

7 dead in India following collapse of school roof

At least seven children were killed Friday morning when the roof of a school building collapsed in northwestern India, officials said.

The children had just arrived for classes in a village near Jhalawar, a city in Rajasthan state, when the roof collapsed at around 8 a.m., Ajay Singh Rathore, the district magistrate, said in a phone interview. The children had been on their way to morning prayers, he said.

"It had been raining incessantly and a lot of water had collected on the roof of the single-story building," Rathore said. "The children were struck by the roof which collapsed under the weight of the water."

Prem Chand Bairwa, the state's deputy chief minister, told local media that seven children had been killed. He said many others had been injured, but did not give a number.

Those killed were ages 8-14, Rathore said. The children who were hurt in the collapse sustained minor injuries, he said, and were being sent home.

Over the last week, 23 people had died in rainfall-related incidents in Rajasthan, according to local news reports.

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