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IS HUMANITARIAN CORRIDOR RIGHT PATH FOR ROHINGYA REPATRIATION?

Bangladesh stands at a critical juncture in its enduring struggle to resolve the Rohingya crisis. With over a million displaced Rohingya still confined to overcrowded camps in Cox’s Bazar and Teknaf, a contentious new term briefly dominated regional discourse: the “humanitarian corridor.” Introduced as a possible conduit for aid delivery and phased repatriation, the concept quickly ignited intense debate. Yet almost as swiftly as it surfaced, the government distanced itself from the phrase, walking back its position amid mounting scrutiny and confusion.

What exactly was this corridor? Could it have marked a bold humanitarian shift—or was it merely a calculated gesture wrapped in the language of compassion? As Bangladesh prepares for another round of repatriation talks—this time under the stewardship of Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus,

Chief Adviser to the interim government—the corridor concept arrives with more questions than answers. With Myanmar engulfed in internal conflict and its military junta still entrenched in power, observers warn that any proposal bypassing the realities on the ground may do little to ensure the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of the Rohingya.

This article draws on research and analysis to examine the potential consequences of starting negotiations with an insurgent group while excluding Myanmar’s military junta from the process. It suggests that sidelining the junta in such talks could increase tensions between Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Rakhine civilians remain trapped in deadly clashes between the Arakan Army and Myanmar’s junta, facing severe shortages of food, medicine, and shelter.

■ Source: observerbd.com

‘TAX’ DISPUTE WITH ARAKAN ARMY HALTS TRADE THROUGH TEKNAF FOR 45 DAYS



Imports and exports through Teknaf Land Port in Cox’s Bazar have been suspended for 45 days due to the Arakan Army, a separatist group in Myanmar, demanding taxes on goods. The group has been obstructing shipments since taking control of Rakhine State from the Myanmar junta, previously blocking cargo ships on the Naf River en route to the port.

The disruption has severely impacted trade, leaving goods worth crores of taka stranded in Teknaf’s warehouses for export to Myanmar, with similar delays affecting Myanmar’s imports. Ehtashamul Haque Bahadur, General Secretary of the C&F Agent Association at Teknaf Land Port, said, “We legally pay taxes to the Myanmar government for imports and exports. The Arakan Army’s additional tax demands are unacceptable.”

■ Source: jagonews24.com

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YUNUS SEEKS NIPPON FOUNDATION'S SUPPORT TO RESOLVE ROHINGYA CRISIS



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on Wednesday sought support from Nippon Foundation chief Yohei Sasakawa, a highly respected figure in Myanmar, to resolve the Rohingya crisis and ensure the safe repatriation of the displaced people of Rakhine.

He sought the cooperation as Yohei Sasakawa hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting Bangladesh Chief Adviser at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, said Chief Adviser's Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad Majumder.

He said the two leaders discussed the Rohingya crisis, the evolving situation in Myanmar and the sharp decline of grants and aid to humanitarian crises across the globe in recent months. Azad said the Chief Adviser stated that every year some 35,000 babies are born in the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh, and they are growing up without any hopes.

■ Source: jagonews24.com

GOVERNMENT WORKING TO RESOLVE CONFLICT BETWEEN ROHINGYA REFUGEES AND LOCALS: RRRC ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER

The government is always ready to resolve the conflict between the Rohingya people who have taken refuge in Bangladesh and the local population, said Shamsuddauja Nayan, Additional Commissioner of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRRC).

He said that one should be aware of the dissemination of wrong information and creation of rumours through social media regarding the Rohingya refugee camps.

RRRC Additional Commissioner made the remarks at a workshop on peace mediation and promotion in the Ukhia-Teknaf area organised by national NGO FIVDB with the grant and technical support of GIZ SHADE Project on behalf of the international aid agency BMZ on Wednesday (May 28) morning in a conference room of a hotel in the city with the participation of district-level stakeholders.

At the workshop, Mr Shamsuddauja also said that everyone should work together to resolve the conflicts between the Rohingya and local residents. Mediation can play an important role in this regard. Besides, presenting accurate



people's awareness. Speakers in the workshop highlighted that GIZ and FIVDB are implementing a special project with the financial support of the German government for the socio-economic development and support of the host community of Cox's Bazar and the Rohingya community residing in different camps in Ukhia-Teknaf to resolve intra and inter-community conflicts. The workshop mentioned that the mediator system will play an important role in maintaining peace and order between the Rohingya community living in Ukhia-Teknaf and the local residents and in resolving conflicts between the locals and the Rohingya. In addition, due to the mediation system, the local residents are getting quick solutions to their problems rather than waiting to get a solution through the traditional legal systems of the country. In that case, 320 mediators have been trained under this project to create an environment for conflict resolution in a quick but transparent way.

■ Source: thefinancialexpress.com.bd