



Children play in a toy boat they constructed out of debris in the Philippines.

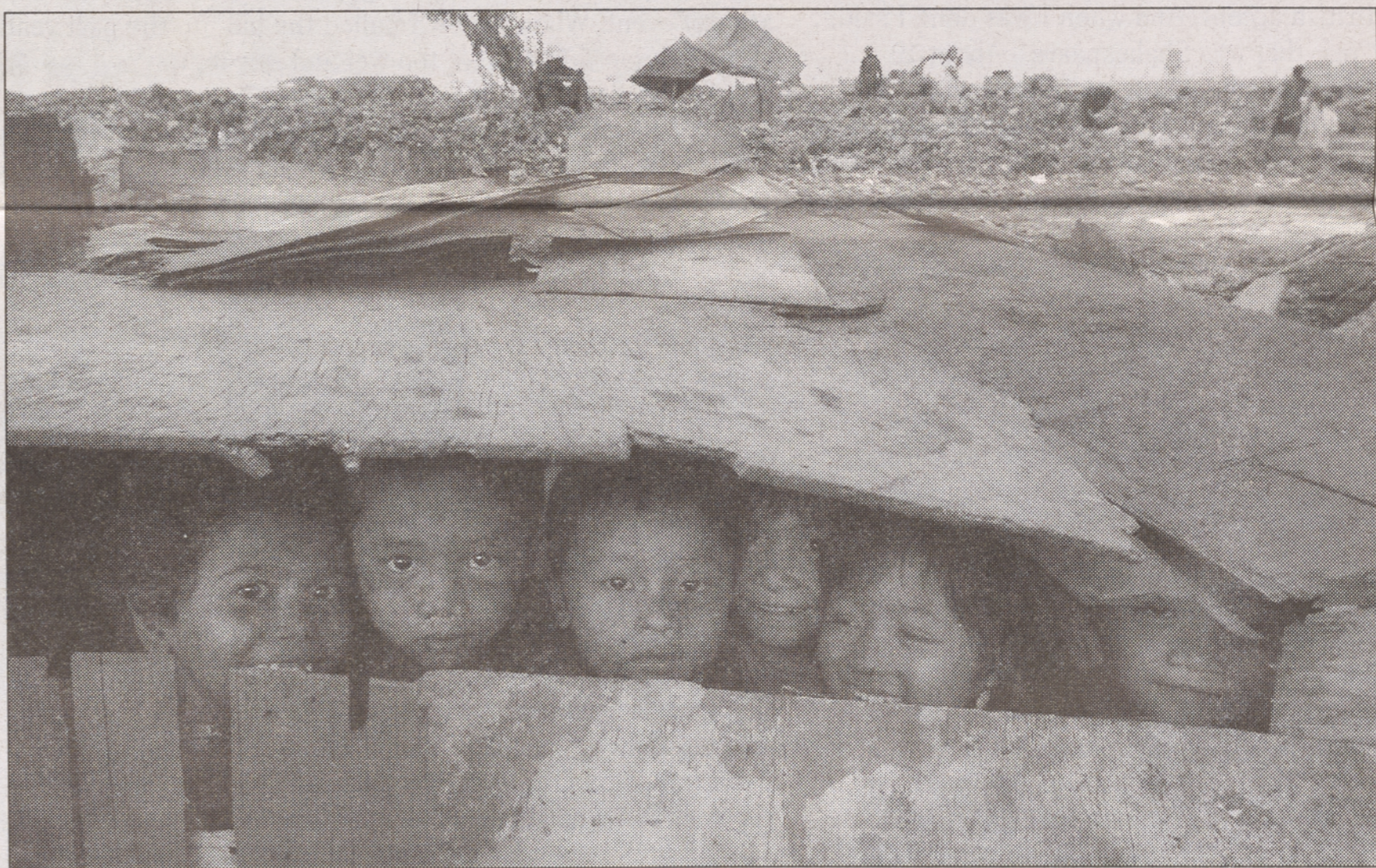
REUTERS/DARREN WHITESIDE

Polluted playgrounds

Photographers document the striking conditions in which impoverished children of the world play

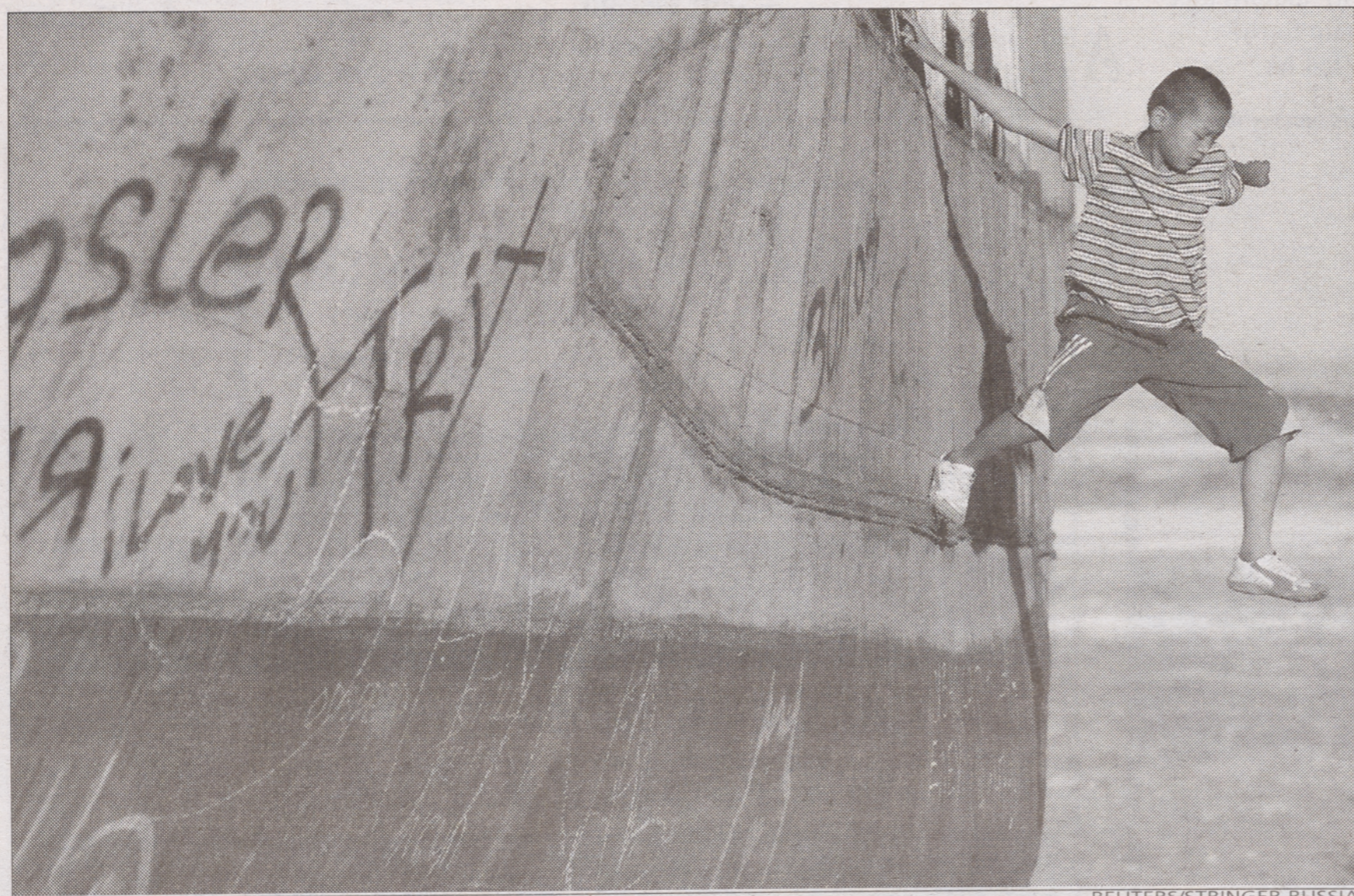
Children will resiliently find places to play, even if the locations are heavily polluted. This is a daily reality for millions of children living in poverty around the world.

For kids growing up in the slums of Jakarta, their local swimming pools are polluted rivers swamped with floating food containers, animal carcasses and dirty water. In dump sites in the Philippines, little girls construct makeshift playhouses out of waste iron. For others looking for toys, they have to sweep the slums and garbage dumps in Pakistan and India. But these filthy playgrounds are also nurseries for a host of diseases, from cholera to malaria and tuberculosis. Here are part of a collection of photos by multiple photographers showing the environments many youth around the world have as a playground.



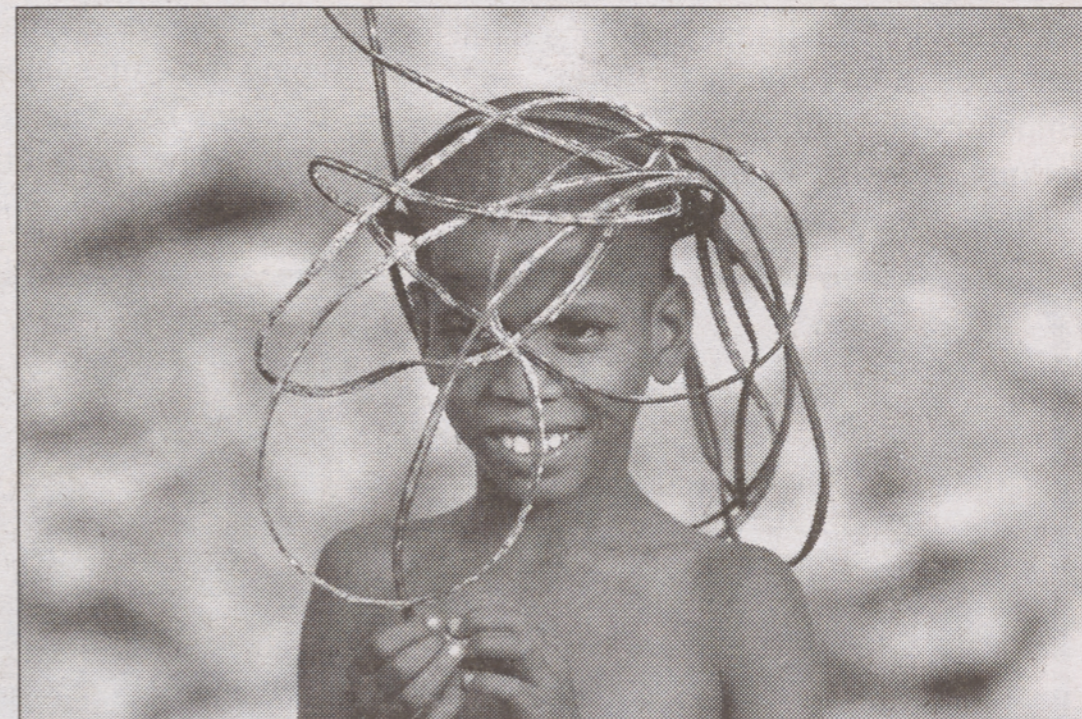
REUTERS/ENNY NURAHENI

Children living at a dump site play in a toy house they constructed out of debris in Tondo, Metro Manila, Indonesia.



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A boy jumps off a derelict boat in the former Aral Sea port of Aralsk in Kazakhstan. Lower right, a boy swims in polluted water to beat the heat in the western Yemeni city of Hajja. Upper right, a boy looks on as he collects recyclable materials at a garbage dump in New Delhi.



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REUTERS/KHALED ABDULLAH ALI AL MAHDI