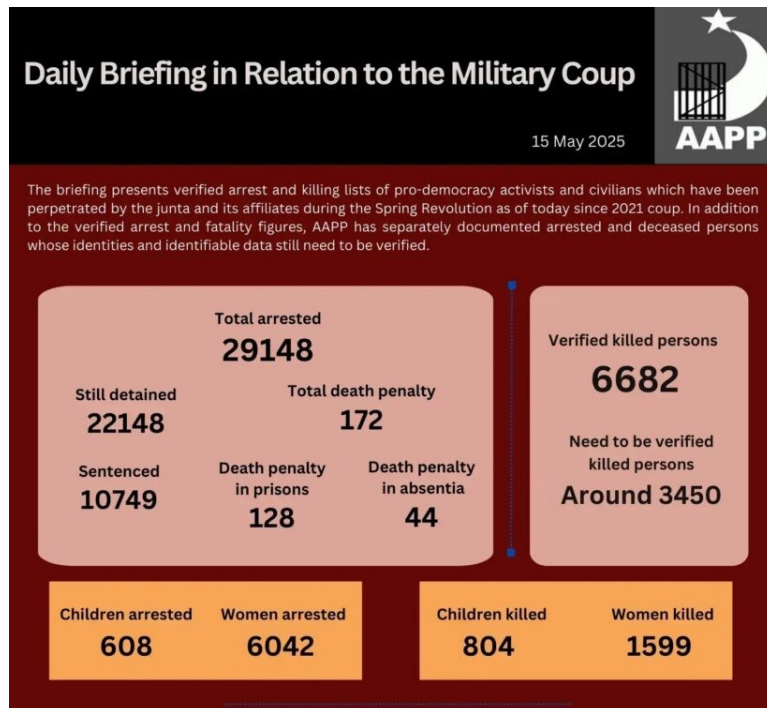


AAPPB News dated 23 July 2025

Daily Briefing in Relation to the Military Coup



Global News Light of Myanmar dated 23 July 2025

His Holiness Patriarch of Russian Orthodox Church in Moscow and across Russia sends message of condolence to Myanmar's Head of State

Due to the severe damage, loss of life, and numerous injuries caused by the powerful Mandalay earthquake that struck Myanmar, Kirill, His Holiness Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church in Moscow and across Russia, sent a letter of condolence to Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The message expresses deep sorrow upon hearing the news of the earthquake in Myanmar. It conveys heartfelt sympathy for the loss of lives and the suffering endured by many people due to the natural disaster, as well as the damage to the country's infrastructure. It also extends sincere wishes and prayers for strength and recovery to those affected by the earthquake. — MNA/TTA

Global News Light of Myanmar dated 23 July 2025

Global aid flows into Myanmar as quake toll reaches 3,723

As of 15 May, a total of 3,723 people died, 5,104 were injured, and 84 remain missing in six regions and states of Myanmar that were severely affected by the powerful earthquake that struck on 28 March.

Search and rescue teams from the Myanmar Fire Brigade, along with local and international rescue organizations, have been carrying out emergency operations in the affected areas without delay. So

far, 653 people have been rescued alive from collapsed buildings, and the bodies of 802 deceased individuals have been recovered.

Updates will continue to be provided regarding the financial and material donations from both local and foreign philanthropists to support the impacted communities. — MNA/MKKS

Global News Light of Myanmar dated 23 July 2025

Myanmar deports 76 Ethiopians involved in telecom fraud

Myanmar authorities deported 76 Ethiopian nationals found to be involved in telecom fraud and other criminal activities. These individuals illegally entered Myanmar through border routes after transiting neighbouring countries, including Thailand. They were active in online gambling and online scam operations in areas such as Myawady-Shwe Kokko, Maehtawthalay (KK Park), and Kyaukkhet in Kayin State.

Following systematic investigations, these foreign nationals were handed over on humanitarian grounds and in the spirit of bilateral relations to their respective country through the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II as per legal procedures. The handover was supervised by Kayin State Social Affairs Minister U Saw Tun Aung and departmental officials, who verified documents, cross-checked personal records and ensured accurate procedures before proceeding with the transfer.

The formal handover ceremony saw Kayin State Social Affairs Minister U Saw Tun Aung and relevant officials. Myanmar officials transferred all required documentation to the appropriate authorities from the respective country.

Myanmar identified and detained a total of 9,070 foreign nationals who entered the country illegally between 30 January and 15 May 2025. Of these, 8,302 individuals were deported via Thailand to their respective countries under the law, while 768 others are ready to be repatriated and are being kept in proper custody.

The Myanmar government continues to investigate and take effective action against illegal online scam operations, particularly targeting foreign nationals involved in these crimes and their coordinators. It is also actively cooperating to promptly repatriate foreigners who are victims of trafficking or are otherwise in distress. — MNA/KZL

Global News Light of Myanmar dated 23 July 2025

MSYA Union Minister attends 45th OCA General Assembly in Kuwait

Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Jeng Phang Naw Taung, who is also Chair of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, departed Yangon for Kuwait on the evening of 9 May to attend the 45th General Assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia held in Kuwait on 11 and 12 May.

At the opening of the 45th OCA General Assembly on 11 May, OCA Vice-President Mr Timothy Fok delivered the keynote speech, followed by remarks from Kuwait Olympic Committee

Chairman Sheikh Fahad Al Sabah and International Olympic Committee President Mr Thomas Bach.

Global News Light of Myanmar dated 23 July 2025

MSWRR Union Minister meets ICRC Head of Delegation to Myanmar



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win received Mr Arnaud de Baecque, Head of Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to Myanmar, at the ministry yesterday afternoon.

Global News Light of Myanmar dated 23 July 2025

Coord meeting held for Post-Quake Economic Recovery Forum

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn presides over the coordination meeting for the Rebuilding Myanmar: Post-Earthquake Economic Recovery Forum yesterday.

The coordination meeting for the ‘Rebuilding Myanmar: Post-Earthquake Economic Recovery Forum’ was held yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Information’s meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Narinjara Burmese News dated 23 July 2025

Unofficial Translation

Rakhine ministers barred from attending Rakhine State Military Council security meetings

It has been reported that Rakhine state ministers are no longer allowed to attend security meetings of the Rakhine State Military Council and other important meetings.

A source close to the Rakhine State Military Council said, “Now the Rakhine ministers have been excluded. They are not invited to any important meetings because they are not trusted. Especially security meetings and other important emergency meetings, they are not even close to them.”

At the Rakhine State Government Office in Sittwe, the Rakhine ministers are not allowed to attend meetings and are being thrown out for various reasons whenever the Western Military Command Commander, the State Military Council Chief Minister U Htein Lin, and the Minister for Regional Development Kyaw Thura hold meetings.

DVB Burmese News dated 23 July 2025

Unofficial Translation

Kyonpyaw LIB 36 Battalion sends paratroopers to bomb Ayeyarwady and Rakhine border

The Military Council has sent paramotors to the 36th Infantry Division based in Kyonpyaw, Ayeyarwady Division, and the Kyonpyaw Military Council is bombing areas bordering Rakhine and Ayeyarwady, according to sources close to the Military Council.

The Military Council has sent 2 machines and 16 paratroopers to the 36th Battalion.

DVB Burmese News dated 23 July 2025

Unofficial Translation

KNLA Joint Forces Capture Maw Ka Wee Lay Military Council Camp

Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA)-led joint forces captured Maw Ka Wee Lay Military Council Camp in Paingkyon Township, Karen State at around 6am on May 16, according to a Karen military source.

LIB24 is based at the military council camp, located just 70 yards from the Thaung Rin River on the Myanmar-Thai border. On May 15, KNLA joint forces fired incessantly with snipers and drones, forcing the military council soldiers and officers to retreat from the camp.

The fleeing military council troops were unable to carry any ammunition, so they left behind a variety of weapons in the camp, which were seized by KNLA joint forces.

The military council is also bombing the camp with fighter jets to prevent it from falling, and more than 400 locals have fled to Thailand to escape the fighting.

The Thai military is also closely monitoring the fighting in Myanmar's Karen State, which borders Thailand.

Khit Thit Media Burmese News dated 23 July 2025

Unofficial Translation

Sr Gen Min Aung Hlaing convenes 2-day meeting of military commanders nationwide in Nay Pyi Taw

Military leader Min Aung Hlaing has convened a 2-day meeting of military commanders nationwide in Nay Pyi Taw from May 15 to May 16, with the focus on military operations, a Nay Pyi Taw military source said.

“They haven’t held quarterly meetings for a long time. Now they’re calling it a quarterly meeting. The meeting was yesterday and today for 2 days. As far as I know, they are discussing regaining control of the territory and military operations,” a military source said.

Min Aung Hlaing is currently in Russia from May 7 to May 10, where he met with Chinese President Xi Jinping, and received a pledge from the Chinese president that he supports Myanmar’s sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national stability. The airstrikes have intensified, A military source in Nay Pyi Taw warned that after this meeting with military

commanders, serious military confrontations could occur, so the revolutionary forces and the people will have to be careful.

DMG Burmese News dated 23 July 2025

Unofficial Translation

Fierce fighting between the Military Council and the KIA heading towards Hpakant

Locals said that the KIA is blocking and attacking the Military Council troops who are advancing in large numbers from the Kamine Road and Indawgyi Road in Myitkyina, Kachin State.

The fighting between the Military Council troops and the KIA heading towards Hpakant in Myitkyina has lasted for more than 20 days, and the Military Council troops have reached Khuan Saeng Zup.

Mizzima News dated 23 July 2025

Myanmar junta reinforces Kyaukphyu to protect Chinese-backed deep-sea port amid AA offensive



Photo: A military council combat ship (CINCDS) training at sea

As the military junta continues to lose ground in Rakhine State, it has begun reinforcing Kyaukphyu Township, home to the strategically important Chinese-backed Madaya Island deep-sea port, in an attempt to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Arakan Army (AA), according to military sources and local residents.

On 15 May, a navy vessel carrying reinforcements and military equipment docked at Kyaukphyu's No. 1 port. A local resident, speaking anonymously to Mizzima, reported that around 120 troops and heavy weaponry were unloaded and sent toward Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 543 near Gonechwin village.

"The navy ships arrived today with a lot of heavy weapons and soldiers at least around 120 troops. The reinforcements headed toward Battalion 543," the resident said.

The weapons and personnel were distributed to both LIB 543 and Police Battalion 32 near Kyaukphyu, which are engaged in heavy clashes with AA fighters. A local military source

suggested that the reinforcements might have come from Maungdaw or the Ayeyarwady Region, rather than nearby Sittwe.

“The number of troops is estimated at between 100 and 200. The No. 1 port has a long jetty for docking large navy ships. If they moved toward the creek, there’s the Ngalapwe port as well,” the source added.

This recent deployment follows a series of reinforcements in Kyaukphyu. On 7 May, over 300 troops were shipped from Sittwe to the Dhanyawadi Naval Base. On 25 March, more than 200 troops were airlifted to bolster positions at LIB 542 and LIB 543.

Kyaukphyu continues to witness intense battles between the junta and the AA. Locals reported heavy clashes until the morning of 14 May, though the situation was calmer on 15 May. On 9 May, the junta launched an airstrike on Kinebwe village, near Police Battalion 32.

Military sources say the AA is aggressively attacking with heavy artillery and firepower tactics, while the junta is retaliating with maritime forces and airstrikes, including the use of cluster bombs and thermobaric munitions.

Key junta installations in Kyaukphyu Township include the Dhanyawadi Naval Base, LIB 542 near Kyauk Ta Lone Pagoda, LIB 543 near Gonechwin, Infantry Battalion (IB) 34, Police Battalion 32 near the town, and the Taungmawgyi Naval Sub-Headquarters.

The AA has so far captured 14 towns in Rakhine State, including the site of the Western Regional Military Command responsible for military operations in the state. The group is now attempting to take the last three junta-held coastal towns: Sittwe, Kyaukphyu, and Munaung.

Although fighting in Sittwe has quieted since early May, locals said Police Battalion 12 fired heavy artillery toward Pauktaw and Ponnagyun townships on 13 May, and toward coastal areas outside Sittwe on 8 May.

Narinjara News dated 23 July 2025

Five civilians, nine others injured on second day of junta bombing in Kyauktaw

The junta's air force, today, May 15, targeted residential zones in Kyauktaw, located 80 miles north of Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine State, near the Indian border, for the second consecutive day.

The bomb blasts took the lives of 5 civilians and wounded 9 more.

The health worker who took them to the hospital reports that the injured are in critical condition.

Two planes from the Military Council Air Force released 16 bombs altogether, consisting of two 500-pound bombs, on the civilian area at 2:02 pm, 2:10 pm, and 2:14 pm on May 15, altogether three times.

On May 14, at 3:51 PM, the military aircraft released two 500-pound bombs in the downtown region of Kyauktaw, resulting in the deaths of three women and injuries to five more.

DVB News dated 23 July 2025

Interra Resources had not breached foreign sanctions in Myanmar, legal advisor says



Interra Resources' onshore operations in Myanmar. (Credit: Interra Resources)

Singapore-listed petroleum explorer Interra Resources said on Thursday that a legal advisor it had appointed found that the company had not breached U.S. and E.U. sanctions in Myanmar.

The advisor's report follows allegations from activist group Justice for Myanmar that Interra had helped supply the country's military regime with oil and contributed to war crimes.

The company said in a statement that the risk of financial impact resulting from any potential violations of sanctions will also be minimal.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military overthrew the elected civilian government and jailed State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi on Feb. 1, 2021, triggering pro-democracy protests that morphed into a widening armed rebellion that has taken over swathes of the country.

Interra holds a participating interest of about 60 percent in Goldpetrol Joint Operating Company (GJOC), according to its website. GJOC operates two of the onshore producing oil fields in Chauk and Yenangyaung in central Myanmar.

GJOC secured the production-sharing contract for oil exploration and production with Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), Myanmar's state oil company, in 1996. It was extended for 11 years in April 2017.

In February, Interra had said production-sharing contract between its subsidiary and MOGE was extended years before the military seized power in 2021.

After the 2021 coup in Myanmar, the U.S. and the E.U. imposed sanctions on MOGE.

Irrawaddy News dated 23 July 2025

Three Japanese Firms Ditch Myanmar Port Project



Thilawa Multipurpose International Terminal in Yangon.

Three Japanese companies have confirmed their withdrawal from a port project in Myanmar, prompting calls for a responsible exit that upholds human rights.

In response to an inquiry by civil society groups from Myanmar and Japan, Kamigumi, the Sumitomo Corporation and Toyota Tsusho stated that they have started the liquidation process and are preparing to exit the Thilawa Multipurpose International Terminal in Thanlyin Township, Yangon.

The civil society groups said the firms pledged to take measures to support employee safety and transitions during the disengagement.

Eleven Media Group News dated 23 July 2025

Over 400 flee to Thailand amid fighting in Mawkawi area north of Myawady



More than 400 locals have fled to Thailand due to fighting in Mawkawi, north of Myawady, Kayin State, according to sources.

More than 400 Myanmar civilians fled to Mae La refugee camp in Tha Song Yang District, on the Thai-Myanmar border, on May 15, due to fighting between the allied forces of KNU Brigade 7 and the KNLA and the Tatmadaw north of Myawady, Kayin State.

A total of 414 Myanmar refugees: 255 in Mae U Phlu Temple, Tha Song Yang District, and 159 in Mae La Monastery, who have arrived in Thailand, have been accommodated by Task Yang 35th Ranger Regiment, Naresuan Division-34, Border Guard Police, local administrators, and Tha Song Yang Police Station.

Rajamangala Special Operations Group Commander Lt. Col. Natthakorn Rueantip and his troops, Rajamanu Special Forces, the 35th Ranger Regiment Special Forces, Naresuan Division and 34 Border Guard Police have also increased patrols to maintain stability in the border area.

In response to the ongoing fighting on the Myanmar side, the response plan is to protect sovereignty and prevent the intrusion of foreign armed forces, and to maintain full security 24 hours a day along the border, according to reports from the Thai side.

Mizzima News dated 23 July 2025

KNU pursues deputy battalion commander who fled strategic military outpost near Myanmar-Thai border

The Karen National Union (KNU) announced that it is actively pursuing a deputy battalion commander who abandoned a key junta stronghold during its fall to resistance forces earlier this week.

The outpost, known as Tarle (also called Tanyarkyo) camp in Paingkyon Township, Karen State, fell to joint forces of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and allies at around 7 pm on 13 May after a five-day offensive.

According to the KNU, the deputy commander and remaining soldiers from Infantry Battalion 24 fled the scene during the assault. Troops from Field Artillery Battalion 311 were also based at the camp. Nine junta personnel were killed during the fighting, including a captain from the artillery unit.

Photos released by the KNU show a significant cache of seized weaponry, including 120 mm mortars, grenade launchers, dozens of automatic rifles, and large amounts of ammunition. One image prominently features a red sign inside the camp bearing the words: “Bravely charge, bravely fight, and bravely annihilate.”

While unconfirmed, early reports suggested that the fleeing soldiers may have crossed into Thailand, approximately seven miles from the camp.

Tarle camp, situated near Karte village, has served as a critical Myanmar military outpost since 1986. Historical markings found at the site suggest units such as LIB 106, LIB 560, LIB 315, and Artillery Battalion 314 were previously based there.

The KNU stated that due to the junta’s control of the camp, civilians in surrounding villages had been unable to move freely or search for food. With the camp’s recapture, locals are now reportedly able to resume daily activities.

The operation is part of a larger campaign by the KNLA and its allies to dismantle junta positions along the Myanmar-Thai border in the KNLA’s Brigade 7 area of central Karen State. Resistance forces launched coordinated attacks in late February, and since then, have captured five heavily fortified camps: Puluutu, Khaledae, Mawpharthu, Takhawbekhwee, and Tarle.

The offensive on Puluutu camp in Hlaingbwe Township began on 25 February and concluded with its capture on 14 March. Khaledae camp, also in Hlaingbwe Township and located just a mile from the Thaung Rin River, fell on 25 March after a three-day battle.

Mawpharthu camp, also known as Laywar and located in Myawaddy Township, was seized on 19 April following an assault launched a day earlier. During that attack, around 25 junta soldiers reportedly fled across the Thaung Rin River into Thai territory.

The KNU confirmed that secret operations for this campaign had been underway since March, aimed at weakening junta presence along the border and restoring safe mobility for local communities.

ANN News dated 23 July 2025

India, Myanmar, and the weight of regional instability on Bangladesh

Bangladesh finds it difficult to remain emotionally neutral or indifferent to its neighbours armed confrontations.



The illegal entry of Rohingya refugees from Arakan has surged in recent months. PHOTO: THE DAILY STAR

DHAKA – Before their latest fighting, India and Pakistan fought three wars, and those experiences suggest that conflicts between these two countries rarely remain confined within their borders. Bangladesh inevitably feels the ripple effects. Much like during the India-Pakistan cricket matches, Bangladesh finds it difficult to remain emotionally neutral or indifferent to their armed confrontations.

This is not solely due to their geographical proximity. Their shared religious and sociocultural heritages also formed a connection over the centuries. These inseparable connections are why it often feels like Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India are members of a vibrant, albeit feuding joint family. The “past” may have politically divided these societies, but their separate “presents” have not emotionally detached them from one another. On the first day of the latest conflict, a friend working at a leading national daily informed me that their viewership had tripled. It’s not just curiosity—it’s a reflection of collective anxiety, nostalgia, and unresolved identity questions that still echo from the subcontinent’s traumatic history of Partition and its aftermath.

However, besides shelling Pakistan, India has also initiated a massive push-in operation along its borders with Bangladesh, further complicating regional dynamics. So far, according to the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), Indian forces have pushed around 300 individuals into Bangladesh, including Rohingya, through remote border areas in Satkhira, Khagrachhari, Moulvibazar, and Kurigram. Some of these people are reportedly Bangla speakers and have come from Gujarat. If some among them were really illegal Bangladeshi migrants residing in India, that issue could have

been addressed through formal channels. Instead, India has simultaneously launched push-in operations at multiple border points, which is clearly unjust and contrary to diplomatic norms.

Those already pushed into Bangladesh have claimed that various Indian agencies on the other side of the border are gathering more Bangla-speaking individuals. Many Rohingya who migrated to India from Arakan are also reportedly being assembled. These developments are deeply concerning. It is hard to believe that Indian policymakers do not understand how such actions would upset and anger the Bangladeshi government and people.

To respond to the push-in, Bangladesh may inevitably be compelled to initiate a pushback programme. While that may appear inhumane, the government has no real alternative. The border situation is bound to get heated up due to such back and forth.

This development is especially significant in light of the relentless propaganda war Bangladesh has faced from some segments of Indian media since the ouster of the Awami League from power in August last year. The nature of Bangladesh government should be a matter solely for the people of Bangladesh to decide. India may understandably be uncomfortable with the political changes here, but engaging in widespread misinformation campaigns targeting an entire country and its people is downright antagonistic.

Additionally, amid such hostile propaganda and aggressive push-in efforts, Bangladesh is also facing a tense situation along its southern border.

During the tenure of the interim government, the illegal entry of Rohingya refugees from Arakan has surged. The population in the refugee camps is now close to 13 lakh. A major concern for Bangladesh regarding these new and old refugees is the visible decline in international financial assistance. The question is, why has there been a renewed influx of Rohingya from Arakan? The new wave of refugees claims that they are facing security threats from the Arakan Army.

The Arakan Army has already taken control of approximately 80 percent of the Rakhine state. At the same time, the Myanmar military, the Tatmadaw, continues bombing various parts of the region. This ongoing conflict has created a severe humanitarian and security crisis. In response, the United Nations has recently requested Bangladesh to open a channel towards Arakan to facilitate the delivery of international humanitarian aid.

Now, there are precedents for such channels or corridors being established by third countries in conflict or war-ravaged zones. The UN initiated similar efforts in Gaza and Ukraine in recent years, but the outcomes were far from satisfactory. Those experiences failed to achieve their objectives. Understandably, the Arakan-bound channel proposal has triggered intense reactions in Bangladesh from the outset. Many questions have arisen: who will manage this channel—Bangladesh or the UN? What kind of supplies will be transported through it, and will the Rohingya refugees be involved in their distribution? Most importantly, who will ensure the channel's security? If Myanmar's armed forces object to the channel, or if China or India raise objections, who will be

responsible for its protection? Will this require the creation of a “no-fly zone” or a similar security arrangement?

Matters related to the channel’s security and management—including the possibility of a no-fly zone—are inevitably tied to military considerations, making this a highly sensitive issue. If there were a functioning parliament in the country, elected representatives would undoubtedly have deliberated on these matters. However, it appears that the interim government is yet to consult political leaders on this sensitive topic.

Senior officials of the government have issued contradictory statements regarding the channel. Initially, one adviser claimed that the government had agreed in principle to the proposal, subject to certain conditions. Another official stated that there had been no discussion on the matter. Later, it was said from the government’s side that it was not considering a “corridor,” rather a “channel.” These disjointed and conflicting remarks have sparked public concern regarding the southern border.

Bangladesh’s top priority regarding Myanmar and Arakan must be the repatriation of Rohingya and the prevention of further entries. Given the current situation in Arakan, any repatriation will require the consent and cooperation of the Arakan Army. At the same time, Myanmar remains a sovereign state with a functioning government in Naypyidaw, meaning their consent will also be needed for establishing a channel in Arakan. Only with the agreement of all parties can any humanitarian aid initiative be considered. And in that case, the primary condition must be the refugees’ return. However, it remains unclear whether this crucial issue has been included in the current initiative. Without sufficient dialogue with political stakeholders on such a nationally critical and militarily sensitive matter, the country risks future controversies and divisions. Joining a military-style international initiative without a broad national consensus undoubtedly entails significant risk. The question, then, arises: does the current government have the authority to make such high-stake decisions unilaterally?

Though this government, formed through a mass uprising, has popular support, it remains unelected. The country is witnessing significant political tensions and uncertainty about when the next election will be held. In such a context, the prospect of establishing a humanitarian channel towards Arakan has added a new dimension to that. Moreover, some fear that a channel at the border could trigger military consequences. Considering the overall situation across our borders and the societal reverberations of the India-Pakistan war, there are reasons for concern. Are the people of Bangladesh being unwillingly dragged into the psychological and strategic orbit of a multi-front conflict, or have they already been entangled in one?

Nikkei Asia News dated 23 July 2025

Bangladesh engages with Myanmar's Arakan Army insurgents

Dhaka says it has no choice, given group's control of Rakhine state at its border Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, left, and a member of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) near the Bangladesh-Myanmar border. The refugees are often kidnapped by different Myanmar forces.

SYFUL ISLAM

DHAKA -- Four Rohingya refugees were fishing early in the morning near the border at Cox's Bazar in southern Bangladesh earlier this month when they were abducted by members of the Arakan Army, Myanmar insurgents.

Luckily for these four, Border Guard Bangladesh managed to secure their release the next day, after negotiating with the Arakan Army. It made a clear contrast to the 55 Bangladeshi fishermen who were released by the Buddhist-dominated insurgent group in mid-April, days and months after they were kidnapped.

There has been a spate of kidnappings of Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshis at the border by the Arakan Army and the Myanmar military. While the latter allegedly forces the victims to fight for them, the former kidnaps primarily for fundraising purposes, according to officials in Dhaka.

"Due to the BGB's [Rohingya-related] activity and dominance on the border, the members of the Arakan Army involved in the abduction [of four fishermen] have quickly settled the issue," Ashiqur Rahman, a lieutenant colonel of Border Guard Bangladesh at Cox's Bazar district, told Nikkei Asia in a phone interview.

Bangladesh's interim government, led by Muhammad Yunus, has established contact with the Arakan Army, Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain told reporters last month.

He said then that it was for the country's "own interest" as the insurgent group had full control of Myanmar's Rakhine state which borders Bangladesh, having wrested control from the military regime.

The Arakan Army did not respond to Nikkei Asia's inquiry by publication time.

Naypyitaw had expressed disappointment with Bangladesh's engagement with the Arakan Army, but the foreign affairs adviser pointed to the flood of Rohingya refugees from across the border as a reason for that move. Over a million Muslims from Rakhine state have taken refuge in the district since 2017, forced out by Myanmar military forces that had attacked villages and set homes on fire.

Bangladesh had tried to send the stateless people back ever since, to little avail. As another overture, Hossain said last month that Bangladesh will help the U.N. supply food and emergency relief to Rakhine state, if and when required.

Over 118,000 Rohingya refugees have entered Bangladesh since November 2023, most during June and July last year when fighting in Rakhine state intensified, according to Bangladeshi officials. Most of the newly arrived Rohingyas are staying with their friends and relatives in the camps. Some are sheltering in schools inside the camps.

The Bangladesh government and the UNHCR have collected their fingerprints and completed their registration. In late April, the UNHCR requested Dhaka to build homes for the newly arrived.

"Our camp area is fully occupied. No more land [left] there to build new homes," Mohammed Mizanur Rahman, refugee relief and repatriation commissioner of Bangladesh, told Nikkei over the phone.

Rohingya refugees hold placards while attending an event with U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Muhammad Yunus, chief adviser of the Bangladeshi interim government, at a Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, on March 14. © Reuters

"We informed the UNCHR that we will try to accommodate the newcomers in the abandoned community centers after renovation," he said.

Rahman said that he heard that an attempt is underway to change the demography in Rakhine. "The Arakan Army is trying to wipe out Rohingyas from the state permanently."

Bangladesh has been pushing Myanmar to allow the refugees back to their homes. Khalilur Rahman, Bangladesh's national security adviser, met with Than Swe, Myanmar's foreign minister, in Bangkok in April.

During the meeting, Myanmar side confirmed that out of a list of 800,000 Rohingya people in Bangladesh, 180,000 are eligible to return and another 70,000 are undergoing additional scrutiny.

The Arakan Army have been accused of torturing Rohingya people for alleged harboring members of Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), a Muslim insurgency group based in Rakhine state. It has accused Rohingya refugees of engaging with Myanmar's military regime forces to weaken the Arakan Army's control of the state.

Hasan, 17, fled Rakhine and arrived a few weeks ago at Cox's Bazar where he is staying at a camp with his mother and younger brother.

"The Arakan Army is torturing us, using as forced laborers, forcing us to fight junta forces, and killing Rohingya people," he said. "They are occupying our homes and land."

A Rohingya couple shows the scars and blisters from their journey out of Rakhine state after the Arakan Army looted supplies and expelled them from their homes, at a refugee camp in Bangladesh, on Nov. 22, 2024. © Reuters

Hasan said while his family was fleeing from Rakhine with others, a couple of people in the group were killed. "We could reach Bangladesh only by God's grace."

Mohammad Idris, a Rohingya refugee who has been staying at a camp for years, told Nikkei that he heard from newcomers that the Arakan Army has been torturing the Rohingya people forcing them to flee.

"We want to go back to our homeland. But our safety and security has to be ensured," he said. "We want citizenship in Myanmar, and get back our lands and properties there."

Ansar Ali, another Rohingya living in the camp, father of two girls and a boy, said "the situation in Rakhine is horrible."

"The Arakan Army is more brutal than junta forces. If you send us back without ensuring safety by the U.N. forces, that will be suicidal for us," he told Nikkei.

Mohammad Sohrab Hossain, a professor of political science at the University of Dhaka, said resolving the border issue is almost impossible without cooperation from regional and international communities.

"Unless the U.N. and other superpowers, including China and India, intervene, it won't be solved," he said.

Syful Islam is a contributing writer.

BSS News dated 14 May 2025

China provides clothes to 5,000 Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar



The Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh, in collaboration with BRCS, jointly distributed humanitarian assistance to the displaced Rohingya people in Cox's Bazar Photo: Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh

DHAKA, May 13, 2025 (BSS) – The Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) have jointly distributed humanitarian assistance among the displaced Rohingya people in Cox's Bazar, reaffirming China's continued support for the forcibly displaced Myanmar citizens.

Under the Chinese-funded initiative, the BRCS provided essential clothing and textile items to more than 5,000 displaced individuals, said a Chinese embassy's press release here.

Mizzima News dated 23 July 2025

Spring Revolution Daily News for 15 May 2025

The National Unity Government (NUG)

- In Gyobinkauk Township of Bago Region, a local guerrilla force shot at a junta policeman in plain clothes.
- According to Salin Township People's Defence Force, the public can reuse Salin-Moewun-Thayetchin-Hsinphyugyun Road Section starting from Wednesday.
- Ministry of Education-NUG announced the dates for issuing the certificates upon completion of basic education (2024) and the results of assessment.

Revolution Activities

- Among those injured in the junta's airstrike on the school in Ohtaindwin Village, a girl from Grade 3 lost her life on Wednesday morning. So far, a total of 24 people has lost their lives in the incident.
- Dr. Nay Win (alias) Ko Nay Win, an experienced politician, died of lung disease.
- In Yesagyo Township of Magway Region, there was a guerrilla attack on a junta troop on their way out from Hsin Chaung Militia Village. Reportedly, 27 junta soldiers including an officer died and nearly 30 others were injured.
- In Yathaytaung Township of Rakhine State, 12 civilians lost their lives and over 20 others were injured due to the junta's aerial bombing.
- In Pakkoku of Magway Region, the revolutionary forces arrested Ashaygyi (alias) Dushay, a local Pyusawti leader under the military junta.
- In Hlaingbwe Township of Karen State, a combined force of Karen National Liberation Army seized the junta's Tale Camp on the Thai-Myanmar border on Tuesday night.
- In Kyaukgyi Township of Bago Region, the junta army carried out an airstrike on Nyaungbinthar Village on Tuesday morning. Reportedly, 2 civilians lost their lives and all the local residents had to run away.
- In Ngazun Township of Mandalay Region, Red Dragon Guerrilla shot dead the junta's administrator and Pyusawti leader in Shwe Taung Village.
- According to the data from Mizzima, the junta army conducted 64 airstrikes in 26 townships from May 7 to 13, killing 91 civilians.

- The Secretary General of the United Nations expressed his concern about the aerial attack on the school in Sagaing Region. The United Nations released an official statement denouncing violence.

Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs)

- In Shwe Kyin Township under Karen National Union Brigade (3), the junta army conducted aerial attacks via jet fighter and Y12 planes. Reportedly, over 1,700 locals had to run away.

- The medical team of Mon Liberation Army provided healthcare to the comrades injured in frontline battles and the public in need of healthcare.

- In Moekok and Naungcho of Ta'ang State Brigade (2), the junta army conducted aerial attacks with 500-pound bombs on Tuesday. According to Ta'ang National Liberation Army, 7 public's houses were damaged.

- The spokesperson of the Arakan Army asserted that the junta's airstrikes causing mass losses of lives among civilians were war crimes. He also warned that the military junta must be held accountable for such actions.

The Military Council

- Myanmar Ambassador to Britain U Kyaw Swar Minn was sued for refusing to hand over the ambassador's residence.

- Among the foreigners detained for their involvement in Kyar Phyant online fraud gangs in Myawaddy Township of Karen State, over 420 people were transferred by the junta's Border Guard Force on Tuesday and Wednesday.

- In Lashio of Northern Shan State, the airport is being renovated to reopen this month.

- According to Higher Education Department under the junta's Ministry of Education, enrollment for undergraduate and graduate programs at universities and colleges would be accepted starting from May 22.

- The Deputy Director General of the junta's Sports Department claimed that when hiring foreign coaches, their data in full must be sent to the Department of Sports and Physical Education two months in advance for the identification on the blacklist.

- On Tuesday morning, the junta's Yangon Mayor inspected the activities for proper sewage and infrastructure in the city.

- Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov claimed that they had been considering to explore business opportunities between Myanmar and Russia.

- The junta's Minister of Planning and Finance and his team inspected the places where prefabricated houses would be built for the temporary stay of the staff and their families.

DVB News dated 23 July 2025

Another school hit by airstrikes in Sagaing Region; Indian Army operation kills 10 on Myanmar border



A school in Indaw Township, Sagaing Region, was destroyed by airstrikes on May 12. (Credit: Indaw Revolution)

Another school hit by airstrikes in Sagaing Region

At least two residents were killed and seven others were injured by three airstrikes and attacks on Henna village in Indaw Township of Sagaing Region on Monday, the People's Defence Force (PDF) told DVB. Indaw, which is located 209 miles (336 km) north of the Sagaing Region capital Monywa, was seized by PDF-led resistance forces on April 7.

“The two jet fighters targeted the village school,” a PDF member in Indaw told DVB. The death toll from airstrikes on a school operated by the National Unity Government (NUG) in Depayin Township on Monday has risen to 24, according to the PDF in Depayin, which is located 40-163 miles (64-262 km) north of Monywa and south of Indaw.

The NUG has documented that 240 schools have been damaged by 2,679 regime airstrikes from Jan. 1, 2023 up to May 12. At least 333 schools have been destroyed by regime attacks since the military coup on Feb. 1, 2021, according to DVB data. The regime renewed its April ceasefire on May 6 until the end of the month.

Indian Army operation kills 10 on Myanmar border

The Indian Army reported that it had killed at least 10 militants in an ongoing operation in its northeastern Manipur State near the India-Burma border. Reuters reported in November that Indian

militant groups that sought refuge and fought in Burma's conflict had begun crossing the border back into India.

"Ten [militants] were [killed] and a sizable quantity of arms and ammunition have been recovered," the Indian Army shared in a post on social media on May 14. It was referring to a fighting between its forces and unnamed armed groups along the 1,021 mile (1,643 km) long India-Burma border.

Intercommunal violence in India's Manipur State, which erupted in May 2023 has led to the deaths of nearly 260 people, with more than 60,000 displaced from their homes over the last two years. The state's 3.2 million residents have been divided into two ethnic enclaves, a valley controlled by the ethnic majority Meiteis and the minority Kuki-dominated hills.

United Wa State Army stages another public execution

The United Wa State Army (UWSA) executed one of its members in Pangsang, the Wa Self-Administered Zone of northern Shan State, on Wednesday. The man was sentenced to death by the UWSA for selling ammunition to the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) without authorization, a resident told DVB. Pangsang is located 169 miles (271 km) east of the regional capital Lashio.

The resident added that the driver who allegedly helped transport the man convicted was sentenced to prison, but the length of his sentence is unknown. The man was convicted of selling 32,000 stolen bullets for over 400,000 Chinese yuan (\$55,000 USD), according to a court report. He was arrested by the UWSA during a deal with the TNLA, a Wa media outlet affiliated with the UWSA reported.

The UWSA carried out a previous public execution in Hopang town on Oct. 30. Hopang is located 92 miles (148 km) east of Lashio. The UWSA was handed control of Hopang and neighbouring Panlong by the Brotherhood Alliance, which includes the TNLA, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), and the Arakan Army (AA), on Jan. 10, 2024 after the towns were seized from regime forces during Operation 1027.

News by Region



Airstrikes on Kyauktaw Township, Arakan State, killed three civilians on May 14. (Credit: Arakan Bay News)

ARAKAN—Kyauktaw Township residents told DVB that three civilians were killed and five were injured by airstrikes on Wednesday. This comes one day after airstrikes killed 13 civilians in Rathedaung Township on Tuesday. Rathedaung and Kyauktaw came under AA control one year ago.

The AA condemned the airstrikes on civilian areas in a statement on May 14. Kyauktaw is located 60 miles (96 km) north of the state capital Sittwe, which is controlled by the regime. The Brotherhood Alliance announced a unilateral ceasefire on March 30, which was extended until May 31.

MANDALAY—Mogok Township residents told DVB that a man died while in TNLA detention – three days after his arrest – on May 11. Mogok, located 124 miles (200 km) north of Mandalay city, came under TNLA control on July 24.

“We had nobody to turn to, or appeal to [for justice],” a family member of the victim told DVB on the condition of anonymity. The family added that the man was arrested for shouting at TNLA members on May 8. Relatives who saw the body said that he had bruises and a broken nose.

SHAN—Sources close to regime authorities in Lashio told DVB on Wednesday that former ward and village administrators were reappointed. Lashio is located 174 miles (280 km) northeast of Mandalay and 243 miles (391 km) north of the Shan State capital Taunggyi.

“They’ve brought back their original personnel,” a source told DVB on the condition of anonymity. The MNDAA withdrew from Lashio and completed its handover to the regime on April 21 as a part of its China-brokered ceasefire agreement signed on Jan. 18.

Lashio residents told DVB that the administration has yet to resume full operations due to ongoing repair work at its offices and at Lashio Airport, which were damaged during fighting between MNDAA and regime forces. No announcement has been made about when Lashio Airport will reopen.

Eurasia Review News dated 23 July 2025

Operation Hot Pursuit: The Indian Army’s Surgical Strikes into Myanmar – Analysis

China, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar, has historically been a home for various insurgent factions advocating for autonomy or secession over many decades. In 2015, India expressed growing apprehension regarding escalating violence in the Northeast, particularly after the unsuccessful attempt to renew a ceasefire with the Khaplang faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-K), predominantly based in Myanmar.

On the morning of June 4, 2015, 18 brave soldiers from the Indian Army’s Dogra Battalion were killed and about a dozen others injured in a meticulously planned militant attack in Manipur’s Chandel district. Enemy forces attacked with improvised explosive devices and gunfire during a road opening patrol exercise on the Tengnoupal–New Samtal Road. The newly established United Liberation Front of Western South East Asia claimed responsibility for the devastating assault.

As the Army reeled from its bloodiest ambush since 1982, another attack hit an Assam Rifles camp in Arunachal Pradesh (Tirap district). In April and May 2015, around 11 soldiers from the Army and Assam Rifles were killed in the Northeastern provinces of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

In retaliation, on June 9, 2015, based on credible intelligence inputs regarding the insurgents, the Indian Army executed a cross-border operation along the India–Myanmar Border. Codenamed Operation Hot Pursuit, this operation had about 70 Special Forces troops target the training facilities and camps associated with NSCN-K. The commandos traversed the border, conducted a thorough reconnaissance to identify the insurgent encampments located deep within Myanmar’s jungles and subsequently eliminated their targets. This is their story of guts and glory.

The militant outfits

In March 2015, a significant development occurred when SS Khaplang, the leader of the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-K), terminated a 14-year ceasefire agreement with the Indian government, setting the stage for subsequent attacks. The NSCN-K had been actively working towards the establishment of a sovereign Naga state encompassing present-day Nagaland, Manipur and certain regions of Myanmar.

In April 2015, the NSCN-K collaborated with eight other organizations, including Ulfa (I), National Democratic Front of Bodoland (Songbijit) and Kamatapur Liberation Organization, to establish the United Liberation Front of Western South East Asia. Many attribute the formation of

this front to the actions of Khaplang and Ulfa (I) leader Paresh Baruah, who played significant roles within the new organization.

It is vital to note that Myanmar hosted approximately 60 rebel camps of varying sizes, distributed across a broad area adjacent to India's Northeast region. The border with Myanmar, which extends 1,643 km, exhibits significant permeability due to an established agreement that allows individuals from either country to enter up to 16 km for trade activities. The fragmented landscape and dense forests bordering Myanmar facilitate the unobstructed movement of insurgents, enabling them to launch attacks on the Indian Army. The insurgents employ hit-and-run tactics in Manipur, utilizing camps that facilitate their ability to execute strikes within the state before retreating to Myanmar territory. The Indian armed forces are thereby prevented from pursuing them across the borders. The Indian Army's plan

The fatalities necessitated retribution. Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar convened a meeting with Home Minister Rajnath Singh, Army Chief General Dalbir Singh and National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval to meticulously assess the ambush and strategize appropriate countermeasures. The atmosphere in the room was somber yet determined. The Army had experienced its most devastating single-day counterinsurgency loss in nearly 30 years, which left India's security apparatus profoundly unsettled.

The meeting examined the possibilities of conducting air strikes utilizing Sukhoi and MiG-29 fighter aircraft, alongside ground operations executed by the Army's Special Forces. This alternative posed a significant risk of collateral damage associated with aerial bombardment, so it was not considered further.

The Indian Army received directives to undertake a discreet "Search and Destroy" mission that targeted the camps of militant groups situated along the borders of India and Myanmar. The selection of the unit was unequivocal — the 21st Battalion of the Parachute Regiment stood as the Army's distinguished entity for specialized jungle warfare operations. It had been stationed in the Northeast for nearly 20 years. Deployed strategically across pivotal insurgency-affected regions, 21 Para Regiment (Special Forces) (Para-SF) operated as the Eastern Command's elite response unit. One of its contingents was waiting in Delhi, prepared to embark on a special flight to South Sudan; they had been chosen for the United Nations peacekeeping deployment.

Without a moment's hesitation, the Army issued the directive for this team to return to its Northeast base. The unit possessed a remarkable network of local informants. This battalion drew many of the officers and personnel from the Northeast region and appointed one of the unit's most distinguished officers, Lieutenant Colonel Oscar Delta (pseudonym), to lead this mission.

To plan this operation, the Army drew upon insights provided by intelligence agencies who identified two camps approximately 8 km away from the border with Myanmar. The planners decided to launch the two Para-SF teams along distinct axes directed at the two insurgent camps to enhance the mission's success.

The decision required considerable deliberation. Myanmar presents itself as a welcoming nation. Was it practical to ensure that the Myanmar government and its military were informed and

involved in the discussions? Was it conceivable that Myanmar would consent to such an operation? These questions necessitated prompt responses. Ultimately, following extensive discussions among all relevant stakeholders, including the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the NSA and the Army, the group reached a consensus; they would target the large camps. The NSA and the MEA took responsibility for managing communication with Myanmar at appropriate levels. Subsequent reports indicated that the Myanmar government had been engaged at the highest echelons before the incursion of Indian Special Forces into Myanmar's territory.

One tactic the military uses to eliminate danger or achieve an objective is the surgical strike, which is an extremely precise and focused attack on a specific target. Each camp, believed to accommodate 40–50 insurgents, would be addressed with a classic Special Forces-style hit-and-run operation that relied on the element of surprise. The camps exhibited a comparable configuration, with the NSCN-K camp situated centrally, encircled by other resident groups within a 10 km radius. The principal rationale for keeping space between the camps in any such settlements throughout the region was security. Should one camp be assaulted, cadres from the others could promptly mobilize to initiate counterattacks. In a hilly terrain, even a large army would struggle to execute simultaneous assaults on all the camps.

Infiltration

The commandos decided against using helicopters because of the attention they would attract in the forward zone. Instead, they devised a deception strategy; on June 7, they posed as regular troops and traveled in Army trucks, and arrived at their prearranged staging location on the border. A handful of soldiers of the Kuki ethnic group who serve in the Indian Army changed into civilian clothes and proceeded into the village to gather intelligence. Meanwhile, the team entered the neighboring Assam Rifles camp. The villagers had not seen any militant movement. The locals were accustomed to these teams working along the border, so they did not view the Special Forces troops with suspicion or hostility.

After midnight, the 70-man Special Forces group started its roughly 20-km trek on foot in the direction of the international border. The commandos split up into two teams, each armed with night vision goggles, assault rifles, rocket launchers and grenades. The party unexpectedly encountered a group of Burmese hunters searching for wildlife while trekking through the dense bushes in extremely high humidity. The hunters were just as shocked as the Special Forces soldiers, who had not factored in this complication.

The Team Leader had to devise a strategy to deal with the hunters after his party rounded them up and inquired about insurgent camps within Myanmar's territory. He simply chose to take the hunters along with them as the team could not kill them or afford to leave them on the loose. So the Team Leader reserved a portion of his men to protect them. Due to the hunters' familiarity with the terrain, information about the camps and the actions of the militants in the vicinity, the Special Forces were able to refine their final plan.

By late afternoon on June 8, the team was roughly 5 km away from the large terrorist camp. The hunters feared for their lives and would not proceed further. Special Forces scouts, who advance ahead of others to inspect the area, noticed a mix of small and large huts and sheds on a ridge in the distance. When the scouts returned, they informed the Team Leader that their mission would be

difficult; the only way to get to the camps without being noticed was to scale the steep cliff, launch an attack and then travel back the same way.

Execution

As darkness fell, the Team Leader had to decide on the approach to the camp and the timings for the final assault. The commandos opted to recoup after a difficult day of marching through the mosquito-infested jungles. As they were already in a foreign country, the Team Leader began dividing troops for the mission at hand, with the team heavily outnumbered in strength; intelligence indicated that the camp housed at least 100 insurgents. The fundamental drills are, of course standard, but each task is unique. So, the Team Leader decided to stick with the original plan of attacking two or three major buildings to inflict the maximum casualties and make a speedy return without pausing to count the dead. He divided the team in two: one half carried large caliber weapons and the other light weaponry. The two halves were further divided into two sub-groups each: One took charge of the direct assault, and the other established an outer ring to prevent any rebels from fleeing.

At midnight on June 9, the entire team, except a squad that was left behind to safeguard the captive hunters, had advanced and established themselves at the base of the steep escarpment, which rose approximately 600 meters straight up. The Special Forces personnel heard gunfire and observed a group of militants approaching the cliff's edge. The soldiers, who were clothed in camouflage and had their faces darkened by black paint, remained entirely still; their primary challenge was to avoid reacting and giving themselves away by opening fire.

Many of them wondered, "Will we be detected before we can reach the target?" However, the Team Leader was certain that the militants were not in possession of definitive information regarding any Special Forces movement, but rather were conducting a routine patrol and taking precautionary measures to safeguard the camp. The militants appeared to unwind at approximately 2 AM — they began singing songs, and their voices progressively diminished. The patrol had presumably returned to the camp. The commandos now waited for the first light.

At dawn, the first group of Special Forces personnel began gently climbing the steep ridge as others followed in a well-practised drill. They crept stealthily forward, forming a semicircle and racing toward the target. As the soldiers approached the camp, they noticed the lookout sentries at the entrance compound had abandoned their posts for their morning meal! The Special Forces crossed the compound barrier without being challenged.

Each commando took up a predetermined position and opened fire with automatic weapons, rocket launchers and hand grenades. For the first 15 minutes, the camp's occupants, most of whom were either asleep or on the verge of awakening, had no idea what had happened. There was no retaliation, and most of them were killed.

Soon, the other terrorists, who lived in the second and third tiers of the enormous camp, regrouped and responded using whatever weapons they could find from behind well-defended positions. The Special Forces' element of surprise was now gone, and the Team Leader opted to pull back. It was time to begin the return journey, and the soldiers reassembled and retraced their steps in a well-practised maneuver.

Exfiltration

Because of the oppressive heat and humidity that prevailed in the tropical jungle, the journey back was grueling. More than the heat, there was the possibility that the militants or personnel of the Burmese Army might pursue them. As a result, the Special Forces squads walked back quickly despite their exhaustion. They continued until noon when they had passed into Indian territory. Even though they were still being held captive, the hunters were finally set free after being given a stern warning to never discuss the incident under any circumstances. The Team Leader was confident they would not utter a single word; doing so would endanger their lives.

As soon as the Special Forces unit entered India, the Team Leader immediately called Corps Commander Lieutenant General Bipin Rawat, who was in the Operations Room monitoring the raid's progression. He asked the team to come by the helicopters that had been kept on standby to transport them back to headquarters. Operation Hot Pursuit had successfully killed as many as 38 Northeast insurgents belonging to NSCN-K and KYKL militant organizations and wounded many others.

The meaning of Hot Pursuit

Guerrilla warfare evens out the advantages enjoyed by even the most highly trained and well-equipped security forces when confronted with extremists entrenched in their strongholds. Success, therefore, is not a guaranteed outcome. The Indian Army's capacity to respond with significant power to provocations and to take decisive preemptive action was clearly illustrated by this surgical strike — extremely precise, focused attack on a specific target — in Myanmar.

The Myanmar raid initiated a series of actions aimed at enhancing India's internal and external security policies. This operation was regarded as the inception of a significant transformation in India's increasingly assertive stance, moving away from a previously restrained perspective. The strike exemplified India's emerging willingness to proactively address terror threats, unencumbered by geographical boundaries. The unit received a Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra each — medals awarded for a demonstration of valor in front of the enemy — and five Sena Medals to members who displayed individual acts of devotion and significant courage during the mission.

This was not merely a singular event; rather, it represented India's strategic choice to adopt a preemptive stance in addressing terror threats. "Hot pursuit" serves as a valid articulation of national defense; however, for reasons that are more comprehensible than they are easily articulated, India has historically refrained from employing this strategy in neighboring nations. In a statement, the Indian Army declared: "While ensuring peace and tranquility along the border and in the border states, any threat to our security, safety and national integrity will meet a firm response."

Dhaka Tribune News dated 23 July 2025

Ata Ullah: Rohingya freedom fighter or war criminal?

Everyone should be held accountable for the atrocities they commit. Respect for international law is not optional, and true justice cannot be selective

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/381391>

John Quinley III

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“The brutal military government has treated the Rohingya like animals -- that’s what we are fighting against,” Ata Ullah Abu Ammar Jununi, commander-in-chief of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), recalled the military’s genocidal attacks in 2016 and 2017.

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Years later, in 2023, a senior leader of ARSA I met in Bangladesh told me, “We are freedom fighters.” We were seated outside the sprawling refugee camps, away from prying eyes. The militant had only reluctantly agreed to meet with me after several attempts.

“Ata Ullah and ARSA, who are in Myanmar, are fighting to restore our [Rohingya] citizenship. That’s why we also train our people with weapons to fight,” the man told me. Then, as the Muslim call to prayer echoed, he paused the interview to pray.

That moment stayed with me. The man’s religious and ethno-nationalist conviction, like Ata Ullah’s, was palpable -- a deep sense of duty to his people, long persecuted and survivors of a recent genocide.

But conviction, no matter how deeply felt, does not shield anyone from accountability for atrocities they themselves commit. In the case of the ARSA militants, it is the abuses they have committed against the very people whose freedom they claim to be fighting for -- the Rohingya -- that long for justice.

Over the past decade, Myanmar has seen its fair share of brutality. During this time, I have documented human rights violations across Myanmar and its borderlands. I have met survivors of genocide, spoken with parents who buried children too soon, and sat with community leaders trying to hold onto hope in the face of ongoing atrocities.

The main perpetrator of unlawful violence in Myanmar is the military regime, but in the last few years, my colleagues and I have documented a growing number of abuses committed by Rohingya armed groups, both in Myanmar and neighbouring Bangladesh.

Recently, Fortify Rights released a report documenting serious crimes committed by Rohingya armed groups, including ARSA and others -- murders and assassinations, torture and mutilation, forced recruitment of fighters, and death threats against anyone who dared to criticize them.

The report found reasonable grounds to believe that certain crimes committed in Bangladesh are sufficiently linked to the armed conflict in Myanmar, so that they could be considered war crimes under international law.

The day we launched the report in Dhaka, Bangladeshi security forces announced the arrest of Ata Ullah -- a figure feared and revered. Some Rohingya consider Ata Ullah a freedom fighter and pushed back strongly against his arrest.

Ata Ullah was reportedly born and raised in Karachi, Pakistan, to a family of Rohingya refugees, later moving to Saudi Arabia. He returned to Rakhine state sometime after 2012, following a wave of state-sponsored communal violence primarily targeting the Rohingya.

In Rakhine, Ata Ullah started building the group that he would later lead, Harakh al Yaqin, or “Faith Movement,” which later became ARSA. Although ostensibly established to fight for the rights and survival of the Rohingya people, ARSA has morphed into splinter groups with criminal elements and has waged a campaign of terror against the very people it claims to represent.

But conviction, no matter how deeply felt, does not shield anyone from accountability for atrocities they themselves commit

At the helm of ARSA this entire time has been Ata Ullah. Whether or not he still sees himself as a liberator is irrelevant: The evidence points to him having command responsibility over grave violations of international law, for which he must be held accountable.

Since the 2021 military coup that overthrew Myanmar’s democratically-elected government, a broad-based revolution has emerged to resist the illegal junta. This resistance movement is just and necessary, and mostly strives for a democratic, rights-respecting future for their country.

I recognize the long-standing history of armed resistance in Myanmar and support the right of ethnic communities, including the Rohingya, to build their own governance structures and armed forces in support of the revolutionary struggle against the junta.

But respect for international law is not optional, and true justice cannot be selective. We cannot call for accountability only when the perpetrators wear Myanmar military uniforms. We must also speak out when abuses are committed by persecuted communities themselves.

This is why, for example, Fortify Rights has documented the crimes of groups like ARSA and others. Likewise, this is why we have also extensively documented and spoken out publicly about

the crimes of the Arakan Army, an anti-junta ethnic armed organization based in Rakhine, which has often persecuted the Rohingya. And why we've documented crimes committed by Karen resistance groups and others.

Our aim in all of our work is very simple: To protect the people of Myanmar from human rights abuses, regardless of who commits them.

We chose to side with those struggling for democracy, justice, and a more human rights respecting future for Myanmar. But as a human rights movement, we cannot turn a blind eye to acts of injustice, even when the overall cause is a just one. To fight for democracy, justice and human rights also means respecting those rights while fighting for them.

There is no doubt that Rohingya people need and deserve their own resistance to the Myanmar military's or other groups' oppression, and whether Ata Ullah is a freedom fighter is not for me to determine. What matters is this: He commanded, oversaw, and enabled serious crimes against the very Rohingya people he claimed to defend.

To move toward justice for his victims, Bangladesh should cooperate with the International Criminal Court to investigate and prosecute Ata Ullah and others responsible for war crimes, not only in Myanmar but within its borders such as the murders, torture, and forced recruitment we documented in the camps.

No one is above the law, regardless of the justness of the cause they claim to champion. Because real justice does not bend to ideology; it stands with victims and survivors, no matter the perpetrator.