

When it rains in the unregistered camps, the walkways become little rivers. And when it rains too much, then there is a risk of landslide. But the Rohingyas do not have any other place to go.



PHOTOS: SAIFUL HUQ OMI

The first marriage between a Rohingya woman and a Bangladeshi man in Bradford- the husband is said to be an illegal worker. By getting married to the woman, he is confirmed to have a legal status.

Three days later the boat arrived at an unknown island. And from there the crew changed their direction to the south. "Suddenly we lost our sense of direction. And we were left floating on the sea for 27 days without any food or fresh water."

The cabin of the boat was so small that everyone present there had to huddle together to make space. Without food and water, all the passengers were exhausted. The passengers were getting weaker; some beseeched the Almighty for food. "We roamed for days and nights to survive to get to the land. Seventeen of us died at sea. We had to drink salt water to survive," says Kamal.

29 days later they saw a ship of the Indian navy. They frantically waved a flag. In January 2012, the Indian Navy finally rescued the passengers. The survivors made up a story to avoid legal procedures. "We told them that we were fishermen who were robbed by pirates three weeks ago and had lost our path in the sea. They believed what we said and gave us shelter," says Kamal.

"When we got to the island, we came to know that we were in Andhra Pradesh, near Donkuru village of the Srikakulam district. We were admitted to a government-run hospital at Itchapuram. Nearly two years later we came back to Bangladesh."



PHOTO: SAIFUL HUQ OMI

Tayeba Begum, a Rohingya refugee, wanted to save her daughter from the perverted stepfather. He tried to rape the twelve-year-old Shahara Khatun several times. Failing to do so, Abul Khaher took revenge. He stabbed Tayeba seven times. Few days after this photograph was taken, Tayeba died in a hospital in Dhaka.

Rohingya trafficking in Bangladesh has evolved over the years. Unlike past incidents, the latest victims are faced with adversities even before leaving the borders of the country. Some even lose their lives in the process of trying to give a better life to their families living in refugee camps. Kamal was lucky and survived the risky journey. But the Rohingyas who boarded for Malaysia faced a different fate. Many of them died at sea. And many died when they failed to pay the rest of the money to the brokers in the Thailand coast.