

Dhaka Day by Day

To Dress or not to Dress

by S Bari

Trygve Bolstad has always lived on or near the water. As a boy in Norway, sailing was part of growing up. But he never imagined that one day he would eat, sleep and live for weeks on a river boat in Bangladesh, far from the cold fjords of his homeland. There isn't that much difference, he quips, "there, we dress to go on board, here in the heat we undress."

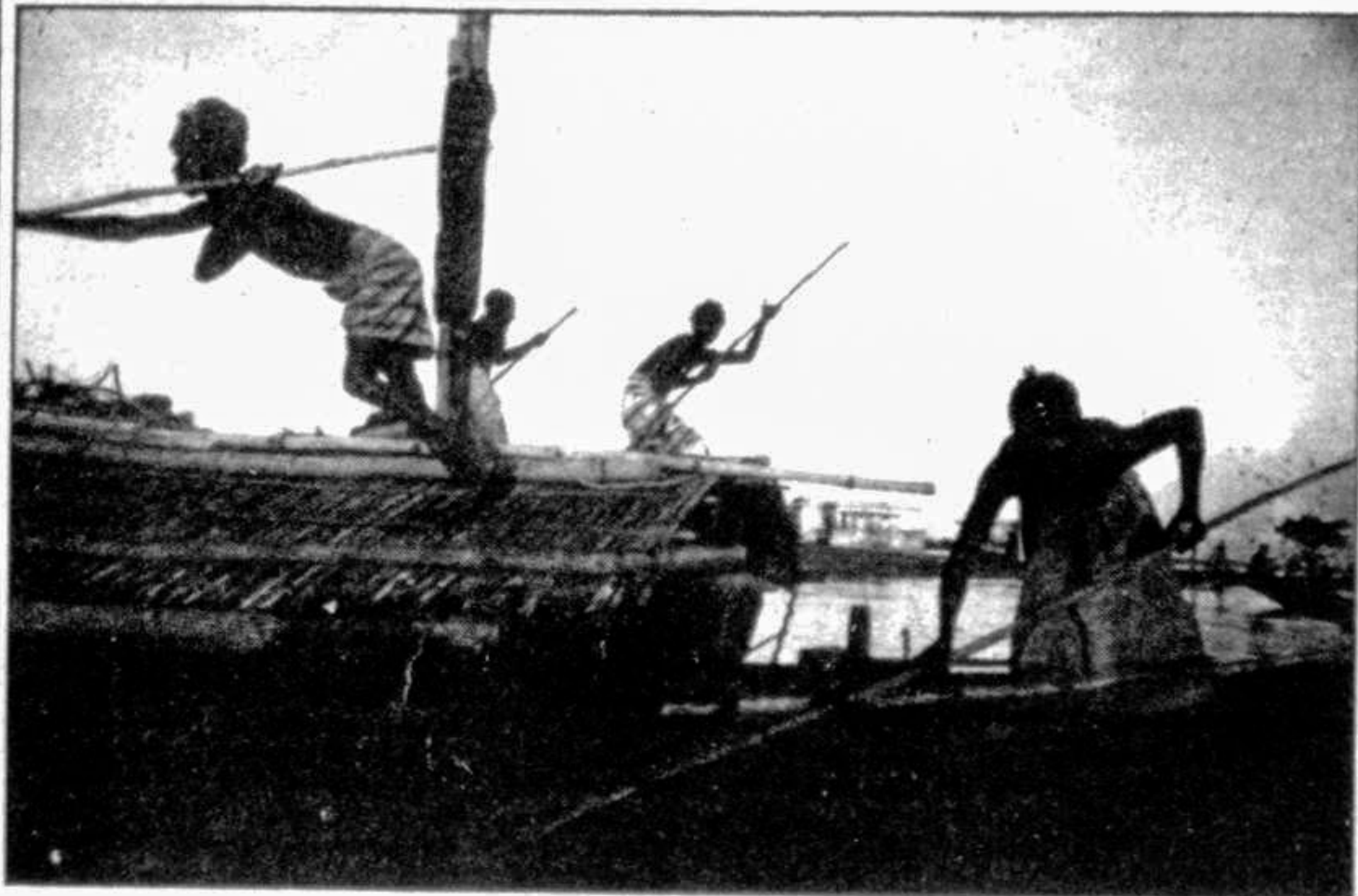
Bolstad has been undressing during his visits to Bangladesh over the past four years. The result is the photographer's soon-to-be-released book on the boats of the country, entitled "Sailing against the Wind".

One day in 1988, the freelancer was watching TV, when the floods in Bangladesh appeared on the news. "I just thought, 'I have to go,' and three days later here I was," he narrates. He spent five weeks travelling around the countryside by bus, rickshaw, train, and by river path. Since that year, he has been back regularly, and has covered all four seasons on the river. He met writer Eirik G. Jansen in Dhaka, and together they hatched the idea of a book. Jansen was project manager of a country boat study in Bangladesh, and as such knew the subject well.

Crisscrossing the globe with his camera, Bolstad has been to more than 70 countries. What made Bangladesh so special? "I was caught by the boats," he answers. "I find them beautiful." He explains that beautiful is a word easily misinterpreted in photography. Taking pictures of disasters is often attacked as the "beautification of misery." But Bolstad maintains that beauty is present in the smallest details and the deepest tragedies.

"Taking pictures is a question of telling people something." The mission of his boat series, he feels, is to depict the many roles of the boat. It is home, workplace, means of livelihood, storage space, friend, and symbol of freedom of movement.

"The boats can be delicate, hard, old, new," Bolstad describes. "There is a hidden aesthetic quality in everything about them. And the people whose lives revolve around these boats are also beautiful, in the way they walk, the way they carry loads, their muscles, the lines on their faces." Bolstad fears that increasing mechanisation will soon erode the lives of river-folk. "Coming from an industrialised country, it's hypocritical of me to say that



Bolstad was well-qualified for the job. In 1971, at the age of 21, he took a boat to Denmark, and travelled around the world for a year. "I was hooked on seeing the world; my plans of coming back to study just vanished. To continue travelling, I had three choices of career: to be a carpenter, a doctor, or a photographer," he recalls with a smile. "So when I came back to Norway I applied to all three schools. I decided that the first to reply would be my choice, and that's how I became a photographer."

mechanisation is harmful, but I must admit that a great deal has been lost over these few years as motorised boats take over the waterways."

Bolstad's favourite time is the mornings. "You don't know what you might get. Perhaps the day will bring you a classic shot. I have tea with the boatman on the roof after getting up with the sun. That is something I will remember most about Bangladesh," says the bespectacled blond.

JS Public Undertaking body meet held

The 22nd meeting of the Jatiya Sangsad Public Undertaking Committee was held in Sangsad Bhavan Tuesday with its Chairman Mian Mohammad Mansur Ali, MP, in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting, constituted 3-Sub Committees and one Business Committee to help the original committee expedite its work.

AKM Abu Taher, Dr Mizanul Haq, Prof Rafiqul Islam, Monirul Haq Chowdhury and Sheikh Ansar Ali attended the meeting.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of Bangladesh Khondaker Moazzem Hussain was present in the meeting.

New timing of inter-city trains

With a view to facilitate travelling passengers Bangladesh Railway West Zone has decided to change timings of a few inter-city trains with effect from May 1, says a press release.

As per new timings Rupsha Express running between Khulna and Saidpur will leave Khulna at 12-30 pm instead of 9 am. Simanta Express running in the same route will leave Saidpur at 10 pm and will reach Khulna at 7-30 am. Rupsha and Simanta now running on every weekly days.

Similarly Kopotakha Express running between Rajshahi and Khulna will leave from Rajshahi and Khulna at 3-45 pm and 8 am respectively. Barendra Express running between Rajshahi and Nilphamari will leave from Rajshahi and Nilphamari at 3 pm and 6 am respectively.

Barendra and Kopotakha now running everyday excepting Fridays.

Timings of some of the Mail and Express trains will also be changed following change in the Inter-City train timings. Passengers are requested to contact nearest Station Masters for further details.

BAAS science confce May 6

The 17th annual science conference of Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS) which was scheduled to begin on May 2, has been shifted to May 6 due to unavoidable circumstances, reports BSS.

The inaugural session of the four-day conference will be held at 11 am on May 6 at the Institute of Post-Graduate Studies in Agriculture (IPSA) at Gazipur, says a BAAS press release.

The members of BAAS have been requested to register their names with IPSA between 9 am to 5 pm on May 5.

Sanjiv Dutta dead

Staff Correspondent

Sanjiv Dutta, a distinguished journalist, poet and an author, breathed his last Monday morning at Thakurpukur Cancer Hospital in Calcutta, family sources said. He was 72.

Dutta left behind a daughter, a son and his wife who are resident at Dhaka and a host of friends and relatives to mourn his death. He died of Cancer.

Sanjiv Dutta worked for The Bangladesh Observer in the 50's and 70's in news and editorial department.

He was the eldest son of late Dhirendranath Dutta of Comilla, a distinguished political leader.

Sanjiv authored a novel and a collection of poems in English and earned reputation in Bangladesh and West Bengal.

Weather

Nor'wester likely

By Staff Correspondent

Met office Tuesday forecast a Nor'westerly (Kalbaishakhi) squall with a speed of 60 to 75 kilometre per hour or more is likely to hit at one or two places over Rajshahi division and the regions of Mymensingh, Tangail and Sylhet during the next 24 hours commencing from 6 pm Tuesday.

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Chittagong divisions, during 24 hours, forecast Met office.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country today (Wednesday).

Maximum temperature of the country, 38.4 degree Celsius, was recorded at Rangamati while the country's minimum 18 degree Celsius was reported in Rangpur Tuesday.

The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6:27 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5:25 am.

The temperature and the percentage of humidity recorded in some major cities/towns Tuesday were:

City/Town	Temperature	Humidity
	Max	Min
Dhaka	32	23.6
Chittagong	36.6	26
Rajshahi	31	19.6
Khulna	35.2	29.8
Cox's Bazar	35	26.5
Barisal	34.6	23.6
Sylhet	28	19.6
Mymensingh	28.3	21.6



The activists of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir brought out a procession in the city Tuesday demanding punishment to terrorists. —Star photo

Biswas assures allout help for Khulna University

KHULNA, Apr 28: President Abdur Rahman Biswas Tuesday called upon the teachers and students to have a commitment to learn all aspects of modern education, including science and technology for advancing Bangladesh towards progress and prosperity, reports BSS.

The President, who is also chancellor of the university, was addressing a gathering of teachers and students of Khulna University at its auditorium.

Presided over by the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Golam Rahman, the function was also addressed by the Speaker of Parliament Sheikh Razzaque Ali, Whip Ashraf Hossain, Khulna City Mayor Shaikh Taiyubur Rahman and Education Secretary Shafiqul Alam.

President Biswas stressed the need for concerted efforts

of all to utilise education in alleviating poverty and solving the problems, including unemployment.

He urged the teaching community to give proper guidelines to the students for attaining knowledge "this will help them play their proper roles in the respective fields for the development of the country," he said.

In this respect, he called, for making all universities of the country seats of proper learning so that the students could contribute in the efforts for development of the country.

Referring to the present government's emphasis on education, the President said Khulna University would get all assistance from government.

Referring to the establishment of Khulna University, President Biswas said this seat of learning had opened up a

wide avenue for the students of the region to acquire higher education.

"Education is the mother of development and we must receive proper education for utilising our resources to make the country self-reliant, he said.

Speaker Shaikh Razzaque Ali said the country could attain progress by adopting new technology in the development activities and called for orienting the education system towards solving the unemployment problem, besides developing students intellectual faculty laid emphasis on the need for technical education in the country.

Earlier, a one-minute silence was observed in the meeting in memory of the Shaheeds of the Liberation War.

The president laid the foundation stone of the residential complex of the university teachers and offered Munajat there.

It was learnt that about Taka 20 crore would be spent for the completion of the university.

Five Party statement motivated: DCC Mayor

Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mirza Abbas Tuesday said the present democratic government was fully respectful to the democratic norms, reports BSS.

Castigating a statement of the Five-Party Alliance which appeared in a section of the press, the Mayor said that the allegation of making the City Corporation party-oriented was completely baseless and imaginative.

In a statement, the City Corporation Mayor said such allegation was made to tarnish the image of the Corporation when it was carrying out development activities in the city despite heavy liabilities left by the former government.

The Mayor termed the statement of the Five-Party Alliance as motivated and an attempt to fish in the troubled water.

He called upon all to extend their cooperation to the Corporation's development activities and refrain from issuing such statement.

BFUJ condemns attack on Khulna Press Club

The President and Secretary General of Bangladesh Federation Union of Journalists Rezauddin Ahmed and Amanullah Kabir Tuesday strongly condemned the attack on Khulna Press Club by a section of unruly people, reports BSS.

In a statement issued in Dhaka Tuesday, the BFUJ leaders termed this attack as an assault on freedom of the press. The heinous part of the attack was the physical assault of senior journalists. Besides the press club gate as set on fire and the club building ransacked, they said.

They demanded exemplary punishment to the attackers.

In another statement, the President and the General Secretary of Jatiya Press Club Mozammel Haq and Shawkat Mahmud condemned the attack on the Khulna Press Club.

Consensus seen a must for raising industrial output

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan Tuesday emphasised the need for national consensus for increasing production in mills and factories, reports BSS.

He was addressing the 26th meeting of the Tripartite Consultative Committee (TCC) held at the Bangladesh Employers' Association's Conference Room in the city.

The Minister said progress of the country is impossible if we fail to make the mills and factories profitable through increasing production.

Peaceful atmosphere in industries have to be ensured as precondition for increasing production, he said adding that understanding between

labour and management is essential in this regard.

The meeting discussed on the adoption of the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Convention No 169, 170, 171 and 172.

Four Tripartite sub-committees had been formed for reviewing the rules and procedures of the convention.

Besides, the meeting dealt at length on smooth industrial relations and increase production.

Fortyfive representatives of government, management and labour attended the meeting. Labour and Manpower Secretary Dr A K M Mashur Rahman was present in the meeting.

BCL (S-A) demands Home Minister's resignation

By Staff Correspondent

Chhatra League (S-A) demanded resignation of the Home Minister for failing to arrest the killers of League leader Jarif, who was shot dead recently.

League leaders at a rally in front of the National Press Club Tuesday morning said that repeated handing over of memorandum to the Home Minister regarding killings of other League leaders previously proved fruitless.

They said government and specially the Home Minister's nonchalance to stop political violence uncovers the true face of the government. Although the League and the ruling party agitated side by side against autocratic rule. The present government was now resorting to undemocratic acts against League to stay in power, they said.

The rally was addressed by Kamruzzaman Ansari, Golam Mostafa, BM Mozammel Haq, Syed Kamrul Hasan and others. The leaders told the audience that repression on Chhatra League had increased as the League was launching movement against Golam Azam.

They urged people to unite under the leadership of the Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina against Golam Azam to restore democracy and the spirit of the Liberation War.

Radio Bangladesh to form Listener's Club

In order to establish a close and effective contact with the listeners for a better feed-back of the programme, Radio Bangladesh has decided to form a 11-member Radio Listener's Club in every upazila of the country, says a press release.

All regional stations of Radio Bangladesh have already been instructed to take necessary action in this regard.

Each Upazila Listeners' Club will make direct contact and exchange of views with Radio Bangladesh. Radio Bangladesh will regularly broadcast listeners' opinion on programmes.

Interested listeners may like to contact respective Regional Director of the regions.

British HC donates hearing aid analyser

The British High Commission in the city Tuesday donated a hearing aid analyser to a local training institute to help detect correct frequency levels of the instrument, reports UNB.

On behalf of the British High Commissioner, Shirley Imray presented the analyser to Mosleh Uddin Ahmed of the Liten Hearing and Speech Training Institute at Moham madpur, said a press release.

Dr Anwar receives CHEC gold medal

By Staff Correspondent

Dr Anwar Hossain, Chairman of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC) Bangladesh has been awarded the "Institute of oriental philosophy scholarly achievement award."

The award which included a gold medal and a certificate of distinction was given at a ceremony during pre-UNCED consultative conference which ended recently at Taplow in England.

Dr Hossain presented a paper on "Developed Country priorities and Developing Country responses" at the conference which dealt with interdependence of rich and poor countries and an integrated approach to solve the ecological problems facing the earth.

The Taplow conference, jointly organised by the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council, UNESCO and Soka Gakkai International in association with the Commonwealth Secretariat, was participated by a number of Commonwealth leaders, the Commonwealth Secretary General and professionals from 30 countries.

Book publishers' AGM held

The 9th and 10th Annual General Meeting of the Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers Association (BBPSA) was held Monday at the Matnuddin Chowdhury Memorial Hall, Lal Kuthi, with Syed Ruhul Amin in the chair, reports BSS.

Wednesday

5.00	Opening announcement, Al-Gunan Programme summary
5.10	News in Bangla
5.20	Recitation from The Gesta
5.30	Campus
6.00	Sports Programme: Zillet World Sports Special
6.30	Shamachar
7.05	Pallab
8.00	News in Bangla
8.30	Writter Talay Talay
9.00	Film: MacGyver
10.00	News in English
10.30	Shatabdir Prante Danrie
11.30	Khabar/The News
11.40	Thursday's Programme Summary
11.45	Closing

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