

Man's best friend with sense of law-abiding duty

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Canine potential is largely underestimated in local society, but the canines of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) dog squad would prove the extent of canine efficiency that goes beyond humans.

Originating in 2004 from a section of the police dog squad for security and detecting explosives, arms and narcotics, the Rab dog squad comprise of Labradors and German shepherds of both genders. The Labradors are of British origin while the German shepherds are German.

"These species have a detecting by smell capacity from a distance of 10 to 15 metres and a depth of two feet unlike local species," said Captain Md. Mizanur Rahman, assistant director of the squad, adding that the dogs could jump up three to four feet high.

An average adult German shepherd is 62-65 cm tall and weigh between 35-40 kg whereas an average adult Labrador is 55 cm tall and weigh between 28-30 kg. The life span of a dog is 12-15 years. The breeding season is between March-April and September-October. A female can give birth to 6-8 puppies

Training begin when the dogs are six months. Initially they are familiarised to the smell of food and gradually to explosives, arms and narcotics. Individual dogs specialise in a single type of smell. Scratching at a specific location indicates that something has been detected

at a time.

Males and females are segregated after breeding as excessive breeding could lead to a lower efficiency level. Cross breeding is restricted for the same reason.

Dogs on the verge of retirement or suffering from incurable diseases are disposed through euthanasia and the deceased dogs are buried in a graveyard within the premises. There are 46 dogs, 40 kennels, 12 trainers and two veterinarians at present. Each kennel has a fan and an attached balcony to ensure air, sunlight and walking space.

The fans ensure a certain level of temperature, as the dogs are accustomed to living in cold climates. They are subjected to

regular medical check ups and bathed after 15 days and kennels cleaned regularly.

Local nutritionists devise the canine diet comprise of bread, eggs, cod liver oil, boiled meat and vegetables. Every dog is fed according to age, weight and height. Puppies that do not have access to the mother's milk are fed with formulated canine milk.

The dogs also have individual names engraved on their collars. A Rab officer was seen chasing Boxy, a German shepherd of five-months, who was out of a leash. Poppet, an eight-year old Labrador, barked at this correspondent but quietened after an officer cautioned her and said 'no' in an assuring tone.

"They do not bite unless we ask

them," said a Rab officer and explained it as gesturing at a targeted individual and uttering 'attack'. Jess, another eight-year old Labrador, was being treated for skin disease at the vet clinic.

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A dog's day begins at 5:30 am when they are served breakfast. They are exercised between 6:00 and 6:40 and then groomed and rested. By 8:00 am, the adult dogs go out on duty at various locations while the pups stay behind.



Rab's dog squad at work. They are mostly used to prevent any subversive activities at big public gatherings.

The harness on their backs gives the dogs a hint that they are on active duty.

"Sometimes they have to be

woken up in the middle of the night for the sake of duty," said Rahman. Sterilization is not yet being implemented as the authorities

intend to increase the number of dogs. "We imported 10 German shepherds and we intend to bring

more Labradors to produce pure breeds," Rahman added.



A waterlogged Aminbazar bridge at Gabtoli is a common sight whenever it rains.

Purbachal housing project

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plot winner and a Samity leader seeking anonymity.

"They make such claims just to save their skin," he added.

Corruption, financial misappropriation, irregularities and lack of commitment reign over this housing project, he said.

"Certain officials manage to get posted to this project just to make money or grab a plot by whatever means," he further said.

There is no legal expertise to take care of various legal aspects particularly in matter of land acquisition, he said, adding that a legal expert may put an end to raging malpractice on the project.

A top Rajuk official termed its chairman's expectation of handing over 1,000 plots by October as a fantasy.

"A major reason behind delay in project implementation is the inefficiency of the project director (PD)," said the Rajuk official. "PD for such township development projects is usually employed from Rajuk. But in this case, the PD has come from the public Works depart-

ment (PWD)," he added.

The present PD is the third. Two previous PDs of Purbachal, also from PWD, were simply removed on charges of inefficiency and irregularities, with no punishment, he said.

But a PD employed from Rajuk would have to explain his failure and face punishment.

Rajuk sources said that project officials are too busy making a business out of plot allotment. They indulge in buying low-priced plots meant for affected residents in the project area and then sell them at a higher price to some other buyers.

Though affected residents within the project area have been compensated accordingly, the PD has not been able to evict many of the occupants.

When asked about the project progress Abdus Sadeq, the PD said: "It is strictly prohibited to divulge any information to the media."

Regarding the allegations against him, Sadeq said: "May be someone wants this position. I certainly have no longing for this post."

"The more one works the more allegations will be" he added.

"Why should we evict those that we don't need to?" he said, "We have employed an NGO to move the duly-compensated occupying inhabitants elsewhere and undertake work on some rehabilitation programmes for them," he said.

The Purbachal project, about 16 kilometres away from the city, is located between Rugganj of Narayanganj district and Kaliganj of Gazipur district.

There are plots of 10, 7.5, 5 and 3 katha plots on the project. Government price of each of 10-katha plots is Tk 20 lakhs, 7.5-katha Tk12.37 lakhs, 5-katha Tk 8.05 and 3-katha plots Tk 4.5 lakhs respectively.

Rajuk has so far allotted 12,549 3-katha plots, 1,044 5-katha plots, 1,556 plots of 7.5-katha and 1,156 10-katha plots.

Believed to be the largest planned housing and urbanisation project in the country, uncertainty looms over Purbachal's utility service systems with still Rajuk negotiating with the agencies concerned to take responsibility.

Parents' desperate cry

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"If the killers are not arrested and punished, they may kill my younger son too," Khaer said adding that unknown callers threatened his family of dire consequences if they raised voice about Masum's death.

Khaer mentioned a dispute with Iqbal Hossain Likhon, chairman of Nilkomol union of Charfashion upazila in Bhola. He alleged that Likhon and someone in Dhaka may have used Detective Branch (DB) men to kill Masum to take revenge on his family. The father wonders whether a Tk 26.9 lakh money suit brought by him against Likhon and some police officials might be a reason behind his son's death.

He added that a fair investigation cannot be carried out without arresting the prime accused Iqbal Hossain Likhon, chairman of Nilkamal Union Parishad in Charfashion of Bhola, and nine personnel of the then DB-4.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

Hospitals

Anjuman-e-Mofidul Islam 9336611, 7411660
BARDEM 8616641-50
Cholera Hospital (ICDDR) 8811751-60
CMH (Dhaka) 9870011
Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital 8628612-6
Holy Family Red Crescent 8311721-5
Islamia Eye Hospital 9119315, 8112156
Lion Eye Hospital 9129127
Medinova Medical Services 8620353-4
Mirpur General Hospital (Pvt) Ltd 9007873, 8015444
Mitford Hospital 7319002-6
National Heart Foundation Hospital 8014914, 8010491, 8021399
Orthopedic Hospital 9112150

Salimullah Medical College Hospital 7319002-6
Samorita Hospital 9131901
Shahid Suhrawardi Hospital 9122560-78, 9112086, 8114856, 9130800
Shishu Hospital 8116061-2, 9119119

Clinics

Akand Clinic 8015855, 8022581
Aroggaya Niketan 9333730
BAVS Maternity 8016413-4
Dhaka Monorog Clinic 9005050
Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic 8822738, 8812992
Ibn Sina Clinic 8119513
Jahanara Clinic (Pvt) Ltd 8912929
Judi Maternity 9113322
Paltan Poly Clinic 9557385
Retina Eye Center (Clinic) 9884588, 9884566
Shishu Bekash Clinic 9351625

The Eye Clinic 9333238

Blood Bank

Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022
Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9

Eye Bank

Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040

Ambulances For

Dead Body

Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,
Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

MARKET CLOSED

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
 Elephant Road-Friday
 Bishal Center-Friday
 Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday
 Polwell Market-Friday
 BCS Computer City-Friday
 Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
 Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday
 Stadium Market-Friday
 Bangabazar Market-Friday
 National Museum-Thursday
 Ahsan Manzil-Thursday.
 New Market-Tuesday
 Gausia Market-Tuesday
 Mouchak Market-Sunday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Eastern Plaza-Sunday
 Farmview Super Market-Sunday
 Muktiyudha Jadughar-Sunday
 Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
 Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

Passenger's Complaint

01711-000990, 01711-000991, 01711-000992, DMP-999, 2627.
Cab Salida Ltd. 9344477, 01711-620888, 01711-610405
Cosmo Cab Ltd. 9112959, 8127191,
Nitol Cab Co. Ltd. 8125285, 01711-621953
JBS Cab Ltd. 0191-364575
Coal Cab Ltd 8130485, 01711-826731
Limujin Cab Ltd. 9318351, 9337204
Multi-Cab Ltd. 9666502, 9570740
Nihon Taxi Cab Ltd. 8624742,
 8624741
Orion Taxi Cab Ltd. 934727, 9347277, 01711-155144
Reliance Cab Ltd. 9339563-4
RMS Cab Ltd. 8118536
Shatarupa Taxi Cab Ltd. 731083, 01711-458740
Tinni Cab Ltd. 9662009, 01711-645257
Telex Cab Ltd. 7202201
Alif Cab Co. Ltd. 0191-357838, 83116948
Cab One Ltd. 9563054 Ext.-3077, 3178
United Cab Ltd. 7510166, 01711-

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm
Mahanagar Prabhati Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am
Mahanagar Godhuli Leaves Dhaka at 3:15 pm
Turna Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm
Parabat Express Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
Joyantika Express Leaves Dhaka at 12:45 pm
Upaban Express Leaves Dhaka at 9:45 pm
Tista Express Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am
Ekata Express Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm
Upakul Express Leaves Dhaka at 8:00 pm
Agnibeena Express Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

348474
Ulka Express Ltd. 9359885, 01711-313554
Cab Bangla Ltd. 9563077 Ext.-3054, 3178, 01711-622644
Cab i Ltd. 9563054, 9563077, 01711-629585
Cab line Ltd. 8321162
Capital Cab Co. Ltd. 9352847-9
Classic Cab Ltd. 200825, 01711-233851, 01711-812415
Comport Cab Ltd. 8817610-4
Cab Express Ltd. 9341369, 9339337, 9348401 Ext.-111

Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 1:55 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 10:55 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 6:40 am
 Reaches Sylhet at 2:30 pm
 Reaches Sylhet at 9:20 pm
 Reaches Sylhet at 6:40 am
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 1:05 pm
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 11:15
 Reaches Noakhali at 5:00 am
 Reaches Jagannath at 2:30 pm

LIBRARY & INFO

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers

Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
Information Resource Center, The American Center- 8813440-4, 9886395-9
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8850141-2
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412
Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4