

# Developments related to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh

April 27 - May 3, 2020



REFUGEE SOLIDARITY  
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## Highlights:

### Access to territory:

- There have been continued calls this week for Bangladesh to allow the two boats carrying approximately 500 Rohingya in the Bay of Bengal to land in Bangladesh. Bangladesh maintains the boats are outside of its territorial waters and not its responsibility.
- A small group of approximately 40 Rohingya, believed to be from the boats, have gained access to Bangladeshi territory.
- Some of the Rohingya who were able to come ashore have been transferred to Bhasan Char island. The government of Bangladesh has said that any more Rohingya who arrive will be sent to the island.

### COVID-19:

- The government of Bangladesh has decided to extend the general holiday until May 16 in order to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus.
- Six leading humanitarian agencies in Bangladesh have joined forces to overcome the escalating COVID-19 crisis by increasing health services and improving access and delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene programs for vulnerable communities.

### Camp conditions:

- The shutdown imposed on Rohingya refugee camps has created a severe risk of food and water shortages and disease outbreaks in the camps, according to Human Rights Watch. This was denied by Bangladesh's refugee relief and repatriation commissioner.

## Developments:

### [Dozens of Rohingya from stranded boat land in Bangladesh](#) Prothom Alo (May 3)

Dozens of Rohingya believed to be from one of several boats stuck at sea have landed on the coast of southern Bangladesh, an official said, as concerns grew over hundreds stranded for weeks on trawlers because of coronavirus restrictions. "A small boat carrying 43 people came to shore today," the government official said, declining to be named because they were not authorised to speak to media. Some of the arrivals were sent to Bhasan Char, a remote island off the coast where authorities previously planned to house Rohingya, the official said. Hundreds of Rohingya, members of a Muslim minority from Myanmar, are stranded on at least two trawlers between Bangladesh and Malaysia, rights groups say, as Southeast Asian governments tighten borders to keep out the new coronavirus.

#### *Similar:*

[Dozens of Rohingya from stranded boat land in southern Bangladesh](#) Channel News Asia (May 3)

[Dozens of Rohingya from stranded boat land in southern Bangladesh: official says](#) Reuters (May 2)

['Stranded' Rohingya Land on Bangladesh Coast](#) The Asean Post (May 3)

[Nowhere to flee, Rohingya refugees are struggling to survive](#) Dhaka Tribune (May 3)

[op-ed] In 2017, when the genocidal campaign in Myanmar forced the Rohingya across the border and into Bangladesh, we came seeking refuge and safety. The country opened its borders and its hearts to almost 800,000 Rohingya and we were grateful. We shared many of the same hopes as the Bangladesh government. Today, those shared hopes of two years ago are distant dreams. Instead of looking forward to a better, more peaceful future, the Rohingya are starting to flee again. This time, they are fleeing from Bangladesh. At least three or four boats are bouncing between borders as countries turn their backs on the refugees. They are being denied entry into Malaysia under Covid-19 security concerns, and Bangladesh is refusing to allow them back in. Traffickers keep extorting more money from the refugees on board -- up to Tk60,000 – with no promise of safety in sight. You would think that these horrific stories would stop the boats. But that's not happening. That's how desperate the Rohingya are, and that's how bad the situation in Cox's Bazar has become.

*Similar:*

[Why we Rohingya refugees risk our lives at sea](#) The New Humanitarian (May 1) [op-ed]

[Rohingya crisis deserves notice](#) Bangkok Post (May 3)

[op-ed] Day by day, the effects of coronavirus on society's most marginalised are laid bare. And perhaps globally, no one has been made more marginal than the Rohingya. Asean has long dragged its feet on sufficiently pressuring Myanmar to halt crimes against humanity, falling back on the failed assumption that a crisis destined to spill beyond its borders is an "internal affair". In allowing Myanmar to shrug its obligations to create an environment where the Rohingya can return home and enjoy the rights entitled to all people, the endless cycle of fight or flight could continue. Leaving a million-plus people to choose between a desperate life in an ill-equipped refugee camp or to remain stateless, persecuted and cut off from social services in the land of their birth can only serve to fuel the coronavirus cauldron. The world over, societies have gone into lockdown to protect themselves from the pandemic. If only the international community could do half as much to stop a man-made catastrophe.

[Bangladesh extends general holiday till 16 May](#) Prothom Alo (May 2)

The government of Bangladesh has decided to extend the general holiday till 16 May for the sixth time to contain the spread of novel coronavirus in the country.

[Malaysia rounding up migrants to contain virus spread](#) Prothom Alo (May 2)

Malaysian authorities are rounding up undocumented migrants as part of efforts to contain the spread of coronavirus, the country's police chief has said, after hundreds of migrants and refugees were detained in the capital Kuala Lumpur. Over 700 migrants were taken into custody, including young children and ethnic Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, during a raid in a downtown area where thousands of migrants and asylum-seekers live, rights groups have said. The operation was aimed at preventing undocumented migrants from travelling to other areas amid movement curbs imposed to contain the spread of the outbreak, Inspector-General of Police Abdul Hamid Bador said.

[Rohingyas rescued from sea sent to Bhashan Char](#) Dhaka Tribune (May 2)

Members of Bangladesh Coast Guard have rescued an unspecified number of Rohingyas from the sea near Teknaf in Cox's Bazar. The rescued are from the two Rohingya-carrying boats that have been trying to enter Bangladeshi waters from International waters for about 12 days, according to Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen. Dr Momen said the rescued will not be sheltered in the camps in Cox's Bazar, rather they will be sent to Bhashan Char in Noakhali, which was developed by Bangladesh Navy to relocate 100,000 Rohingyas from the settlements. He also said that from now on the newly arrived Rohingyas will be sent to Bhashan Char. These Rohingyas will be the first residents of the island.

*Similar:*

[Small group of Rohingyas sent to Bhashan Char: Momen](#) Prothom Alo (May 3)

[Small group of Rohingyas sent to Bhashan Char: foreign minister](#) The Daily Star (May 3)  
[Rohingya Refugees Floating at Sea Land on Bangladesh Island](#) New York Times (May 3)  
[Rohingya refugees sent to remote Bangladeshi island after weeks at sea](#) The Guardian (May 3)  
[Handful of Rohingyas sent to Bhashan Char: FM](#) United News Bangladesh (May 3)

**[EU tells regional countries to take in Rohingyas adrift at sea](#)** Prothom Alo (May 2)

Two trawlers carrying a few hundred Rohingyas, including children, have been adrift at sea, not being able to halt at any shore in the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea. The European Union has called upon countries of the region to rescue these Rohingyas and provide them with safety and shelter. This appeal was made in a joint statement issued by the EU high representative and vice president Josep Borrell and commissioner Janez Lenarcic from the EU headquarters in Brussels.

*Similar:*

[Rohingyas at Sea: EU urges other countries to follow Bangladesh example](#) United News Bangladesh (May 2)

**[Rohingyas rescued from boat largely registered with camps: UNHCR](#)** United News Bangladesh (May 1)

The UNHCR has said nearly 400 Rohingyas who arrived by boat recently are mostly registered with the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar district. "We're still completing individual interviews with all of the newly arrived refugees. So far, no refugee claims to have boarded from Myanmar," Louise Donovan, a Spokesperson at Cox's Bazar office of the UNHCR, said. At the end of the 14-day quarantine period, they will return to their families and their shelters within the camps.

**[‘Rohingya’ kidnappers kill hostage for ransom in Cox’s Bazar](#)** Dhaka Tribune (May 1)

Kidnappers have shot dead one of their three hostages in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar. The deceased Akhtar Ullah, 24, was killed as the demanded ransom of Tk20 lakh was not paid, said family members. The criminals—suspected to be Rohingya robbers led by one Abdul Hakim—had been holding three farmers hostage for ransom. The body reportedly contained a note demanding a hefty ransom for the release of the remaining hostages.

**[Myanmar dismisses fresh war crimes allegations by UN rights envoy as ‘biased’](#)** Prothom Alo (May 1)

Yanghee Lee, special rapporteur for human rights in Myanmar, has said in her final statement that the army was engaged in activities against rebels that may amount to “war crimes and crimes against humanity” in Rakhine and Chin states. In response, Zaw Htay said that troops from the Arakan Army, an insurgent group that wants greater autonomy for the western region, dress as civilians when they carry out attacks. "When the military responds with counter-attacks to those who pretend as civilians, there is collateral damage," he said. "There is no intention. From the military side, they have done the necessary investigations."

*Similar:*

[Myanmar dismisses as biased new war crimes allegations made by UN envoy](#) ABC (May 2)

**[2 Rohingya robbers killed in Cox’s Bazar gunfight](#)** Dhaka Tribune (May 1)

Two alleged Rohingya robbers have been killed in a reported gunfight with the Rapid Action Battalion in Cox's Bazar. The incident took place in Shalbagan near Jadimora Rohingya camp in Teknaf upazila, early on May 1.

**[Dutch govt promises to keep RMG value chain undisrupted: Minister](#)** New Age Bangladesh (April 30)

The Netherlands has assured Bangladesh that the Dutch buyers will not cancel or suspend their orders from the Bangladeshi readymade garment factories. Dutch minister for foreign trade and development cooperation Sigrid Kaag called foreign minister Momen to talk about the impact of coronavirus, and to discuss way forward. On the Rohingya



crisis, Momen explained that the around 500 Rohingyas who were on two boats were not in or even near the Bangladesh maritime border. He pointed out that according to the law of the seas, other countries in the region have responsibilities to save the Rohingyas. The Dutch minister agreed that if Bangladesh continued to rescue boat loads of Rohingyas again and again then it might work as a decoy for Myanmar and encourage them to push more Rohingya to the deep sea. Foreign minister Momen thanked the Dutch government for supporting the cause of the Rohingyas, and for supporting them during the trial at the International Court of Justice. Minister Kaag assured Momen that her country would continue to strongly support the Rohingyas in their journey for justice and accountability.

#### [Bangladesh's leading humanitarian agencies join forces to fight COVID-19](#) BDNNews24 (April 30)

Six leading humanitarian agencies in Bangladesh have joined forces to overcome the escalating COVID-19 crisis in the country. The consortium, made up of Plan International Bangladesh, Save the Children, CARE Bangladesh, Oxfam, World Vision and Caritas Bangladesh, plans to slow the spread of COVID-19 by increasing health services and improving access and delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene programmes for vulnerable communities. The aid agencies are focused on the prevention of the disease, by raising community awareness, distributing of hygiene kits, promoting hygiene and hand washing practices, installing clean water points, distributing cash and vouchers, promoting positive parenting and special care for the elderly and persons with disability, child protection, sexual and reproductive health services and distributing Personal Protective Equipment.

#### [WFP designs vehicle tracker for Rohingya camps](#) New Age Bangladesh (April 30)

The United Nations World Food Programme has designed a fully digitised vehicle tracking tool to ensure the humanitarian community can keep critical services running in a timely manner. The project was conducted in support of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner and the Government of Bangladesh to reduce the number of vehicles and workers in the Rohingya camps to mitigate the risk of COVID-19.

#### [It is not Bangladesh's responsibility alone](#) New Age Bangladesh (April 30)

[op-ed] The foreign minister is not wrong when he asks developed countries to abandon their double standards and to take the responsibilities of the stranded refugees. All UN member countries have an equal obligation to uphold the principle of the universal charter of human rights that condemns crimes committed against a community at stake. The international community with supposed commitment to human rights must critically review their role in resolving the Rohingya crisis and mount pressure on Myanmar so that it immediately stops violence against the community and creates a congenial environment for their safe and dignified return.

#### [U.N. Envoy Brings New Allegations Of War Crimes Against Myanmar](#) NPR (April 29)

The United Nations' outgoing chief human rights monitor for Myanmar is calling for an investigation into allegations of ongoing war crimes and crimes against humanity in the southeast Asian country's Rakhine and Chin States. "While the world is occupied with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Myanmar military continues to escalate its assault in Rakhine State, targeting the civilian population," Yanghee Lee said in a blistering farewell statement. "Calls for a ceasefire, including by the Arakan Army, have gone unheeded. Instead, the Tatmadaw [Myanmar military] is inflicting immense suffering on the ethnic communities in Rakhine and Chin," Lee said.

#### *Similar:*

[Myanmar Military 'May Be Repeating Crimes Against Humanity'](#) Eurasia Review (Apr. 30)

[Myanmar may be committing more war crimes, says UN human rights envoy](#) The Telegraph (Apr. 30)

[As global spotlight fades, atrocities continue in Myanmar](#) The Star (May 3)

#### [Rohingyas at sea: Other countries should share burden](#) Dhaka Tribune (April 29)

Bangladesh has done more than enough for the Rohingyas and it is time now for other countries to share the burden, Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen has said in reply to a letter from United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet. Bachelet, who is a former president of Chile, wrote a letter dated April 24 to Dr Momen



requesting that Bangladeshi ports allow two boats carrying around 500 Rohingyas to come in. About the contents of his letter, Momen said: “We are not in a situation to do more with respect to the Rohingyas. Despite having resource constraints and being densely-populated, we have done more than any other country as regards to the Rohingyas... I let her know that other coastal countries also have a responsibility with regard to the two boats carrying Rohingyas now at sea. Those countries should be asked to take responsibility.”

**[Rohingya man killed in gunfight: DB police](#)** Prothom Alo (April 29)

A Rohingya man was killed in what the law enforcers called a gunfight at Joarianala in Ramu upazila of Cox’s Bazar. When confronted, the man opened fire on the detectives, forcing them to fire back in self-defence, according to law enforcement.

*Similar:*

[‘Rohingya drug trader’ killed in Cox’s Bazar ‘gunfight’](#) United News Bangladesh (Apr. 29)

**[Preventing a silent crisis for Rohingya women and girls during COVID-19 pandemic](#)** UNICEF (April 29)

With many women and girls on lockdown, an increase in gender-based violence (GBV) – especially intimate partner violence, sexual exploitation and other abuse – is anticipated. UNICEF supports 15 Safe Spaces in the Cox’s Bazar District. Usually, the safe spaces offer protection services, such as group counselling, skills training, literacy sessions, psychosocial support and case management. The services are available for Rohingya and Bangladeshi women and girls who are vulnerable and/or survivors of gender-based violence and other harmful practices, such as child marriage and trafficking. COVID-19 prevention is a major focus of humanitarian efforts around the camps right now. But that doesn’t mean that help isn’t available for women and girls who need it, especially as UNICEF continues to monitor a number of protection issues affecting Rohingya and Bangladeshi women and girls. If refugee communities are going to avoid a silent GBV crisis, protection programmes like these must remain a priority.

**[All states should help rescue Rohingya refugees amid COVID-19 crisis](#)** Antara News (April 29)

Almost all nations are currently reeling from the impact of COVID-19. To slow down and halt the spread of the deadly disease, each country has tightened border controls. Hundreds of Rohingya refugees are left stranded at sea in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea, as nearby countries closed the door to them. Speaking in connection to the scenario of trawlers carrying Rohingya being refused entry to Bangladesh, Representative of Indonesia to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights Yuyun Wahyuningrum stated that the Rescue Coordination Centre or similar agencies, in collaboration with corresponding authorities of ASEAN member states, should immediately launch a search and rescue operation to help the trawlers carrying Rohingya refugees and asylum-seekers in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman sea. It is not only a moral imperative but also humanitarian and human rights responsibilities. Accordingly, it is crucial that ASEAN and its member states adopt all requisite measures to bolster their shared responsibilities to address the maritime movements of refugees and asylum-seekers in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea.

**[Bangladesh poor, Rohingya refugees most at risk from COVID-19](#)** Nikkei Asian Review (April 29)

[op-ed] Bangladesh's poor and extremely poor have started to face new challenges with new government policies because they cannot now work and have no funds to support themselves. Within Bangladesh is an especially vulnerable group: the more than one million Rohingya refugees who have fled Myanmar. They suffer from many disadvantages in the camps: highly congested accommodation, lack of social distancing, lack of awareness about the effects of COVID-19, insufficient access to lifesaving medicines, lack of advanced health care facilities and limited access to personal hygiene products. Local governments and humanitarian organizations should focus on these vulnerable groups of people to help them face this pandemic threat and to support them in regaining their physical and mental health along with their socioeconomic status.



*Similar:*

[How Aid Workers Are Preparing The World's Biggest Refugee Camp For Coronavirus](#) Huffpost (Apr. 29)

[No refuge: the impact of coronavirus on the world's most vulnerable](#) World Economic Forum (Apr. 29)

[Refugee Camps Struggle To Prevent Coronavirus Outbreaks](#) The Organization for World Peace (May 1)

[Turkey's TIKA donates personal care items for Rohingya](#) Anadolu Agency (April 29)

The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), a state-run aid body, donated 5,000 personal care packages for the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh's camps. "COVID-19 affects Rohingya refugees just as it affects the whole world. TIKA has also not forgotten the Rohingya refugees and has distributed cleaning supplies to help them fight the coronavirus," said Ismail Gundogdu, the agency's Bangladesh coordinator. The package included products such as face mask, soap, shampoo, laundry detergent, and toothpaste.

[Rohingya Women Speak Up on COVID-19: Concerns, Demands and Solutions](#) ReliefWeb (April 28)

UN Women spoke with 49 Rohingya women and adolescent girls, women leaders and women volunteers living across 13 camps in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar to better understand their perceptions, key concerns, demands and proposed solutions on the overall COVID-19 crisis. A four-page report details what they said.

[Momen: Other nations also have responsibility to shelter Rohingyas](#) Dhaka Tribune (April 28)

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen has urged all countries to take effective steps quickly to resolve the Rohingya crisis. He conveyed the message when British Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the United Nations Lord Ahmad made a phone call to him, requesting Bangladesh to give shelter to floating Rohingyas in the Bay of Bengal. "Despite limited resources, Bangladesh has already given shelter to around 1.1 million Rohingyas on humanitarian grounds. The relatively small number of Rohingyas floating in the ocean are outside Bangladesh's territory," the foreign minister responded. The diplomat said it is the responsibility of all countries surrounding the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea to help the distressed people stranded in deep sea. There are eight countries - Myanmar, India, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Bangladesh – in the Bay of Bengal region. Momen said even though Bangladesh was requested to give shelter to floating Rohingyas on humanitarian grounds, other countries in the region were not requested to do the same. He asked the UK minister, during their phone call, to rescue the floating Rohingyas using ships from the Royal Fleet.

*Similar:*

[Britain can shelter Rohingya if it is so concerned, Bangladesh foreign minister suggests](#) BDNews24 (Apr. 29)

[Other nations also have responsibility to shelter Rohingyas floating at Bay: FM](#) United News Bangladesh (Apr. 28)

[UK urged to provide quarantine facilities for floating Rohingyas](#) United News Bangladesh (Apr. 28)

[Bangladesh alone can't take responsibilities of Rohingyas: Dhaka to UK](#) Prothom Alo (Apr. 28)

[International community appeases Myanmar: experts](#) New Age Bangladesh (April 28)

The international community has continued to appease Myanmar by refraining from directly asking it to rescue several hundred Rohingya people who have been floating on at least two boats in territorial waters of the country, experts alleged. 'We don't notice any appeal from anybody to Myanmar to rescue its own people from its territorial water. Primarily, it is Myanmar's responsibility to rescue those people who happen to be citizens of the country,' Bangladesh Enterprise Institute president Humayun Kabir said. The boats in question are now out of Bangladesh's maritime space, Bangladesh government officials said. The international community should pay attention to Myanmar instead of asking Bangladesh to allow foreign nationals to disembark from boats floating in their own territorial waters, Humayun Kabir, a former Bangladesh ambassador to the US, said. Professor Imtiaz Ahmed believes that asking Bangladesh to receive these people from Myanmar territory 'is part of a double standard' and 'tantamount to appeasing Myanmar.'



[Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh Face 'Severe' Food Shortages, HRW Warns](#) Radio Free Asia (April 28)

A coronavirus shutdown imposed on refugee camps in southeastern Bangladesh has placed more than 1 million Rohingya sheltering there at severe risk of food and water shortages and disease outbreaks, Human Rights Watch has said. As a result of the movement restrictions, the presence of humanitarian workers in refugee camps has been slashed by 80 percent. "Any COVID-19-related restrictions shouldn't significantly hinder aid groups' ability to provide food, water, health care, and protection," said Brad Adams, HRW's Asia director. Mahbub Alam Talukder, Bangladesh's refugee relief and repatriation commissioner, brushed aside the statement from Human Rights Watch, saying "food distribution has been going on as usual."

*Similar:*

[Bangladesh: Covid-19 Aid Limits Imperil Rohingya](#) Human Rights Watch (Apr. 28)

[Jawaher Al Qasimi Launches COVID-19 Campaign For High-risk Nations](#) Urdu Point (April 27)

Announcing the launch of a humanitarian COVID-19 response campaign, titled 'Support Knows No Safe Distance', H.H. Sheikha Jawaher bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, wife of the Ruler of Sharjah, Chairperson of The Big Heart Foundation, TBHF, and UNHCR Eminent Advocate for Refugee Children, has made a global call for concerted action to intensify efforts to protect marginalized and vulnerable groups from the devastating impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. Sheikha Jawaher Al Qasimi has urged individuals, communities, nations, governments and businesses around the world to extend their charitable donations and zakat to this campaign. The campaign's initial operations will focus on supporting healthcare capacities in refugee and internally displaced people sites in Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Bangladesh and Kenya, along with monitoring the latest developments in the health situation across various refugee and IDPs sites around the world. The vast Kutupalong-Balukhali camp, home to some 700,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, is one identified beneficiary of the newly launched campaign. It will help support healthcare providers at all clinics built on the campsite to assist tens of thousands of refugees.

*Similar:*

[New UAE donation drive to help protect refugees from coronavirus](#) Khaleej Times (Apr. 28)

[UN rights chief urges Bangladesh to accept Rohingya boats](#) AlJazeera (April 27)

A top UN official has urged Bangladesh to let two stranded boats with Rohingya refugees on board land amid mounting fears over their fate. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet has warned of a "human tragedy of terrible proportions" unless action is taken to help the Rohingya on the boats. "In a spirit of solidarity and at the beginning of the Holy Month of Ramadan, I appeal to you in the strongest terms to open your ports and allow the boats to land," Bachelet said in the letter.

*Similar:*

[Bangladesh urged to open ports to allow in Rohingya refugee boats](#) The Guardian (Apr. 27)

[UN urges Bangladesh to take in 500 Rohingyas stranded at sea](#) Malaysia Sun (Apr. 28)

[UN rights chief urges Bangladesh to accept Rohingya boats](#) Eastern Eye (Apr. 30)

[Bangladesh Must Protect the Rights of Rohingya Muslims Stranded at Sea](#) The Diplomat (April 27)

[op-ed] Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution from Myanmar have been left stranded at sea on the Bay of Bengal following a decision by Bangladesh to refuse to bring them ashore. Rohingya refugees were trying to make their way to Malaysia; however, the country's restrictions on receiving any boats in light of the coronavirus pandemic left them in the Bay of Bengal. Now the nearest country, Bangladesh, is likewise leaving them deserted. Bangladesh must continue to fulfill its international obligations not to return refugees back to Myanmar, where they face persecution, and ensure that they are not at risk of torture or other ill-treatment. In addition, other countries in close proximity



such as Malaysia and Thailand have the responsibility under international law to ensure that boats carrying refugees are brought to safety. There needs to be a strategic rescue operation for those whose lives are at risk while fleeing persecution in their home countries. This situation calls for Bangladesh to act immediately — or face blood on their hands.

*Similar:*

[Hundreds of Rohingya Muslims Stuck at Sea in Refugee Crisis With 'Zero Hope'](#) New York Times (May 1)

[Rohingya People's Lives At Risk At Sea](#) Asian Tribune (May 2)

['Let the boats in': Rohingya refugees plead for stranded relatives to be saved](#) The Guardian (May 2)

[Refugee Boats Stranded at Sea Show How COVID-19 Is Making Threatened Groups More Vulnerable](#) TIME (Apr. 29)

[Desert or sea: Virus traps migrants in mid-route danger zone](#) The Star (May 3)

*In compiling this digest, RSN has attempted to include the most relevant news accounts from the past week concerning Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. From time to time, news beyond Bangladesh or the Rohingya community is included, but currently RSN does not have the capacity to expand the scope. We recognize that some developments may have been overlooked, and that some sources may not be viewed by all as credible or balanced. Inclusion of a news story and its summary does not constitute any kind of endorsement or position taken by RSN, and the text and positions included in the above are solely those of the authors of the respective articles. If you have any comments or feedback for us regarding this digest, please email [advocacy@rsn.ngo](mailto:advocacy@rsn.ngo). For more information about RSN and our work, please visit <https://refugeesolidaritynetwork.org/>*

