

Dhaka Day by Day

Hospital for Animals

by Raffat Binte Rashid

The scene is like any other in many ordinary surgical theatres — (OT). Lights, trays with surgical equipment, that familiar smell of medicine, a surgeon, an anesthesiologist, an attendant, all concentrating on the operation, while the near ones are tensed outside.

A slight though important difference between this particular OT and others is the patients themselves. Instead of a man or a woman on the operating table, it is a Frisian baby cow, having a hernia removed or a horse which works in the film industry having a tumor removed. The scene, similar or somewhat like this is a regular feature in the central Veterinary Hospital, informs Veterinary Surgeon Dr A K M Monirul Huq. "This place is something like the medical college hospital but for animals. Here on a everyday basis we treat or see about



300 to 400 patients, approximately," he says.

Dogs barking, cows mooing, chickens wrapped up in jute bags, looking helplessly for doctors, as if saying "look, we are here and sick, so help us." You will see young girls or boys along with their fathers, asking frantically for doctors. "My dog is not eating a thing, doc, you have to come, with us." And off goes the surgeon, with his bag, on a house call.

"Doctor, that small abscess on my cow, has ruptured" or "my cow has a hernia or an enlarged gland" are constant complaints. Doctors at this hospital either prescribe injections, which is the preferred medium of medicine administered for animals or tablets or even set up operation dates, or early as possible.

"Unlike humans, animals don't talk, or rather we don't understand their screams, so diagnosis entirely depends on the owners' complaint, their previous history, some clinical findings like blood tests, urine, feces or milk test and some times report of their postmortem help others, says Dr Huq, a young surgeon very dedicated to his profession.

"Usually we don't have patients who come here for regular check-ups, only the ones which are very sick," he says. Generally the morning hours are the busiest in the hospital but the number of patients vary from season to season. It increases specially after a cyclone or any other climatic disaster. "Patients from all over the country come here when need be," he explains. They have few serious cases in the hospital like a horse with cancer, a dog that is dying of some dermatological complications. Recently a few cases of African horse sickness, a deadly disease, in horses have been reported.

"Many animal diseases are at times contagious and humans become infected," Dr Huq says. "Like Toxoplasmosis, a disease in female cats and dogs also affects human and leads to abortion cases too. Then rabies; all warm blooded animals are susceptible to it and humans can get it quite easily. Anthrax in cattle is a deadly bacterial disease that leads to rapid death. Moreover many viral infections of different forms are epidemic," he reports.

"Ours is a very honourable job and I think people who are vets, take up the profession mostly because of their love and affection for animals," he says.

"There are professional hazards as well, like when you go to the zoo, to attend wild animals like tigers or lions, you are really in serious problem then. You study the patients from outside the cage and enter only after the animal is shot by a tranquilizer gun. Then again, you are sure to be kicked by sick cattle or bitten by dogs," he says laughing.

The hospital, though not particularly clean has a chief Veterinary Officer, who holds the same rank as Deputy Director. He has a Veterinary Officer or Assistant Director, under whom two additional veterinary officers, one dealing with equipment and another with medicine.

work. There are seven veterinary surgeons, one pathologist, one radiologist and one anesthesiologist in the hospital. These doctors attend to all types of animals.

The hospital, which stands on three and half acres of land, was initially Sir Salimullah's horse stable. But that was back in 1918 and two years later in 1920, he transformed the stable into an animal hospital. Though the original small building, in Kazi Alauddin Road, is now a mosque, the hospital has been extended to accommodate the growing need, in the same premises.

There are a few operation theatres, a pathology, a radiology, a ward, rather a stable for the large animals, like horses, cows. "We have 24 hours' service, round the clock, there are resident doctors at night and even on holidays," Huq informs. These surgeons are all general practitioners since in Bangladesh there is no scope to specialize in any particular type of animals, small or large.

Huq graduated in Veterinary Medicine in 1989 but started practicing in 1991. "After passing the HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate) level, we go through a four years graduation course, a one year M Sc and one and a half years of MS Course and if anyone wants to continue further to Ph D degree, Agricultural University awards the certificate," Huq informs.

After completing the necessary education, doctors either set up their own farms, clinics or become private practitioners while others opt for a government job, sit for BCS examination and get appointed in the Livestock Cadre. "But the biggest drawback in our proper development of Livestock is the degree that is awarded to us. The degrees, Animal Husbandry and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, which are at present two different degrees, should be combined as one and even fisheries should be included."

There are people he continues who come to them not only for prescriptions but for advice as well. "When they ask questions on nutrition or other things and we cannot exactly advise, then our degree seems inadequate," he points out. Every thana has a Veterinary Hospital and recently further expansions, at district and division level are being considered.



Ayesha Khanam speaking at a CEDAW workshop at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday. Also seen are Dr Hamida Akhtar Banu and Salma Khanam. — Star photo.

Govt urged to curb religious extremists

By Staff Correspondent

Commitment, an NGO, has urged the government to curb the religious extremists for the greater national interest.

At a press conference in the city yesterday, the leaders of the organization called upon the government to reflect the actual position of Bangladesh by actively taking part in the upcoming Cairo Conference.

The press conference was organized at the Jatiya Press Club to protest, what the organizer claimed, the conspiracy by exploiters of religion to foil the UN-sponsored Population Conference which begins in the Egyptian capital Cairo from September 5.

Commitment president Abul Kalam Azad and adviser Saiful Islam Talukder, spoke at the press conference.

The Commitment leaders observed that because of some activities by an identified group of religious fanatics inside the country, the image of Bangladesh has been smeared.

The international media have already reported that Bangladesh has been identified as a "fundamentalist country," they said.

The Bangladesh missions abroad have been struggling hard to restore the image, they added.

"So, it has become imperative that the traders in religion be controlled to safeguard true Islamic values as well as continue the process of development," said Azad.

The Commitment leaders called upon the United Nations to make the Cairo Conference successful.

They also urged all UN member states to participate in the conference.

PM donates ambulance to Anjuman-e-Mafidul

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has donated an ambulance to Anjuman-e-Mafidul Islam, reports UNB.

Begum Zia handed over the key of the ambulance to A B M Golam Kibria, president of the humanitarian organisation, at her office yesterday.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain, who is the patron of the organisation, was present on the occasion.

4:30	Opening
4:45	Esho Gaan Shukhi
5:10	News in Bangla
5:25	National Television School Debate
6:30	Esho Para Shikhi: Mass Education
7:00	SAARC Audio/Visual Exchange Programme
7:25	Nazrul Songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Drama of the week Bolona Biday
10:00	News in English
10:30	Mini Series: Marcopolo
11:30	Khubar/The News



Visiting Secretary General of Rabitat al-Alam al-Islami Dr Ahmed Mohammad Ali called on Religious Affairs Minister Mohammad Keramat Ali at the latter's office in the city yesterday. — PID photo

JCD leader stabbed in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 31: A pro-BNP JCD leader of Chittagong Polytechnic Institute was stabbed by a group of terrorists on Tuesday.

According to a JCD press release, the leader Humayun Kabir was forcibly taken by the terrorists at gunpoint to the Chittagong college hostel where he was beaten up and stabbed.

The miscreants fled the scene leaving him unconscious. Later, some college students took him to a private clinic.

Meanwhile, JCD supporters held a rally to protest the attack and blamed the activists of Chhatra Shibir for the incident.

The rally, presided over by the president of JCD polytechnic institute unit, SM Rab, demanded immediate arrest of the attackers.

Weather

Thundershower likely

Temporary light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely at many places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna divisions, at a few places over Dhaka division and at one or two places over Rajshahi division during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says no appreciable change in day temperature is expected during the period across the country.

Meantime, Satkhira experienced the highest 30 mm rain yesterday.

Country's highest temperature 34.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Bogra and the lowest 23.6 degrees at Bhola.

Sun sets today (Thursday) at 6:17 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5:40 am.

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.2	24.0	90	78
Chittagong	32.8	25.0	92	90
Rajshahi	32.7	27.2	80	78
Khulna	31.6	26.5	85	95
Barisal	31.3	25.0	85	76
Sylhet	32.6	25.8	90	63
Cox's Bazar	-	24.8	-	84

Country needs 38 lakh tons of fish every year

Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday emphasised the need for scientific pisciculture in the country to meet deficiencies of 30 lakh tons of fish required annually, reports BSS.

"We need 38 lakh tons of fish per year for our internal consumption, while we produce 8 to 10 lakh tons," he added.

The Chief Whip was addressing as chief guest at a meeting of the pisciculturists and the local elite on the concluding day of the Fish Fortnight 94.

Khandaker Delwar said, "We have a natural broad-based sweet and saline water bodies which are suitable for pisciculture and the government is committed to overcome all bottlenecks in this regard."

"We could, on the one hand, earn huge foreign currency re-

quired for strengthening the national economy and, on the other hand, we could solve our gigantic unemployment problems through adopting modern methods of pisciculture, he said.

He called upon all to do everything possible for the expansion of this vital sector which could alone help boost our economy.

Arrangements are being made for national awards to the best pisciculturists, he added.

The Chief Whip distributed certificates to the best pisciculturists who showed extraordinary performances in the fish fortnight.

Earlier, he presided over the best relief coordination committee meeting at the DC's conference room and evaluated the progress of work.

'Women must strive to improve their lot'

Information Minister

Barrister Nazmul Huda yesterday said the framing of laws and formulating of policy options alone will not suffice for the promotion of womenfolk. Rather, the women themselves need to come forward through social mobilisation for their own empowerment, reports BSS.

He said this at the inaugural session of a day-long workshop on "The Role of Media to Implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)" at the National Museum in the city.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman, Canadian High Commissioner John J Scott, UNDP representative Michael Constable, convenor of the CEDAW Forum Salma Khan and General Secretary of the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Ayesha Khanam also spoke on the occasion.

The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the CEDAW convention in 1979 and so far 130 countries including Bangladesh have signed it.

Nazmul Huda said the status of women in society is one of the main indicators of development and, therefore, the Constitution guarantees the equality of women in all

spheres of state and public life.

He said, the present government has taken up various action programmes and brought about legislative changes to give an institutional shape to the rights and role of women in national life.

The minister said women are also being given special credit to facilitate their self-employment as well as for the development of their entrepreneurial skills.

Barrister Huda said, "We are not at all complacent for what we have so far achieved in the women front," and observed that the female population was still the most vulnerable group in the society.

He urged the media to play its due role for ensuring women's rightful position in the society by promoting their development and generating awareness in this regard.

Speaking on the occasion Begum Sarwari Rahman termed the CEDAW convention as a valuable document in the history of universal human rights.

Canadian High Commissioner Jon Scott said his country favours a 'ladies first' development policy in Bangladesh.

Eimi Watanabe, the UNDP Resident Representative, also spoke. Professor Dr Hamida Akhter also attended.



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Re-Tender for Purchase of Computer Hardware, Software & Peripherals

Signed and sealed quotations are invited from the reputed Suppliers/Dealers for supplying Computer Hardware and Peripherals. Proshika intends to procure one Novell certified File Server, around 14 PC workstations, 03 Apple Mac, 09 Printers, 15 UPS, some software and required networking peripherals. All the above hardware and peripherals will be installed at its central office in Dhaka.

Tender schedule with detail specifications can be collected from the following address from Accounts Section on payment of Tk. 100/- Schedule should be collected from 01/9/94 to 05/9/94 between 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The quotations should be dropped in the Tender Box kept at Reception latest by 10:45 a.m. on or before 06/9/94 which will be opened at 11:00 a.m. on the same day. The tenderer or their authorised representatives may be present at the time of opening of tenders. The organization reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the quotations without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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