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WILL US-CHINA TUG OF WAR ENSUE OVER RAKHINE STATE?



People assess damaged buildings following Myanmar military airstrikes in Kyauktaw town in Myanmar's western Rakhine State on May 15, 2025. (AFP/-)

In mid-April, the arrival in Dhaka of three United States State Department officials, two deputy assistant secretaries and the charge d'affaires in Naypidaw, signaled the first signs of a critical engagement between US officialdom and the Muhammad Yunus's interim government since it took charge in August 2024.

Following the August 2024 political transition, Bangladesh's interim government, led by Yunus appears to have adopted a new geopolitical orientation, seemingly opening the country to Western interests, both political and economic.

The Bangladeshi media had little to report on what precisely was discussed about Myanmar. But the involvement of the newly appointed National Security Adviser (NSA) Khalilur Rahman in the controversial issue over the repatriation of Rohingya refugees and the appointment of Sufiur Rahman, a former ambassador to Myanmar, as Chief Adviser Yunus's special assistant in the Foreign Ministry, is by far the clearest evidence that Dhaka will play a key role in a security matrix that includes the US and Myanmar. Since the arrival of United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in Dhaka in March, when the Rohingya repatriation issue took center stage, and the discussions that the three State Department officials had with key functionaries of the Yunus administration, there has been a notable shift in Dhaka's focus on facilitating "humanitarian" aid to Myanmar's Rakhine State.

■ Source: thejakartapost.com

WORLD IS WATCHING, CONTACTS WITH ARAKAN ARMY DEPEND ON THEIR ACTIONS

The government on Wednesday, May 21, said Bangladesh is coordinating with the relevant actors to prevent another wave of refugees into the country.

In particular, the government has signaled the Arakan Army (AA) that they must ensure that there is no further violence, discrimination and displacement of Rohingyas inside Rakhine, according to the Chief Adviser's press wing.

They (AA) have the responsibility to observe international law including international humanitarian law, said the interim government.

"And the world is watching. Bangladesh's continued contacts with them will depend on their action in this area, as well as on Rohingya representation," said the press wing sharing a set of questions and answers.

■ Source: jagonews24.com

More News:

■ The Rohingyas have not and are not migrating to Bangladesh for 'food security.' They fled and are fleeing even today to Bangladesh because of threats to their lives. writes Mohammad Abdur Razzak



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FAMILIES AWAIT NEWS OF
ROHINGYA ABANDONED AT
SEA BY INDIA



It has been more than a week since Akbar, a Rohingya refugee in India, has heard his niece's voice, the longest they have not spoken to each other.

She is among more than 40 Rohingyas alleged by the United Nations, family and lawyers to have been forced off an Indian navy ship this month near the shores of war-torn Myanmar with only a life jacket.

"I got her out of the lion's mouth when we escaped Myanmar almost eight years ago. And now this has happened," Akbar, whose name has been changed to protect his identity, said of his niece, who is around 20 years old.

Myanmar's Ba Htoo forces -- opposition fighters battling the junta that took power in a 2021 coup -- say the group landed on May 9 on a beach in Launglon Township near southern Dawei city, a region that regularly witnesses gun battles and air strikes.

■ Source: dhakatribune.com

UN'S CORRIDOR PLAN FOR MYANMAR
CAN BECOME A HEADACHE FOR
INDIA. HERE'S WHY

Bangladesh has agreed in principle to a controversial UN proposal for a so-called humanitarian corridor from Cox's Bazar to the Rakhine state of Myanmar. The humanitarian corridor will apparently deliver aid to the civilian (non-Rohingya) population of the Rakhine state affected by the civil war. The rebel Arakan Army, fighting the Myanmar military junta, controls most of the Rakhine state.

Although Bangladesh officials are offering mixed signals on the corridor in the face of political opposition, once implemented, it could evolve into an arena for the playing out of US-China rivalries.

A Safe Passage for
Rohingyas Unlikely

The corridor was originally conceived as a safe passage for the repatriation of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh. After a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report in 2024 about a silent famine in the Rakhine, it seems to have been repurposed for supplying food, medicine, and other essentials to the (non-Rohingya) population suffering there.

Although UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres insists this will not detract from eventual safe repatriation for Rohingyas, that is unlikely.

The region is under the Arakan Army's control and the terror it unleashed against the Rohingyas led to many of them fleeing to Bangladesh.

Some strategic experts have warned that the so-called humanitarian corridor may actually be part of a US proxy war against China's influence in Myanmar.

The Bangladesh Army has already secured a site, the river port of Silkhali. Personnel from the US Army Pacific (USARPAC) stationed at Hawaii will provide logistics and security for the corridor and the internally displaced people in the Rakhine. How they will be deployed inside Myanmar without getting embroiled in a military conflict remains unclear.

The Arakan Army, as the only functioning authority in the Rakhine state, will be the likely recipient, further consolidating its position.

■ Source: thequint.com



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f /RohingyaPress2
X /RohingyaPress2
i /RohingyaPress2

wa +8801805117405
R /RohingyaPress2
R /RohingyaPress2

info@rohingyapress.com
rohingyapress2@gmail.com
www.rohingyapress.com