC Bashar.

Home considers risk allowance

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Under these circumstances, some bomb disposal unit members said there should be some additional facilities for them as they were working risking their lives.

However, Proloy Kumar Joarder, deputy commissioner (special action group) of CTTC, said they had sufficient members for the bomb disposal unit and the SWAT team, and the members were working with sincerity.

He added that if the proposal of the special allowance was granted, it would definitely work as an inspiration for the officials.

According to the PHQ proposal, anti-militancy drives of CTTC's SWAT (Special Weapons And Tactics) team and bomb disposal unit and Rab's bomb disposal unit called Explosive Ordnance Disposal have earned both national and international acclamation, but their members have yet to get any incentive for their work.

The members are killed or injured while discharging their duty, reads the proposal.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the proposal.

In the proposal, it was mentioned that two police officials -- Rabiul Islam, assistant commissioner of DB, and Salauddin Khan, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station -- were killed and 24 others, including eight SWAT members, seriously injured during the Gulshan café attack on July 1 last year.

Five members of CTTC's bomb disposal unit were critically wounded during an operation at "Neo JMB" Azimpur hideout on September 10 last year.

SWAT team and bomb disposal units of CTTC and Rapid Action

Battalion conducted anti-militancy drives successfully in different militant hideouts across the country. In those operations, a number of militants of "Neo JMB", including its commander Tamim Chowdhury, were killed, the proposal added.

According to media reports, around 70 militant suspects were killed during law enforcers' anti-militancy drives since the Gulshan café attack.

AKM Shahidur Rahman, deputy inspector general (finance) of PHQ, told The Daily Star that the proposal was now at the home ministry for approval. When the proposal would be approved, it would be sent to the finance ministry for approval, he added.

In the proposal, the PHQ says they need around Tk 7.023 crore to pay the allowance. Of the amount, Tk 4.24 crore is needed for CTTC and Tk 2.75 crore for Rab.

Asked, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told this correspondent that they were considering the proposal.

Beyond religion

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religion is secondary. We are working without any banners because we don't need praise. If we are to be rewarded, God will do so."

Buddhists in Ramu, meanwhile, held a voluntary blood donation programme at their Kendriyo Shima Bihar for injured Rohingyas.

In the capital city, Bangladesh Sammilito Boudhho Samaj, a Buddhist group protested the persecution of Rohingyas last week. They submitted a memorandum to the Myanmar embassy and demanded an end to the violent methods the military there had adopted.

N Korea again fires missile

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North Korea has launched dozens of missiles under leader Kim Jong-Un as it accelerates a weapons programme designed to give it the ability to target the United States with a powerful, nuclear-tipped missile.

Two tests in July were for long-range intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching at least parts of the US mainland. North Korea also staged its sixth and most powerful nuclear bomb test earlier this month.

Warning announcements about the most recent missile blared around 7:00am (2200 GMT Thursday) in parts of northern Japan, while many residents received alerts on their mobile phones or saw warnings on TV telling them to seek refuge.

US Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis said the launch "put millions of Japanese into duck and cover", although people in northern Japan seemed calm and went about business as normal.

US officials repeated Washington's "ironclad" commitments to the defence of its allies. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson called for "new measures" against North Korea and said the "continued provocations only deepen North Korea's diplomatic and economic isolation".

NORTH KOREAN MISSILE OVER JAPAN



Russia said the missile test was part of a series of unacceptable provocations and that the UN Security Council was united in believing such launches should not be taking place.

President Vladimir Putin discussed the launch in a phone call with French President Emanuel Macron and agreed on the need for a diplomatic solution, including through resuming direct talks on North Korea, the Kremlin said in a statement.

The Security Council was to meet at 3:00pm ET (1900 GMT), diplomats

said, just days after its 15 members unanimously stepped up sanctions against North Korea over its Sept 3 nuclear test.

China's foreign ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, denied that China held the key to easing tension on the peninsula and said that duty lay with the parties directly involved.

"Any attempt to wash their hands of the issue is irresponsible and unhelpful for its resolution," she said, reiterating China's position that sanctions are only effective if paired with talks.

PM flies to NY today

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Hyatt in New York.

Hasina will address the UNGA on September 21. She will have a bilateral meeting with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the same day.

On September 18, the PM will attend a high-level meeting on UN Reforms to be hosted by US President Donald Trump and a high-level meeting on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse at the UN Headquarters (UNHQ).

The PM will join the OIC Contact Group meeting on Rohingya

Minorities at the UNHQ on September 19.

In the evening, the PM will attend a reception for the Commonwealth heads of state/government to be hosted by British Prime Minister Theresa May.

Hasina will join a welcome reception of US President Donald Trump in the evening at Palace Hotel.

On September 20, the premier will attend the signing ceremony of the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at UNHQ and sign the treaty.

On September 21, President of IBM

Virginia Marie Rometty will make a call on the PM.

Later, the premier will join the 4th Meeting of the High-level Panel on Water at UNHQ. She will hold a bilateral meeting with her Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba.

The PM will brief the press on her UN visit in the evening on September 21. Hasina will leave New York for Virginia by road on September 22. After staying in Virginia for a week, she will leave for home on September 29.

The PM will return home on October 2.

Don't interfere

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estate may result in further deterioration of an inter-religious conflict. I stress that we welcome efforts to establish inter-religious dialogue in Myanmar, with engagement of religious leaders of all faiths," Zakharova said, reported Russian news agency Sputnik.

She noted that the Myanmar authorities were taking steps to return the internally displaced people to their homes and expressed optimism that the same measures would also be taken for other people affected by the crisis.

"Attempts at intervening in Myanmar's internal affairs may have only one net effect -- still deeper inter-religious discord," reported TASS quoting Zakharova.

The foreign ministry spokeswoman said Moscow welcomed the Myanmar government's efforts to implement recommendations made by the commission under former UN secretary-general Kofi Annan.

US OFFICIAL TO VISIT MYANMAR

The USA has said it is assessing the situation in Myanmar.

"I can only say that we are assessing the situation on the ground. There is still -- I mean, despite the horrific pictures that you've seen and the reporting and some of the harrowing details that you've read about, there's still not a lot of information that, as a government, we've been able to independently verify, in terms of from our own people being able to ask those questions and getting enough good answers, solid answers that are verifiable," US State Department Spokesperson Heather

Nauert told journalists during a briefing on Thursday in Washington.

She was responding to a question if there was a review going on with the US State Department lawyers in terms of trying to determine whether the situation in Myanmar constituted any type of effort towards genocide or ethnic cleansing.

Nauert said the US ambassador in Myanmar had a lot of conversation with the representatives of the Myanmar government.

She said Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Patrick Murphy would travel to Myanmar to meet officials this weekend.

Murphy would voice Washington's concerns and press for greater access to the conflict area for humanitarian works, the State Department said, adding that he would also visit Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine State, and meet its governor.

Murphy summoned Myanmar's ambassador to the US, Aung Lynn, on Wednesday to express US concerns about the violence, including recent attacks on Rohingya villages, according to a senior State Department official, who called the message sent by the move "a tough one."

The deputy assistant secretary told the ambassador that Myanmar should publicly acknowledge that Rohingya groups, in particular, have fled across the border into Bangladesh, the official said, and that those refugees should now be allowed to return home.

In reply to another question, Nauert said she did not know if Murphy would visit Bangladesh.

"We have been pretty clear in thank-

ing the government of Bangladesh for accepting so many of the Rohingyas into their country to provide them at least a safer place," she said, adding, "But I don't know if he's travelling beyond Burma [Myanmar]."

Meanwhile, Myanmar yesterday said a visiting US official would not be allowed to go to a region where violence has triggered an exodus of nearly 400,000 Rohingya Muslims that the UN has branded a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing", reports Reuters.

Myanmar officials said the US deputy assistant secretary of state would meet government leaders in the capital, Naypyitaw, and attend an address to the nation by Suu Kyi on Tuesday.

He would also visit Sittwe, the state capital, and meet the governor of Rakhine, the state government secretary, Tin Maung Swe, told Reuters, but the north of the state, where the conflict erupted on August 25 would be off limits.

INFLUX OF REFUGEES CONTINUES

Over three weeks into the beginning of a mass exodus of Rohingya Muslims from Rakhine, thousands are still flooding over the border to Bangladesh for safety.

UN refugee agency UNHCR has said the Rohingyas are in urgent need of shelter, food and medical care.

Stéphane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN secretary-general, in his daily press briefing on Thursday in New York, quoting humanitarian colleagues, said 10,000 people reportedly crossed into Bangladesh in the last 24 hours alone.

Fodder Research & Development Project
Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute
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Memo No: 33.05.2672.103.01.343.17.894 Date: 14/09/2017

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocurement.gov.bd>) for procurement of following works. Details are given below:

APP ID No.	Tender ID No.	Description of works	Tender document last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time	Tender security last submission date & time
59424	118481	Construction of 2-Storeyed Office Cum-Lab Building (with 2-Storeyed Foundation) at Faridpur	03/10/2017 at 17:00	04/10/2017 at 14:30	04/10/2017 at 13:30
59779	120279	Construction of 2-Storeyed Dormitory Building (with 2-Storeyed Foundation) at Faridpur	03/10/2017 at 17:00	04/10/2017 at 14:30	04/10/2017 at 13:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. To get access to the e-Tender document, the required fees is to be deposited through any registered branch of enlisted banks on or before of above-mentioned date & time. Further information and guidelines are available in National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-1888