Clicking Bangladesh

KIR VIETH

BEING Danish and arriving in Bangladesh for the first time can be a culture shock. Somehow it seems as if you actually only thought that you have travelled to the opposite side of the globe, and in reality it turns out that you landed on a completely different planet.

All senses are shocked into a paralysed state, and you have to learn everything all over again.

My eyes are met with an explosion of colours, and my ears have a hard time distinguishing spoken words above the noise of a kind of traffic I have never before witnessed. Vehicles are loaded with goods to an extent that it seems impossible that they will be able to take any more but still there is room for passengers on top of it all. Hardworking people carry heavy loads on their heads without noticing the sheer hardship of this. Thousands of curious eyes follow my every move, and hordes of laughing children gather around me to see themselves on the screen of my camera.

It all feels like magic, and sometimes I suspect that even the scientifically proven laws of nature are different here.

Kir Vieth is a Danish photographer and documentary film-maker who visited Bangladesh December 2006.



