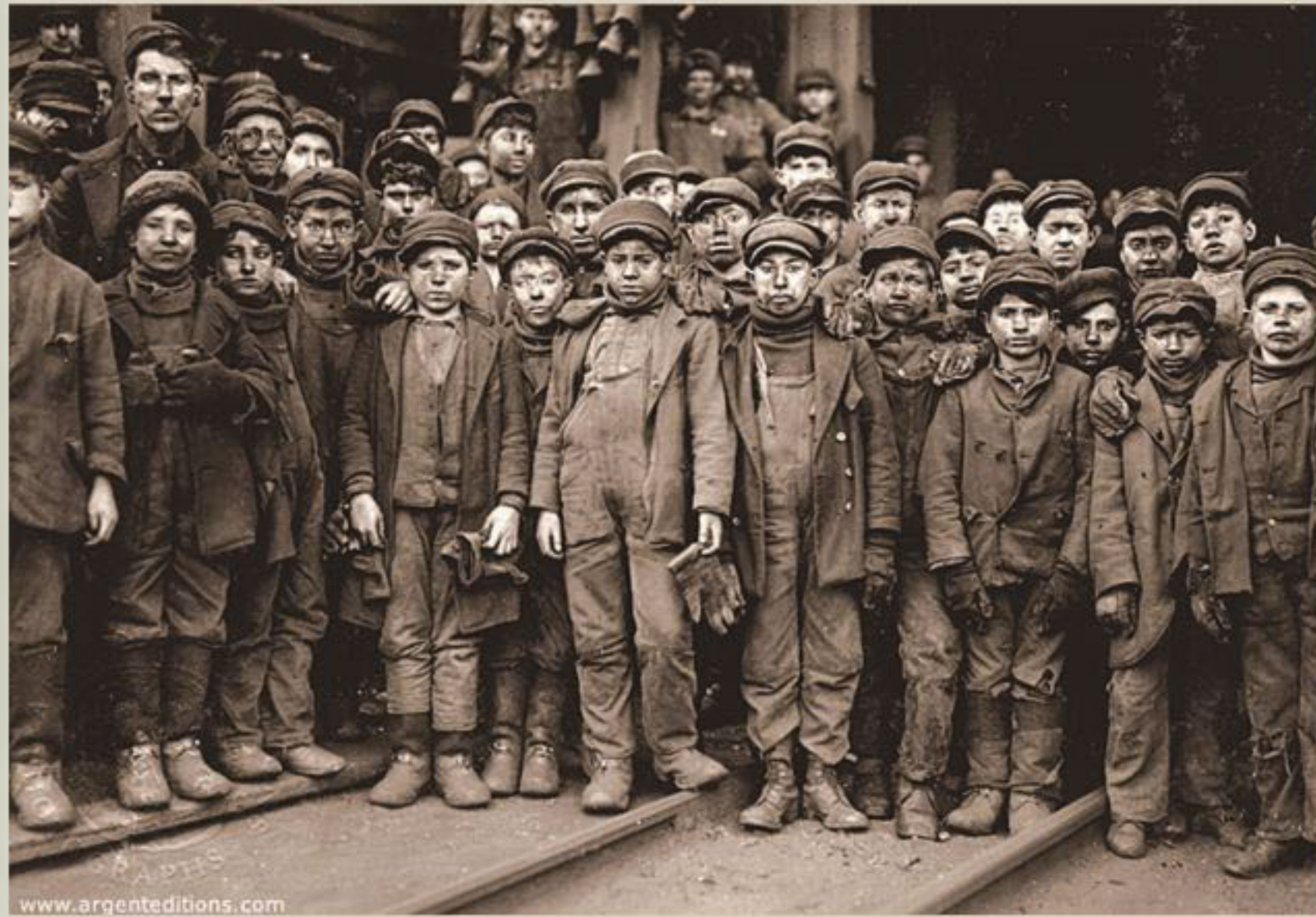


TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Young coalminers.

PHOTO: LEWIS HINE

Lewis Hine's Photographs

Photography has a million uses. One of these is social reform: using the camera as a tool for fighting social injustice. Millions of photographers have done this worldwide, but perhaps none stands out more than the American photographer Lewis Hine.

Hine is known for his documentation of child labour in America. His work convinced Americans about the injustice inherent in child labour and helped to pass laws to eliminate it.

Born in 1874 in Wisconsin, Hine studied sociology at New York University and Columbia University. While working as a teacher at the Ethical Culture School in New York, he learned photography and started a camera club.

At the turn of the century, Ellis Island in New York was the arrival point for those immigrating to the US from Europe. The immigrants often faced anti-immigrant sentiments in their new country. Hine started making photographic portraits of these immigrants, showing them as dignified, worthy people. His portraits countered anti-immigrant feelings.

Later he focused on child labour. At that time, child labour was legal in the US, but several children's advocacy groups were working to ban it. Hine started working with these groups. In 1908, the National Child Labor Committee hired him as an investigative photographer. He started roaming the country, photographing children working at numerous job locations. These included factories, cotton mills, mines, tobacco farms, etc. He also covered various city jobs such as newspaper boy, restaurant worker, shoeshine, etc.

It was not so easy for Hine to gain

access to the places where children worked. Sometimes he used disguises, such as fire inspector, post card vendor, Bible salesman or even one of the adult workers. Sometimes he arrived at factories at the break of dawn and walked in with the workers before the supervisors and owners had arrived. His photographs exposed the immorality of child labour, which was often kept hidden from public view. Thus, his was a dangerous job, and he was frequently threatened by factory police or supervisors. If he was unable to gain entry to a workplace, he waited outside until the workers were done for the day and then took their pictures.

His tireless work bore fruit. Eventually America banned child labor and Hine's photographs played a significant role in this decision. Today, his photographs are a testament to a gritty and unsavoury phase in the history of the US, a phase that it was able to leave behind.

Hine's photographic style was formal. He always engaged his subjects, asking for permission to photograph them. Not believing in candid photography, he posed his subjects in a way that showed the strength of the human spirit. He worked with a large camera on a tripod and often used magnesium as a flash. His equipment weighed about fifty pounds. Sneaking this bulky gear into factories without being caught was an astonishing feat.

The end of Hine's life was tragic. As he grew older, he lost government patronage. He died at sixty-six in poverty. But he is revered as the father of documentary and social photography.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir

Greens want to keep trading vessels off Sundarbans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over "unplanned development activities" in the Sundarbans, a Facebook-based group of green campaigners yesterday demanded that the government stop plying of commercial vessels through the world's largest mangrove forest and relocate a coal-based power plant, planned to be constructed at Rampal, some 14 kilometres off the forest.

Wearing masks of Sundarbans' animals and with a slogan, "No development destroying rivers

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Oil spill hit 500 sqkm area of Sundarbans

Reveals survey; Long March towards the forest on March 11 demanding effective measures to save it

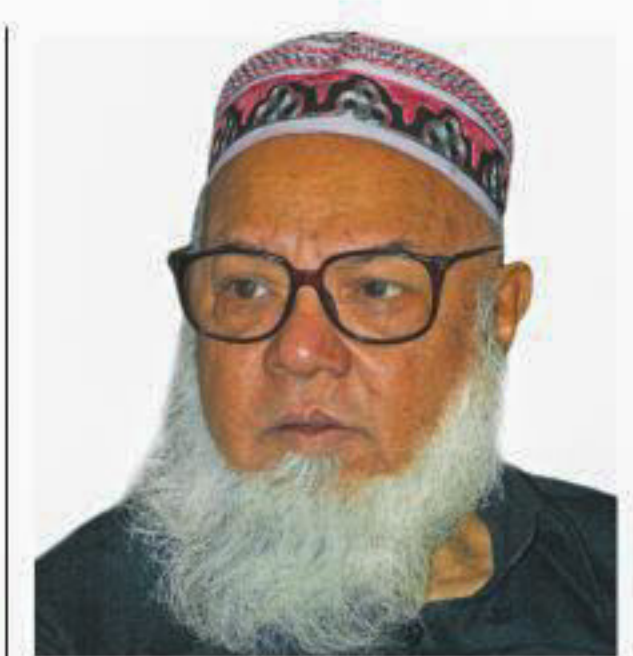
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recent oil spill has affected an area of over 500 sq km in the Sundarbans, which will see an array of aquatic life including dolphins and crocodiles die out or migrate elsewhere due to the loss of food, breeding capacity, and habitats, finds a survey led by a Khulna University professor.

The inter-tidal zones and the forest floor besides the Shela River, where a tanker

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WATER	CONTAMINATED AREAS	NON-CONTAMINATED AREAS
Oil content	295-1,650 mg/L	6.68-11.3 mg/L
Total suspended solids	317-1,681 mg/L	8.9-15.8 mg/L
Phytoplankton abundance	24- 67 units/L	171-349 units/L
SOIL		
Oil content	370-1690 mg/ kg of 2-inch surface soil	4-8 mg/ kg of 2-inch surface soil



Qulkhwani of Justice Mustafa Kamal today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The qulkhwani of former chief justice Mustafa Kamal will be held at Spectra Convention Centre in the capital's Gulshan today.

Dignitaries including ministers are expected to attend the programme due

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Water leaking out from ruptured sewerage pipes has created a new danger in the unguarded construction site of Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover in the capital, by washing away earth from underneath the narrow strip of the road left available for vehicular traffic. The photo was taken yesterday, in front of the Mouchak market.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

JUDGE HOUSE ATTACK Police sue 31 BNP, Jamaat men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Feni police yesterday filed a case against 31 BNP-Jamaat activists for their alleged involvement in an arson attack on the village home of Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque, a judge of the High Court.

Houses of two HC judges, including Hoque, came under attack by miscreants on Thursday after they ordered to stop publicising BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman's statements in the media.

Miscreants carried out the arson attack on the house of Justice Hoque in Mohammadpur village in Feni Sadar.

Nizam Uddin Patowary who was arrested in a case over the attack was sent to jail yesterday.

Criminals also hurled two crude bombs at the Dhanmondi house of Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman, another HC judge, on the same day.

Thirteen killed in road accidents

Ten including four Ijtima devotees among the victims in Dhaka

CITY DESK

Thirteen people were killed and eight others injured in road accidents in the country on Thursday and yesterday.

Our staff correspondent reports, two rickshaw-pullers and a pedestrian were killed and another was injured as a speeding bus of Suprohat Paribahan hit them from behind at the capital's Shahjadpur yesterday morning, said police.

Billal Hossain, 33, and Liton Akanda, 30, were the rickshaw-pullers while the other victim Taher Uddin, 60, was a security guard.

Injured Yadul, 16, a vendor, is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

In another accident, vegetable trader Milon, 25, died instantly as a pickup rickshaw-ran near Gono Bhabhan in the capital while he was going to Karwan Bazar wholesale market from his Mohammadpur residence yesterday.

Meanwhile, an unidentified woman, aged around 35, died on the spot as a Khilkhet bound pickup hit her while she was crossing a road in Uttara yesterday

morning.

Our Savar correspondent reports, five people including four Ijtima devotees were killed and five others were injured when a bus of Shubojatra Paribahan and an Ijtima-bound car from Jessore carrying them collided head-on on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Dhamrai yesterday.

The four devotees were Rahis Uddin, 36, Nasir Uddin, 40, Nazim Uddin, 40, and Abdur Rahim, 40. Another dead was Rezuhan Rahman, 30, the car driver.

The injured, all were passengers of the bus, are undergoing treatment at hospitals and clinics in Savar, Dhamrai and Dhaka.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reports, farmer Md Motiur Rahman was killed as a tractor hit him on Akkelpur-Jamalganj road at Awalgari Bazar in Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat on Thursday night.

He succumbed to his injuries at the upazila health complex.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports, Jasim Uddin, 30, an auto-rickshaw driver, was killed and two others were injured as a microbus rammied his vehicle on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway at

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Online software launched to calculate energy use options

UNB, Dhaka

The first online public software to integrate Bangladesh's energy generation and usage, carbon emission and land use was launched at a reception in Dhaka yesterday, enabling users to try and balance energy sources against demand between now and 2050 and see the impact.

Bangladesh 2050 Energy Pathway's Calculator (BD2050) was launched by the UK government's Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) which funded the project, and Cardiff University, the researchers of which led by Dr Monjur Mourshed developed it.

Bangladesh's Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources supported the project.

"I'm confident... (it) will help the researchers and decision makers today make the right energy investment for tomorrow," British High

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Santal student found dead with throat slit in house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A college student of the Santal community was found dead with the throat slit lying in a pool of blood on the floor of his earthen residence in Moyenpara, some 15 kilometres off Tanore sadar upazila in Rajshahi in the early hours yesterday.

Tension was running high as thousands of indigenous people from all around gathered at Moyenpara, which houses 15 Santal families.

Though the parents Mohesh Hembrom and Shanti Tudu did not accuse anyone, police say they found

bloody footprints on a path behind the residence.

Arriving a few weeks ago on attending his final year's exam at Rajshahi Government College, Bablu Hembrom, 25 had gone off to bed around 9:30pm. Waking up some four hours later, Shanti found open the door of his room, some distance away from theirs, and discovered the body, said police.

Jatiya Adibashi Parishad President Robindranath Soren said they would hold demonstrations in Rajshahi city today demanding immediate arrest of the killers and protection for the villagers.

Bangladeshi gives birth to baby in midair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi passenger gave birth to a female baby in midair while travelling to Bangladesh from Lebanon yesterday by an Air Arabia flight.

Sources at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport said Yesmin Akhter, 35, had contractions with still around one and a half hours for the plane to land at the airport. The cabin crew and passengers carried out the delivery. Air Arabia officials at the Dhaka airport took them to an Uttara clinic.

Yesmin, who worked with her husband in Lebanon, was returning home alone to give birth, scheduled for mid-February, the sources said.

DHAKA, TONGI BSCIC AREAS No ETPs in 300 factories

UNB, Dhaka

Some 300 factories in the three designated industrial areas in the capital and Gazipur have long been running without effluent treatment plants (ETPs), causing serious environmental pollution.

The three areas -- Hazaribagh Tannery area, Shyampur-Kadamtoli Industrial area in the capital and Tongi BSCIC industrial area -- could not be brought under the Department of Environment (DoE) regulation for various problems, including unavailability of land for constructing central effluent treatment plants (CETP), said the DoE sources.

The problems also include lack of funds and nighttime closure of ETPs.

According to the DoE, there are nearly 200 factories in Hazaribagh, 46 in Shyampur-Kadamtoli area and 42 factories in Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) area, Tongi.

These factories discharge chemical waste into water bodies, polluting the canals and rivers.

DoE Director (Monitoring and Enforcement)

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With buses staying off the road, people travel by a truck on the Tangail bypass yesterday, the fourth day of the BNP-led indefinite countryside blockade.



PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL