AN OMINOUS JOURNEY

Every day hundreds of Rohingya refugees try to leave Bangladesh to find a better life in Malaysia. This is the story of a Rohingya refugee who has and is still trying to flee the country, in hopes of reaching a place he can call home.

ANANTA YUSUF



"My home is not far from here, you just cross the river Naaf and there is my home by the riverside. From here it is just two miles, but for me it is like two million miles, which I will never be able to cross"- My Rohingya guide, Abul Kalam pointed towards the other side of the river when we were coming back home after a long day's work.

It was a hazy night in December 2011. Kamal Hossain (not his real name) and 36 Rohingyas boarded a small wooden sea vessel that set off on a journey to Malaysia at around eight in the night. Without any map, the boat started moving towards the west. "That was my first trip. We only had a compass with us," Kamal says. And that was the only thing which the *Sareng* (captain of the boat) was depending on. The brokers calculated the depth of the water every twelve hours, and the vessel continued with its journey to the west. "In the deep sea there is no actual Khari (path). The depth of water and the compass can only help you to know the right path," says Kamal.