

A clarion call by the “Global Centre for Democratic Governance” to stand against the conspiracy to endanger the existence of Bangladesh by providing a corridor

Dear countrymen & friends of Bangladesh,

Global Centre for Democratic Governance is a global organization comprised of academics, intellectuals, and professionals from 40 countries, including Bangladesh, with activities mainly focused on Bangladesh. Recently, we have been observing with deep concern that the chief advisor to the unconstitutional ‘Interim Government’ of Bangladesh has called for war preparations. The Foreign Affairs Advisor has announced that Bangladesh has decided in principle to provide a corridor to the Myanmar Rakhine border. The government's Security Advisor and press secretary denied the Foreign Advisor's announced decision, but expressed their support for and rationale for providing the corridor. The power to make decisions on granting such corridors and preparing for war is legally outside the purview of the unelected, temporary Interim Government. The decision to provide corridors and prepare for war can only be taken by their elected representatives in parliament on behalf of the people of Bangladesh after detailed discussions, debates, and careful analysis.

An interim government's decision without a people's mandate will harm the country beyond repair. The legitimate government of Myanmar has already expressed strong objections to such a corridor system. A corridor agreement with the nonstate Rakhine rebel group, bypassing the Myanmar government, is illegal under international norms, which would create the possibility of Bangladesh being drawn into an endless war with the Myanmar government. Moreover, India, China, and Russia have important business and strategic relations with Myanmar and the Rakhine region of Myanmar. Political, military, and strategic analysts around the world have already pointed out the possibility of the US entering the region through the humanitarian corridor to establish its military interest, not rare in the recent global history of conflicts and military operations through the humanitarian conduit. This dangerous scenario will be inevitable as it will potentially draw major regional powers and superpowers into the conflict. This will create a dreadful spectrum of devastation inflicted upon Bangladesh and Myanmar, which could reach the scale of Gaza.

"Friendship with all, hostility with none" has been the bedrock motto of Bangladesh's foreign policy for 54 years, with neighbouring countries in particular and all countries worldwide. It is now apparent that the war-cry of Prof. Yunus may lend life to his illegitimate government for an indefinite period, but at what cost! In the event Bangladesh offers a stage of war to any of the superpowers, the sovereignty of Bangladesh will be in tatters. Values, traditions, culture, and livelihood of the citizens will be decimated. Famine will be permanent, and culture will be morphed to meet the requirements of the foreign military forces.

Incidentally, we can recall the delicate geographic positions of Bangladesh, Mizoram in India, Myanmar, the warring Rakhine State, the Kuki-Chin-inhabited Chin State, Saint Martin, and the Chittagong Hill Tracts. If this corridor agreement is signed, due to various interests, hostility, violence, militant activity, drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and competition for land grabs will begin among the people of these regions. Taking advantage of this extreme chaos, the possibility of a new state being created on the territory of India, Myanmar, and Bangladesh to protect the interests of an already embattled great power cannot be ruled out. It goes without saying that if such a situation arises, the sovereignty and independence of Bangladesh will be endangered. We shudder to imagine how serious the risk of Bangladesh getting involved in a war with India and Myanmar, including major superpowers in this region, could be for us.

If the unconstitutional interim government provides corridors in exchange for their interests, ways to earn money, and prolonging illegal state power, the above-mentioned events will quickly weaken Bangladesh, may reduce it to a nonfunctional vassal state of the superpower with a fragmented or shrunk new geographical map. Just think about what terrible consequences this corridor agreement will lead to for Bangladesh. We have already heard the government's advisors declare that the country's borders are not under its control, that the country's map is going to be changed, and so on.

Dear countrymen, before this terrible time arrives, we call on you, including the patriotic members of all forces, to think deeply, understand all the dangers, and quickly raise your voice with millions of voices. Before we are destroyed, before it is too late, be aware. Stand up against this self-seeking, immoral decision of Prof. Yunus and the illegal Interim government. These illegal, country-destroying decisions will bring untold suffering, famine, and endanger the independence and sovereignty of the country, which was achieved with the sacrifice of millions of martyrs. Surely, none of us desires such darkness.

Sincerely,

Members of the Global Centre for Democratic Governance.

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