

A PHOTO, A FACT, AN EMOTION



"I made this shot in Sylhet, Bangladesh. It is a place where all of the garbage of the city is collected and burnt together."

"LIFE AND WASTE"

Sylhet, Bangladesh

Nafiul Islam, Bangladesh



This photo was selected to participate in the third edition of Waste to Photo in 2019, the photo contest connected to the Sardinia Symposium, International Waste Management and Landfill Symposium organised by IWWG.

Waste to Photo is conceived with the specific aim of recreating a scenario representing the global situation with regard to waste and landfills, ranging from the developing countries to the more industrialised nations.

The 3rd edition of the contest officially closed on 31st May, receiving over a hundred entries. During the Symposium, a photography exhibition was set up using a selection of the most significant shots and a jury consisting of members of the IWWG Managing Board and professional photographers voted for the best photo.

In this shot, Mr. Nafiul Islam shows a widespread situation in many countries of the world.

Garbage dumps are mostly inhabited by vulnerable populations, including those who face extreme poverty, severe illness and/or disability, and lack of educational opportunities. Dumps are the only place in these areas where

people can live for free and find items that they can keep for their families or sell for profit, which incentivizes vulnerable populations to stay there.

In almost all garbage dumps, recycling garbage offers opportunities for small wages for those willing to filter through the contents – a wage that allows individuals and their families to survive, but not a high enough wage for them to leave.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nafiul Islam

He is a passionate photographer from Bangladesh. He is currently studying at the University of Bremen, Germany. He started his photographic journey with the hand of Shahjalal University Photographers' Association (SUPA) about 9 years ago. This photographic journey has helped him to travel and meet many people and to capture their stories.