

BANGLADESH

THE LIQUID WORLD



Sergio Ramazzotti

parallel zero



Chittagong, men beg for money in the garden of the Dargah Sharif Mosque.

Bangladesh is turning fifty, and it's facing a mid-life crisis

When Zygmunt Bauman wrote about liquid modernity, he envisaged fluidity as a symbol of uncertainty and vacuous horror with regards to the future. There is a country, however, that can perhaps be described as a liquid world *par excellence*: in Bangladesh water is omnipresent, ripping the land from beneath people's feet and forcing them into a permanent stand off with the natural world.

A man in Dhaka summed up his life thus: "In 1944 I was born a subject of Her Majesty's British India. Three years later, after partition, I became a citizen of East Pakistan. Today I am Bengali." The man, a Muslim like 83% of his co-nationals, added, "There has been just one time in my life when I got drunk: I was with two friends in 1971 when my country declared independence and became Bangladesh. So excited were we that night that we drank a bottle of whiskey. But after all that time I still don't now if it was worth it."

This year Bangladesh turns fifty. After half a century it still suffers from the backwardness of yesteryear and its troubled past, as well as a present day that seems like it's the past and prospects for the future that are anything but reassuring. A substantial part of the economy is based on microcredit, while climate change is having a heavy impact on the population. Rising sea levels are pushing further and further inland, transforming fields into swamps and forcing the population to abandon the countryside and move to the capital, or add to the already swollen numbers of climate refugees.

The images were taken in 2016.



Dhaka, Ahsan Manzil, also known as the Pink Palace.



Labourers load cement near Khulna.



Bagerhat, the inside of the Shait Gumdad Mosque, also known as the Sixty Dome Mosque.



Bandarban, weavers prepare a sacred dress for a Buddhist festival.



Chittagong, the Bhatiary area, a worker poses on board a ship that is being dismantled.



Bandarban, a barbershop in the main market.



Paharpur, a woman walks along the ruins of a Buddhist temple.



The Sundarbans region, armed rangers on a boat making a guided tour along the Harinbhanga River.



Chittagong, a shipbreaking yard in the Bhatiary area, a labourer stands among the cut-up wrecks of large ships that are being dismantled for scrap.



Bagerhat, Muslim women outside the Khan Jahan Ali Mausoleum.



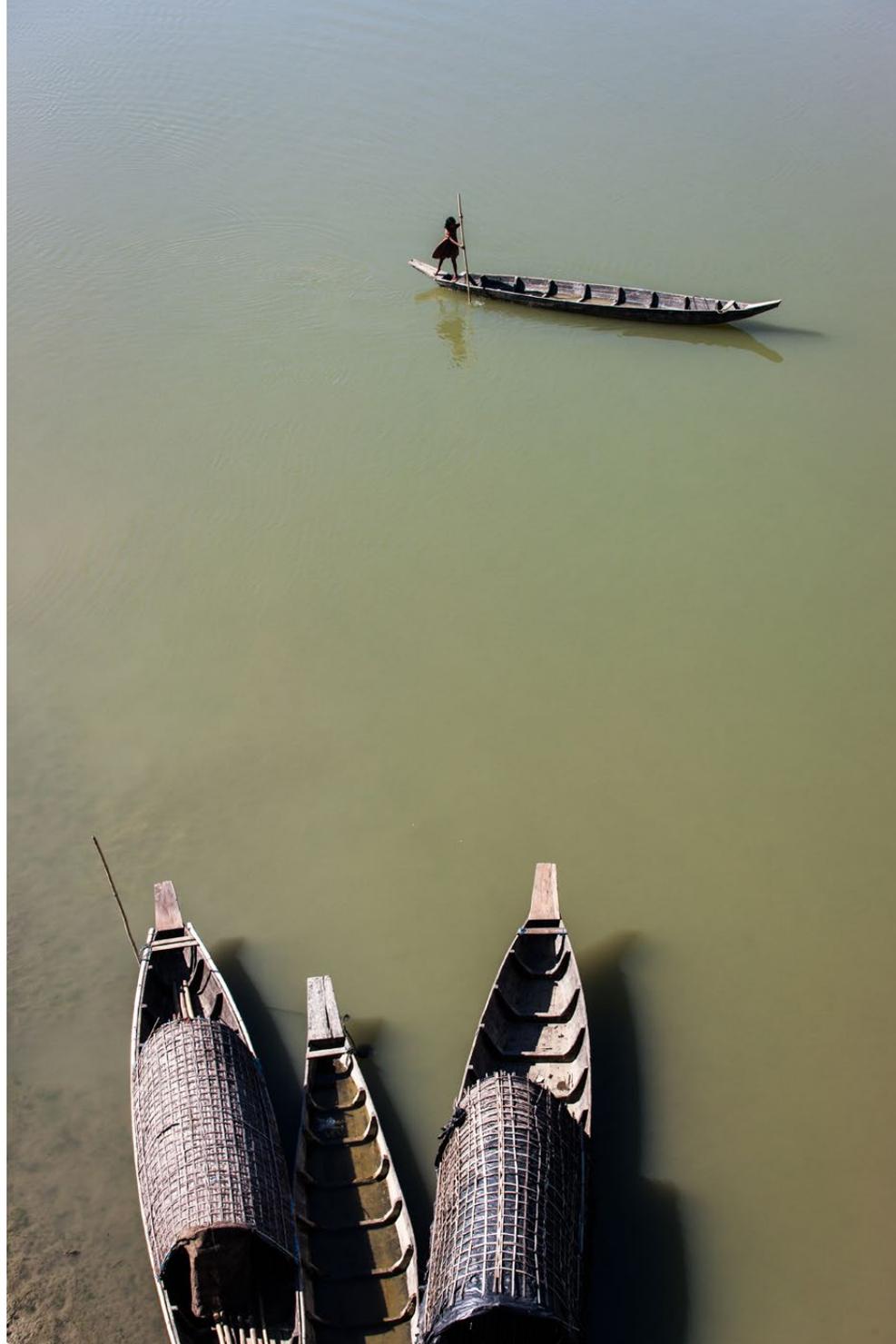
A man rides a bicycle along an embankment near Khulna.



A man from the Mru minority ethnic group in his home in the village of Murong.



Dhaka, a street in the ancient city.



Bamboo canoes on the Shanha River, near Bandarban.



Chittagong, a shipbreaking yard in the Bhatiary area, workers carry parts from dismantled ships along the beach.



Bogra, a man prays in the hall of a government hotel.



Chittagong, a shipbreaking yard in the Bhatiary area, a young worker on board a ship that is being dismantled for scrap.



Khulna, a woman walks along the quay of the river port.



The Sundarbans region, an armed park ranger walks across a bridge in a mangrove forest on the Harinbanga River.



A sadhu in the Paharpur market.



Chittagong, a shipbreaking yard in the Bhatiary area, a worker guides a boat between the cut-up wrecks of large ships that are being dismantled for scrap.



Paharpur, a policeman stands guard at the ruins of a Buddhist temple.



Bagerhat, a Muslim woman at the entrance to the Khan Jahan Ali Mausoleum.



Pylons support electricity cables across swampy fields on the outskirts of Dhaka.

Parallelozero, via Donatello 19/a, Milano Italy
info@parallelozero.com - www.parallelozero.com
+39 02 89281630

p a r a l l e l o z e r o