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ROHINGYA CRISIS

Int'l initiative needs to be strengthened

Observe 3 envoys, hear refugees in Cox's Bazar narrate harrowing experiences

STAR REPORT

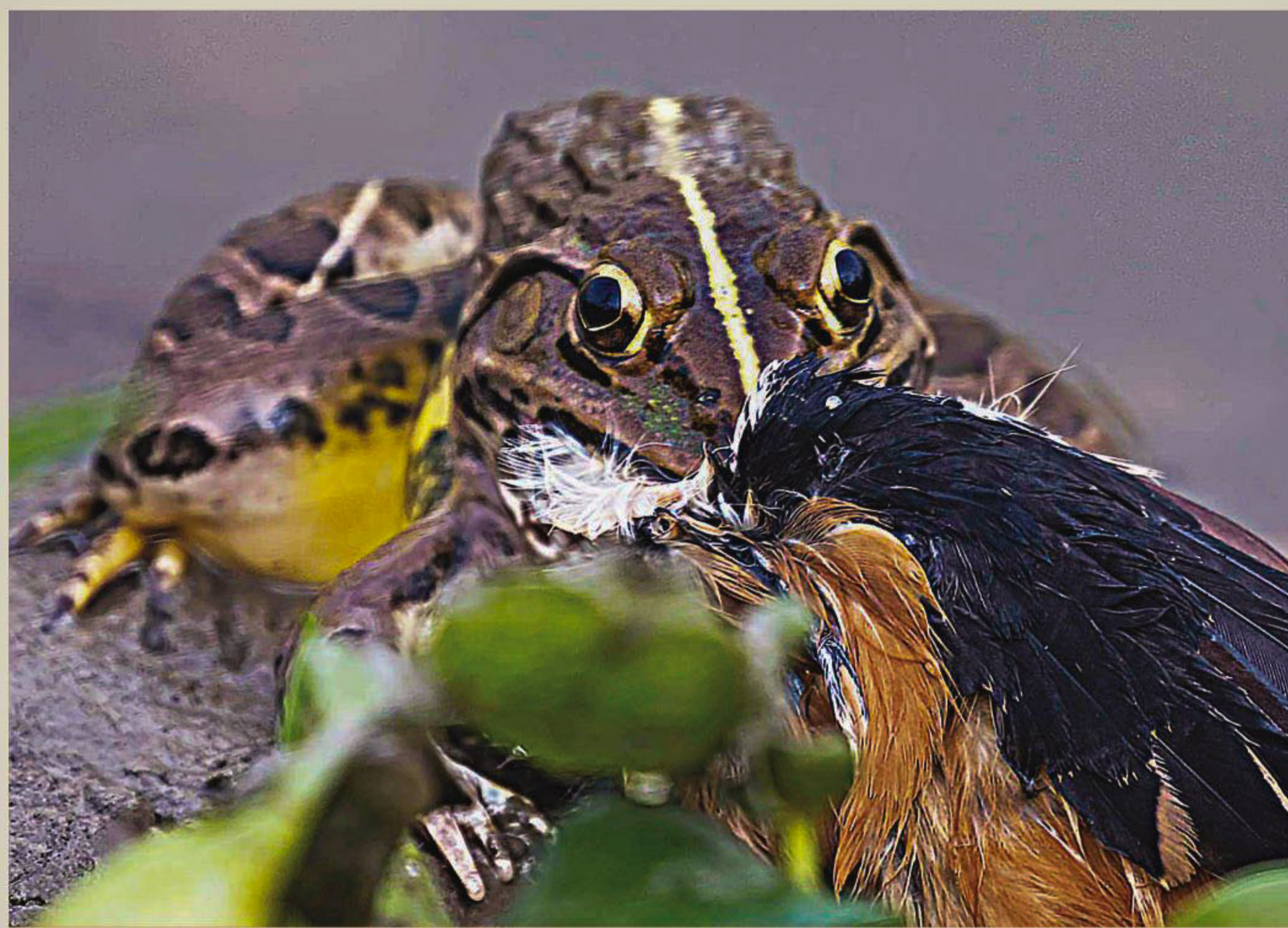
Hearing from Rohingya refugees the description of torture they suffered at the hands of Myanmar army, three foreign envoys in Bangladesh yesterday stressed the need for stronger international initiative for reinstatement of their citizenship and their safe return to homeland.

The Rohingyas, who had fled to Bangladesh in the face of persecution in Myanmar, narrated their harrowing experience when the high commissioners of the UK, Canada and Australia paid a two-day visit to Cox's Bazar from Wednesday.

Alison Blake of the UK, Benoit-Pierre Laramée of Canada and Julia Niblett of Australia visited an official Rohingya refugee camp and a makeshift settlement at Kutupalong in Ukhiya upazila during the trip jointly arranged by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and World Food Programme (WFP).

In another development, Bangladesh government's Taskforce on Rohingya sat at the foreign ministry yesterday with Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque in the chair and discussed the latest status of the ongoing head counting of Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar.

According to foreign ministry sources, the Myanmar authorities have sought a list of the Rohingyas who fled Myanmar and took DROP ROHINGYA RELOCATION PLAN: HRW - PAGE 2 SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



A frog devouring a shrike. Just moments before, the lively shrike was flying from branch to branch. The frog bit the bird and took it under water to drown it before eating it. The photo was taken in Bogra recently.

PHOTO: TOUHID PARVEZ BIPOB



When frog feasts on bird!

TOUHID PARVEZ BIPOB

Whenever I'm in Bogra, I can't resist myself going outside early in the morning and taking photos with our members of Bogra Photography Club. One fine morning, I was out just like other days.

On my way back home, I found a shrike quite close to me. I moved forward and took some photos of it, but suddenly it flew away and sat on a small tree branch near a pond. After a few seconds, I heard something screaming and went ahead

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Expatriates can participate in local polls

Law minister on proposed citizenship law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will formulate a citizenship law allowing Bangladeshi expatriates to contest elections to local government bodies and to participate in political activities, Law Minister Anisul Huq said yesterday.

Bangladeshis abroad, however, cannot become lawmaker, president and Supreme Court judge as per the proposed citizenship act, he said while speaking as the chief guest at a roundtable discussion on the Proposed Citizenship Act 2016 organised by the Centre for Nonresident Bangladeshis at Hotel Sonargaon in the capital.

The government will not formulate any law that will be harmful for the people of the country and the nationals living abroad. It is scrutinizing the rules and sub-rules of the proposed act that has been called into question, the minister said.

In 2005, the Law Commission led by the then chairman Justice Mustafa Kamal sent a draft of the citizenship act to the home ministry with the recommendation that the citizenship acts of 1951 and 1972 should be scrapped and be replaced by a new law, according to law ministry sources.

The cabinet in principle approved the draft in 2011 and asked the home ministry to modify and finalise it upon consulting with relevant people.

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Trump breaks ice with Xi

Writes letter to the Chinese president seeking 'constructive' ties

REUTERS, Beijing/Washington

US President Donald Trump has broken the ice with Chinese President Xi Jinping in a letter that said he looked forward to working with him to develop relations, although the pair haven't spoken directly since Trump took office.

The letter thanked Xi for his congratulatory note on Trump's inauguration and wished the Chinese people a prosperous Lunar New Year of the Rooster, the White House said in a statement on Wednesday.

"President Trump stated that he looks forward to working with President Xi to develop a constructive relationship that benefits both the United States and China," it said.

China yesterday said it attached great importance to China-US ties. "We highly appreciate President Trump's holiday greetings to President Xi Jinping and the Chinese people," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said at a daily press briefing.

Asked whether it was a snub that Trump had held calls with many other world leaders as president, but not Xi, Lu said: "This kind of remark is meaningless."

He reiterated that China and the US had maintained "close communication" since Trump took office and that cooperation was the "only correct choice".

"China is willing to work with the United States in adhering to the principles of non-confrontation, mutual respect and mutual benefit to promote cooperation, control disputes, and on a healthy and stable foundation, promote greater development in China-US ties," Lu said.

Trump and Xi have yet to speak directly since Trump took office on Jan 20, although they did talk soon after Trump won the US presidential election in November.

Diplomatic sources in Beijing say China has been nervous about Xi being left humiliated in the event a call with Trump goes wrong and the details are leaked to the US media.

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EXTORTING FROM HAWKERS DSCC files three cases against 81

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation yesterday filed three cases against 81 people for allegedly extorting money from hawkers who set up shops on the footpaths in Gulistan and other areas in the city corporation.

An official of the DSCC's state department filed the cases with Paltan, Motijheel and Shahbagh police stations, said police and corporation officials.

None of the accused was arrested as of filing of this report around 12:30am today.

Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Paltan Police Station, said Shamsul Alam filed a case with the police station, accusing 49 people of extorting money from hawkers.

The cases lodged with Motijheel and Shahbagh police stations accused 25 and seven people of the same offence.

Most of the accused are "linemen" who collect the extortion money from the

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Wikipedia bans Daily Mail as a source, calls it 'unreliable'



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Wikipedia editors have said they will no longer accept links to Daily Mail stories to support citations because it is too unreliable.

A fiery debate on its suitability as a source ended with a consensus view that the Mail, and Mail Online, were "generally unreliable" and their use "is to be generally prohibited, especially when other more reliable sources exist".

The statement added: "The general themes of the support votes centred on the Daily Mail's reputation for poor fact checking, sensationalism, and flat-out fabrication."

One person in favour of the ban said: "It's just a mouthpiece for Paul Dacre & I remove it on sight."

But others were strongly opposed to the move. User The Four Deuces said: "Editors are supposed to always use judgment when choosing

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4 ACC men hurt in attack by Sylhet DC office staffers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An Anti-Corruption Commission team went to the district administration's office to make an arrest yesterday, and it got hold of the suspect too.

At the end of the day, however, the team had to leave the deputy commissioner's office without the arrestee, and with four of its members injured in an attack by some staffers of the DC office.

The victims are ACC Additional Deputy Directors Wahid Manjur Shohag and Ranjit Kumar

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Bazaar, Lutfar Rahman

PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 10

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-25 12-30 4-30 5-57 7-15
JAMAAT 6-00 1-15 4-45 6-01 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



When most bikers wait at the traffic lights on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in Karwan Bazar yesterday, two bikers, one of them carrying a policeman, get on the pavement and try to get through the polls installed there specifically to prevent motorcyclists from using the pavement.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

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