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THAI MEET ON MIGRANT CRISIS

Good start but no major breakthrough'

Myanmar decries 'finger pointing'

AGENCIES

A regional conference called to address the swelling tide of boat people in Southeast Asia ended yesterday with no major breakthroughs, as Myanmar criticised those blaming it for fuelling the crisis and warned that "finger pointing" would not help.

But delegates agreed on one thing at least -- the need to keep talking. The meeting in Bangkok was attended by representatives of 17 countries directly or indirectly affected by the growing crisis, along with the United States and Japan and officials from international organisations such as the UN refugee agency and the International Organization for Migration. That so many countries, including Myanmar, participated was considered progress in itself.

"The most encouraging result was the general consensus that these SUU KYI SIDESTEPS -- PAGE 8 SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Rohingya migrants on a drifting boat in the Thai waters off the southern island of Koh Lipe in the Andaman on May 14, 2015.

PHOTO: AFP

Dhaka points at 'external factors'

SHAMIM ASHRAF from Bangkok

Challenging a general perception of the cause of illegal migration from the country, Bangladesh yesterday insisted that poverty is not necessarily the main factor pushing "some of our people into the hands of traffickers".

Rather, there are "external factors and forces" behind the so-called exodus, claimed a Bangladesh delegation led by Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque at the "Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

MODI'S VISIT A dozen deals on the cards

REZAUL KARIM and PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

Bangladesh and India are expected to ink around half a dozen important memoranda of understanding to forge a strong strategic partnership between the two countries.

Besides, they will strike six vital agreements to SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

NEWS ANALYSIS

MAMATA IN TOUR PARTY

Target revised Teesta deal?

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is making intensive efforts to make the Teesta water-sharing deal agreeable to both Dhaka and West Bengal.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has been included in the prime minister's delegation on his June 6-7 Dhaka trip. The Modi government is SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

772 victims on a boat rescued

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's navy found 727 people crammed on a fishing boat in its waters, the Ministry of Information said in a Facebook post Friday, adding the would-be "Bengali" migrants had been towed to an island.

"Altogether 727 people - 608 Bengali men, 74 women and 45 children -- SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

UN: Myanmar must address 'root causes'

AGENCIES

Myanmar must address the root causes of why people are leaving its shores, a top United Nations official said yesterday at a summit to find a solution to a crisis that has seen thousands of migrants and refugees stranded at sea in Southeast Asia.

Volker Turk, assistant high commissioner for protection, at the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, said that Myanmar has a responsibility to its people, and that the SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

granting of citizenship to stateless people in the country is the key.

In response, Myanmar's delegate, Htin Lynn, Special Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, suggested that Turk was "politicising" the issue by singling out Myanmar as a major cause of the crisis that has dragged on for weeks.

Describing the talks as "very constructive", Norachit Sinhaseni, permanent secretary to the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

ROHINGYAS LEFT OUT OF CENSUS -- PAGE 16



TOP! QUOTE

"Why isn't [someone from]

DNCC MAYOR

ANNISUL HUQ

Seeing none from the bank among those dealing with the land subsidence caused by construction work of a building of the bank at Sonargaon intersection

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