

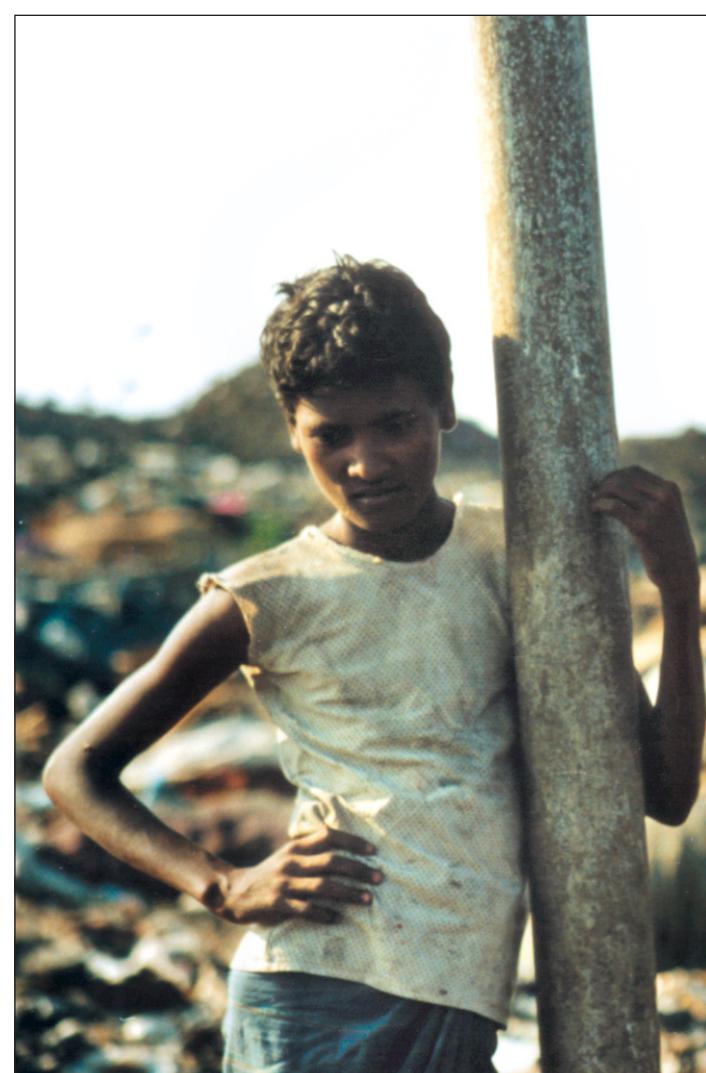
Star city in frame invites photographs on the life and living of Dhaka city. The selected works will be published in this section with a brief profile of the photographer.



city in frame

DAKA SUNDAY MAY 11, 2003

CHILDHOOD GONE TO WASTE



PROFILE



ALASDAIR MACDONALD

Alasdair was born on 27 February 1969 and has been travelling and photographing in Asia for over 10 years. He has covered such varied subjects as portraits from Yunnan province, China to ancient monuments in Iran. Currently he is working on a film made while driving from Scotland to Dhaka with his wife Rashida.

Dhaka city produces around 4,000 tonnes of wastes per day. About half of this ends up in the city dump at Matwail. This urban wasteland is home to dozens of families living out of polythene tents amid the garbage. They make a bare living sifting through the detritus of the city. Some 100 children of these families sleep, eat, work and play in and around the city dump; their living nightmare is a childhood surrounded by noxious fumes and the incessant buzzing of flies. Yet they do so with little complaint as Raju's comments sum it up all, "What else can we do? What choice do we have? There is simply no other work available and anyway this tokai business is the only work I know."