

## The China plan — On Myanmar-Bangladesh deal on Rohingya

*The devil will be in the detail* ((phrase) – the details of something are always difficult & problematic part of it.) of the Myanmar-Bangladesh deal on Rohingya repatriation

1. The agreement reached between Myanmar and Bangladesh to repatriate ((noun) – the return of someone to their own country. repatriate (verb) – send (someone) back to their own country; expulsion, expelling, banishment, exile अपने देश को लौट आना) Rohingya refugees suggests that the Chinese proposal has found some traction ((noun) – an idea or a product gains popularity/acceptance स्वीकृति) as a solution to the crisis. It has been sealed after a three-month military operation by Myanmar in Rakhine, which resulted in around 600,000 Rohingya fleeing ((verb) – flight, escape, exit भाग जाना) the province to Bangladesh, leading to a humanitarian crisis ((noun) – humanitarian disaster; it is defined as a singular event or a series of events that are threatening in terms of health, safety or well being of a community or large group of people. It may be an internal or external conflict and usually occurs throughout a large land area.) and a war of words ((phrase) – argument, row/fight, disagreement वाद-विवाद) between Dhaka and Naypyidaw. It is against this background that China stepped in ((phrasal verb) – intervene, intercede, get involved/take action हस्तक्षेप करना) with its three-point plan. Earlier this month, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi travelled to Bangladesh and Myanmar with the proposal; Beijing later claimed both countries had accepted it. Under the plan, Myanmar and Bangladesh were to hold bilateral talks and reach a repatriation agreement – which has been achieved. However, the first step in Beijing's approach – which involved a declaration of ceasefire ((noun) – truce; a temporary stoppage of a war युद्धविराम) in Rakhine to halt further displacement and bringing immediate relief to the state's devastated ((verb) – shatter, shock, traumatize/distress तबाह किया हुआ) Rohingya – has not taken effect. If this were to happen, the third part of the proposal will presumably ((adverb) – probably, in all likelihood,

undoubtedly मुमकिन है, सम्भवतः) take effect, with China providing economic assistance for the development of the Rakhine region as part of a long-term solution.

1. China, which has historically been wary ((adjective) – cautious, careful, circumspect/skeptical सजग, सावधान) of stepping into domestic conflicts in other countries, is being proactive ((adjective) – refer to someone acting in advance rather than awaiting something to happen अग्रसक्रिय) in this case. Its own interest is at stake ((phrase) – at risk/issue or in question). Beijing enjoys good relations with both Bangladesh and Myanmar; also, Rakhine is an important link in its Belt and Road Initiative. China is building a \$7.3 billion deep-water port in the province and has invested \$2.45 billion to build an oil and gas pipeline connecting coastal Rakhine to Yunnan. China has put pressure on Myanmar because a protracted ((adjective) – very long, prolonged, extended लम्बा, दीर्घ) conflict in Rakhine will be decidedly against Beijing's economic interests. The signing of a repatriation deal suggests this pressure tactic is working. But details of the agreement, including the number of Rohingya who will be sent back, and the timeline, have not been revealed. It is also not clear whether the refugees themselves want to go back to a place they had fled in such perilous ((adjective) – dangerous, risky, life-threatening खतरनाक) circumstances. Or in the event they do, where they will be resettled. From the details of the plan it is clear that China sees the Rohingya crisis as an economic problem, given that its solution is centred on development. While economic assistance is essential, the real problem is arguably deeply political, and there needs to be an accompanying political solution. Any proposal can only make limited headway ((phrase) – make progress, make strides, gain ground उन्नति) unless Myanmar is willing to roll back ((phrasal verb) – reverse the progress of something रद्द करना) the institutional barriers that render ((verb) – depict, portray, represent पेश करना) Rohingya second-class people. Unless they are accepted as equal citizens, there is unlikely to be a long-term solution to the Rakhine unrest