

## National &amp; International News

## Rohingya militants massacred Hindus in Myanmar: Amnesty

Agency  
Yangon, May 23

Rohingya militants massacred Hindu villagers during last year's uprising in Myanmar's Rakhine, Amnesty International said today in a report that sheds fresh light on the complex ethnic rivalries in the state.

The killings took place on August 25, 2017, the report said, the same day that the Rohingya insurgents staged coordinated deadly raids on police posts that tipped the state into crisis.

Myanmar's military responded to the insurgent raids with harsh reprisals that forced some 7,00,000 Rohingya Muslims out of the mainly Buddhist country where they have faced persecution for years.

The UN says the army crackdown amounted to "ethnic cleansing" of the Rohingya, with soldiers and vigilante mobs accused of killing civilians and burning down villages.

But the Rohingya militants have also been accused of abuses. Those include the

mass killing of Hindus in the far north of Rakhine, where the military took reporters — including AFP — to witness the exhumation of putrid bodies from a grave in September.

The militants, known as the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), denied responsibility at the time.

But Amnesty International said today that a new investigation had confirmed the group killed 53 Hindus "execution-style" — mostly children — in the Kha Maung Seik village cluster in northern Maungdaw.

"Our latest investigation on the ground sheds much-needed light on the largely under-reported human rights abuses by ARSA during northern Rakhine state's unspeakably dark recent history," said Tirana Hassan, crisis response director at Amnesty International.

"Accountability for these atrocities is every bit as crucial as it is for the crimes against humanity carried out by Myanmar's security forces in northern Rakhine state," she added.

Citing interviews with eight survivors, the rights group said dozens were rounded up, blindfolded and marched out of town by masked men and Rohingya villagers in plain clothes.

"They slaughtered the men. We were told not to look at them... They had knives. They also had some spades and iron rods," 18-year-old Raj Kumari told Amnesty.

He said he hid in the bush and watched as his father, brother and uncle were killed.

The report said that in a separate village nearby called Ye Bauk Kyar, 46 Hindu men, women and children disappeared on the same day. It cited information from local Hindus who believe they were killed by ARSA.

While Rakhine was home mainly to Buddhists and Muslims before the crisis, it also boasts a small but longstanding Hindu minority — many of whom were brought in by British colonisers looking for cheap labour — as well as several other smaller ethnic groups. Myanmar has faced a flood of international condemnation

for its persecution of the Rohingya, who are stateless and have been targeted by bouts of communal violence. The government denies any widespread abuses and has accused rights groups of a pro-Rohingya bias, while highlighting the suffering of other ethnic groups swept up in the violence.

"It is important that the international pressure on Myanmar won't favour ARSA's actions," government spokesman Zaw Htay told AFP when asked about the Amnesty report.

But David Mathieson, an independent analyst, said the report should strengthen the argument for Myanmar to allow independent investigations into the crisis. Authorities have severely restricted media access to the conflict zone and barred UN investigators from entering the country.

"Failing to grant access to humanitarian aid workers and researchers and journalists will continue the official culture of denial, which has zero credibility in the eyes of the world," he told.

## Delhi Minorities panel issues notice to JNU on 'Islamic Terror' course

Agency  
New Delhi, May 23

The Delhi Minorities Commission (DMC) chairman Zafar-ul-Islam Khan on Tuesday issued a notice to the Registrar of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) asking him if there was any concept paper or proposal to include a course on "Islamic Terror" at the proposed Centre for National Security Studies at the university.

The DMC has also sought information about the areas to be covered under this subject. It also sent queries about the sources, methodology, reference books and asked about the main experts expected to take part in the implementation, research and teaching of this subject.

The Commission has asked for a full list of the members of the university's academic council marking those who were present during the meeting where the proposal to start such a course was adopted. The panel also, questioned if the agenda item was put to vote and if so, what was the result. The administration has been asked to file its reply to the questions by June 5.

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind general secretary Maulana Mahmood Madani has also written to the JNU V-C condemning the decision to introduce "Islamic Terrorism" as a subject. Mr Madani said the decision was ill-conceived and would hurt the sentiments of not only Muslims but all those who believe in respecting all the religions.

"Labelling any religion with such epithet as terrorism is the ultimate insult and as such it is most abominable and condemnable," Mr Madani said. Mr Madani urged the academic council in JNU to reconsider the decision specifically linking Islam with terrorism and suspend this move for the wider interest and threatened legal action if JNU administration failed to do so. The JNU Academic Council had allowed the tabling the proposal to set up a Centre for National Security Studies under which "Islamic terrorism" would be a key area of focus according to a report presented in the recent AC meeting by a committee set up to look into the setting up the Special Centre.

## Shop including 1.5 lakh worth goods burnt



IT News  
Imphal May 23.

One egg wholesale shop was burnt last evening around 9 pm at Uripok Heisnam Leikai (also known as Laikhuremba). The burnt wholesale shop was run by one Ahongsangbam Surchandra, son of Ahongsangbam (Late) Ibungo of Sangaiprou on lease from one Tombisana

Sharma, who is the owner of the plot, of the said leikai. According to Surchandra (shop owner), the accident occurred last evening at around 8:45 pm due to a short circuit from the shop. Around goods worth 1.5 lakh were destroyed in the fire. Later a team of fire service managed to extinguish the fire from causing more damage.

## Newly Constructed Bridge "Dimuk Arlei" Inaugurated



IT News  
Chandel, May 23.

A Newly Constructed Bridge "Dimuk Arlei" was inaugurated and handed over to the people of Charangching Khullen in Chandel district headquarters today. The Bridge was constructed and implemented by NERCORMP Chandel.

Chandel district headquarters DC Krishnakumar IAS and District Project Director Lilyrose Jajo inaugurated the units following a function held at the village and attended by a team of NERCORMP staffs and Ksh. Siddharth SDO Chandel, Prasad Ghorpade CO 18 Assam Rifles Chandel and villagers.

## One day workshop in connection with Gram Swaraj Abhiyan- Mission Indradhanus held

IT News  
Moreh, May 23.

A one day district level workshop in connection with the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan - Mission Indradhanus was held today at primary health Center Moreh.

The workshop was organised under the initiative of District Immunization Officer Tengnoupal Dr. Kh. Gojen.

The objective of the programme is to insure 100% immunization to all children below the age of 2 years. Surveillance Medical Officer of the World Health Organization, Dr. Pranoy Data attended the workshop as resource person. Doctors, Health Workers and other staffs of the Health care service providers attended the programme.

## 8-month-old baby among nine killed, 50 injured in Pak shelling in a week in jammu

Agency  
Jammu, May 23

Nine people, including an infant and two soldiers have been killed, and fifty civilians injured in the last week as Pakistani troops shelled Indian villages with mortar bombs by targeting settlements and border outposts (BoPs) in Jammu, Kathua and Samba districts along the International Border for the eighth day today, prompting a strong and effective retaliation by the Border Security Force.

Hundreds of villagers had to vacate their houses and take shelter either at the houses of relatives or at relief camps set up by the government at safer places. All educational institutions in the areas remained closed.

"The Pakistan Rangers indulged in heavy and indiscriminate shelling of mortar bombs and firing of

small arms and automatic weapons at night, targeting villages in the Ramgarh and Samba sectors," a police officer told news agency PTI.

Fifteen persons — 13 in the Ramgarh sector, and two in the Samba sector — were injured in the firing and shelling, he said, adding that of them, 11 were sent to the GMC Hospital in Jammu, while the remaining four were admitted to different hospitals in the district.

He added that the Pakistan Rangers suffered several casualties with a number of its bunkers getting hit during the skirmishes. "It has been learnt that one of the injured rangers has been shifted to a Lahore hospital, while two others are being treated at a local hospital," the official told news agency PTI.

As the firing from the Pakistani side intensified over the last two days, villagers living close to the border areas left their homes amid mortar shell

explosions. Massive damage was caused to a number of houses, officials said, adding that the exact number of houses damaged was being ascertained.

SD Singh Jamwal, the Inspector General of Police, Jammu, said police parties were deployed and they were helping residents in the areas shift to safer places. Divisional Commissioner (Jammu) Hemant Kumar Sharma said relief camps were activated at safer places all along the border, especially in the worst-hit RS Pura and Arnia sectors.

Hundreds of people had reported at these camps were set up in educational institutions and other government buildings, Mr Sharma said. He added that adequate facilities were available at these camps, so that the displaced people did not face any problem.

All schools vulnerable to

Pakistani shelling have been closed along the border as a precautionary measure.

The latest round of shelling had started on May 15, when the BSF foiled two infiltration attempts by Pakistan-backed infiltrators in the Samba sector, and intensified after Pakistan "pleaded" with the BSF to stop firing, after being pounded with heavy artillery that left a Pak trooper dead across the border on May 20. So far, nine persons, including two BSF soldiers and an infant, have been killed and 50 others injured in the Pakistani firing and shelling.

Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a spurt in Pakistani shelling and firing along the International Border and the Line of Control this year. Over 700 such incidents have been reported so far this year, which have left 39 people, including 18 security personnel, dead and several injured.

## Police opposes suspected IM member's bail plea in SC

Agency  
New Delhi, May 23

The Delhi Police today "strongly opposed" in the Supreme Court the plea filed by a suspected Indian Mujahideen (IM) member, who was deported from Saudi Arabia in 2012, seeking bail in connection with a case relating to setting up of an alleged illegal arms factory here.

The police told a bench comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar and Navin Sinha that they would file their response on the plea by accused Fasih Mahmood, who has challenged the Delhi High Court order denying him bail in the case.

"I am strongly opposing it. This is not a normal matter," the counsel representing the police told the bench.

The court granted two weeks' time to the police to file their response on the plea and asked the petitioner to file a rejoinder to the reply within a week thereafter.

The apex court said the matter will be listed for hearing after three weeks.

On April 17, the high court had dismissed the bail plea of Mahmood, who is alleged to be an aide of IM co-founder Yasin Bhatkal, observing that there was no valid reason to grant him the relief considering the gravity of offence and serious allegation against him.

The high court had also noted that accused has already been denied bail earlier by the high court as well as the apex court. The Special Cell of Delhi Police had alleged that a huge quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered

from an illegal arms factory located in Meer Vihar area here. It had also claimed that Bhatkal and others, including Mahmood, were part of the conspiracy to carry out terror strikes in the country.

The accused has denied all the allegations.

Mahmood, a mechanical engineer by profession, was alleged to be one of the key members of the IM's dreaded Darbhanga module which had carried out various terror strikes in the country since 2008.

The police had alleged that he was the "motivator" for driving the youth to join the IM and had charge sheeted him for offences under the Indian Penal Code, the Explosive Substances Act and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

## IAF chopper crash-lands in J-K, passengers and crew safe

Agency  
New Delhi, May 23

A Cheetah helicopter of the Indian Air Force crash-landed in Natha Top in Jammu and Kashmir soon after it took off on a routine sortie today morning, official sources said here. The two passengers and two crew members on board the military chopper were safe, they said.

The helicopter was on a routine sortie from Jammu when it crash-landed at the Natha Top helipad around 9.50 am, the sources said.

A court of inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the accident.

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