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UNSC weighing draft resolution

Seeks to make Myanmar take back refugees; world is failing the Rohingyas, says Red Cross

AGENCIES

The UN Security Council is weighing a draft resolution that would pressure Myanmar to address the violence that has driven hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas to flee to Bangladesh.

The proposed resolution, drafted by Britain and France, would call on Myanmar authorities to "immediately cease military operations" and allow refugees now living in makeshift camps in Bangladesh to return, according to the text obtained by The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The six-page text does not threaten sanctions, but lays out a series of concrete demands.

But diplomats said the draft resolution, which would be the first formal response from the top UN body, faces strong opposition from China and they expect tough negotiations ahead to reach any agreement.

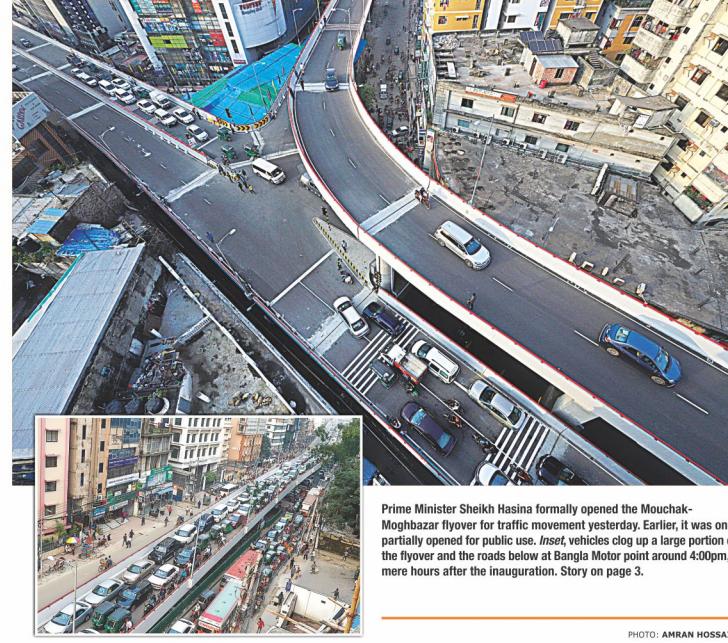
"The Chinese are not on board," said a Security Council diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity. "They want us to say nothing and do nothing on this issue."

China, a supporter of Myanmar's former ruling junta, maintains that it is using private channels to pass on the message that the violence must end and the refugee crisis must be

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"The fact that there is an exodus of a large number of people from the Rakhine state into Bangladesh is clearly a matter of concern. Our objective will be to see how they can go back to their place of origin."

INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY SAJIVAKHAN
STORY ON PAGE 2



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formally opened the Mouchak-Moghobazar flyover for traffic movement yesterday. Earlier, it was only partially opened for public use. Inset: vehicles clog up a large portion of the flyover and the roads below at Bangla Motor point around 4:00pm, mere hours after the inauguration. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

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Tigers go down fighting

SAKIB SUBHAN from Bloemfontein

Up till yesterday's first T20I between Bangladesh and South Africa in Bloemfontein, the overwhelming theme of the tour was that there was too great a gap in ability for Bangladesh to challenge the hosts. Last night, however, having matched South Africa blow for blow for much of the match, it was a lack of cool heads that saw the Tigers lose the match by 20 runs at the Mangung Oval.

Before the first T20I the talk from Bangladesh was about them lacking the six-hitter ability to match Africa's bowlers. Bangladesh hit seven sixes, compared to the five hit by South Africa in their innings of 195 for four, but despite a magnificent start given by Soumya Sarkar which took the team to 92 for three in just 9.1 overs when he got out, panicked shots from seniors Shakib Al Hasan, Moshfiqur Rahim

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He went by the book

Biman pilot tells how he landed a plane with a wheel missing



RASHIDUL HASAN

The training Biman's Captain Atiqur Rahman received every six months kicked in when he heard from the air traffic control (ATC) of Sajidpur Airport that one of the wheels of his Bombardier Dash-8 fell off while taking off.

There were 71 souls on board Wednesday's domestic flight to Dhaka.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, he said he did not realize one of the two wheels of his right landing gear had fallen off and when Sajidpur ATC informed him of the matter, he was surprised.

"It's true that I was surprised, but I was not scared. Because such incidents are part of flying," he told The Daily Star.

"I contacted Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, informed them about

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Same old trick

Myanmar still rigid on its strategy over Rohingyas' return

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Myanmar's promise to take back the Rohingyas, who fled to Bangladesh to escape a brutal military crackdown, looks hollow, as it is still showing an unbending attitude towards them.

Following a Myanmar union minister's Dhaka visit early this month, Naypyidaw announced that repatriation of the Rohingyas must be done on the basis of verification of the refugees in line with the criteria agreed to by the two countries in a joint statement in 1992.

Yesterday, it came with a similar statement hours after Bangladesh's home minister concluded his Myanmar visit.

Naypyidaw made it clear that it doesn't want to take back all 600,000 Rohingyas, who have taken refuge in Bangladesh over the last two months.

"I am not sure how many people would be repatriated," said U Tin Myint, permanent secretary of Myanmar's Ministry of Home Affairs.

But that would be carried out based on the national verification process of the immigration and population ministry, he said in the statement available on the official website of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi.

If the 1992 agreement is followed, only

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