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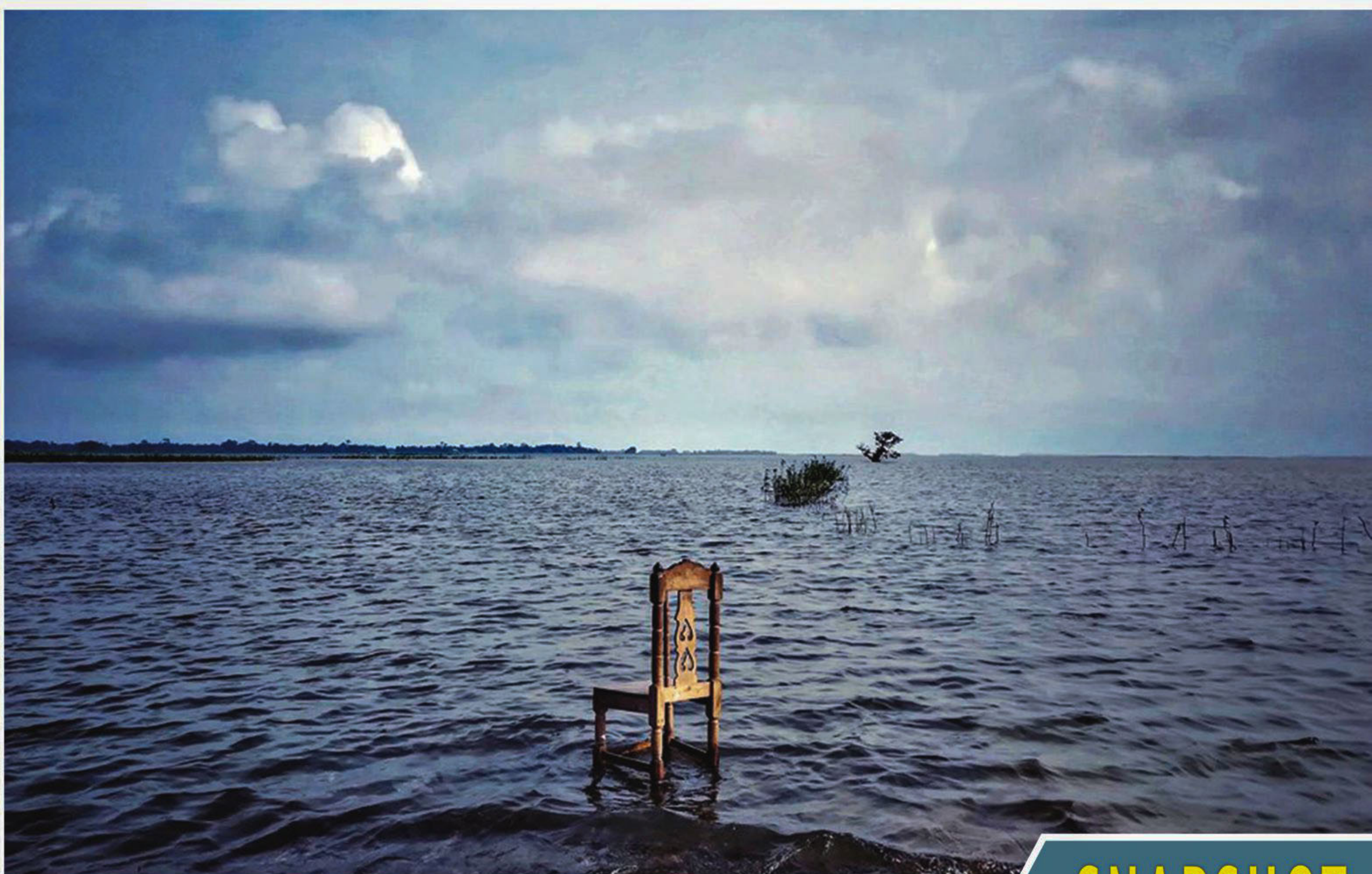
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"A human being is a part of the whole, called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness."

-Albert Einstein

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Stumbling blocks to repatriation

"Repatriation of the Rohingyas: All an eye-wash", published last week, shows that the second attempt to repatriate the Rohingya people is doomed to fail, as indeed, it has. Their five-point demands are justified under international human rights law, particularly their demand for citizenship as they have been stateless since the 1982 citizenship law was passed in Myanmar.

Repatriation efforts will not be successful until a guarantee of citizenship has been provided by the Myanmar government. Otherwise, the refugees will only go back to uncertainty and the threat of violence, like they did in 1991.

Md. Zillur Rahaman
Gandaria, Dhaka

Repatriation nightmare

The issue of repatriation of the Rohingya refugees has created frustration in the refugee camps—as they have their previous grievances and know little about how or why the repatriation process is being conducted. They are uncertain about their future life in Myanmar and so, they are extremely scared to go back. As has already been announced, returnees will be issued national verification cards (NVCs) and treated as "residents" of Myanmar and not as citizens.

Undoubtedly, repatriation is a necessary initiative. Despite those

uncertainties, the government of Bangladesh is ready to repatriate the Rohingyas and Myanmar is ready to receive them. But how will the Rohingyas return to Myanmar without citizenship, recognition of ethnicity as Rohingya, assurance of safe return to their homes and not to other camps, and trial of the killers of innocent civilians and rapists? Only these assurances can convince the Rohingyas to go back to their native land. The repatriation effort will fall flat, if not.

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