

Steps taken to prevent unsafe movement of Rohingyas: FS

[Diplomatic Correspondent](#) | Published: 00:23, Apr 03,2018 | Updated: 00:55, Apr 03,2018

The government has taken measures to prevent Rohingyas from taking unsafe way of migration to a third country from Bangladesh, foreign secretary M Shahidul Haque said on Monday as the ethnic minority people of Myanmar continued entering the country. He made the comment when his attention was drawn to a boat carrying 56 Rohingyas from Myanmar which was trying to reach Malaysia and helped back to sea by Thai fishermen and navy craft after being damaged in a storm and stopping temporarily on Sunday in southern Thailand.

‘The government is aware of it and has taken measures to stop this kind of unsafe movement,’ he said in his speech at a conference on Rohingya refugee crisis in Dhaka. Rohingyas continued to enter Bangladesh with the arrival of several new families on Sunday, he said. ‘Border is open as of today.’

He said that the government set a bilateral arrangement with Myanmar for peaceful solution of the Rohingya crisis, although there was a number of ‘military provocations’ before the last week of August 25, 2017, when the influx began.

Replying to a question on the possibility of relocating Rohingyas to Bhashan Char in Noakhali, the foreign secretary said that the government was looking at all options as

Rohingya camps became very congested.

The government would, however, consider relocation only when the char would be liveable and transferring them would be viable, he said.

Shahidul said that a Myanmar minister might visit Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar in April.

Participants in the conference stressed the need for concerted efforts at the international level for comprehensive steps to resolve the Rohingya crisis with their safe, voluntary and sustainable return by ensuring their full citizenship of Myanmar and rights without any discrimination.

Dhaka University professor Imtiaz Ahmed stressed the need for developing consensus at the international level involving India, China and Russia for a sustainable solution of the protracted Rohingya problem that might create long-term crisis across the region.

South Asia Forum for Human Rights secretary general Tapan Bose of India said that the position of the Indian government about the Rohingya crisis was 'unfortunate.'

Centre for Peace and Justice of BRAC University executive director Manzoor Hasan, UNDP country director Sudipto Mukerjee, and ActionAid Bangladesh country director Farah Kabir, among others, spoke on the first day of the two-day conference.

Over 6,88,000 Rohingyas fled atrocities in Rakhine State by Myanmar security forces, what the UN experts called the world's fastest-developing refugee emergency with elements of ethnic cleansing and genocide, and had entered Bangladesh since August 25, 2017.

Officials estimated that the new influx already took to 11.07 lakh the number of Myanmar people living in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh and Myanmar signed three deals, on November 23 and December 19 in 2017 and January 16, 2018 for setting modalities of physical arrangement for partial repatriation, subject to verification by Myanmar authorities, within two years of

transferring the first batch of over 7,73,000 Rohingyas who had fled violence in Rakhine and crossed the border since October in 2016.