

Bangladesh and the Mecca Pact: Muslims' Hope and a Hard Reality

News:

Bangladesh may be joining the defence agreement signed by Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan earlier this month. Bangladeshi State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humayun Kabir told reporters on Monday that his country has been invited to participate in what has become known as the Mecca pact, but did not say who extended the invitation. The agreement stipulates that an armed attack against any of the three countries shall be regarded as an attack against all three, in a formula approaching the collective defence logic of major military alliances like NATO. Bangladesh's participation would rock its regional standing as a country that tries to stay out of major geopolitical rifts, given it sits next to two nuclear-armed rivals in India and Pakistan. A Bangladeshi-Pakistani security alliance would likely be perceived as a threat to India, which maintains strong ties with Israel (Middle East Eye, 25 August 2026).

Comment:

For many Muslims in Bangladesh and around the world, the news of Bangladesh possibly joining a defence pact with Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan stirs a deep, natural feeling. It is a feeling rooted in the heart of every believer - the longing to see the Muslim Ummah stand together as one. When we see Muslim nations talking about defending each other, it gives us hope. It feels like a small step toward the unity we all dream of, where our brothers and sisters are not divided by borders but are protected under a shared banner of shahada. This aspiration is beautiful and natural.

However, we must not let our emotions blind us to the reality of the situation. These so-called "military alliances" between Muslim countries are rarely what they appear to be. They do not operate on their own Islamic imperatives. Instead, they often serve hidden agendas that ultimately benefit Western hegemony. Look at the timing: the US has been drained by its conflicts, especially with Iran. It is no surprise that Washington would want a new proxy alliance to share its military burden in the region. This pact is not about uplifting the ummah; it is about serving the interests of the powerful.

The bitter truth is that true Muslim unity cannot exist within the framework of the nation-state. The nation-state system was imposed by the West to divide us. You cannot achieve the unity of the Ummah while clinging to artificial borders that separate us. We have seen this before — the OIC, for all its talk, has done nothing for Palestine or Kashmir. Our so-called rulers have repeatedly bluffed the people with empty promises.

The only genuine path to Muslim unity is to break free from Western dominance, tear down these man-made borders, and re-establish the Khilafah Rashidah (Rightly Guided Caliphate) — a single, just system that unites us all under the laws of Allah. Until then, these pacts are just illusions.

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