



Stray dogs lie around posing health risk to city population.

DCC to kill stray dogs

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The DCC has targeted to exterminate around three lakh stray dogs this year. According to DCC sources, the corporation kills 40 street dogs a day on an average.

"It is necessary to contain the dog population to safeguard public health," said DCC's public health official Dr Mizanur Rahman. "If we are not able to control the existing dog population as well as the breeding, it can become a major problem for the city's environment," he added.

DCC officials said stray dogs can spread rabies, skin diseases, hookworms, liver cyst and mite. The critical period to check dog population is when

they give birth to puppies, which is twice a year.

DCC sources claimed that many dogs enter the city from rural areas. Although it has no funds allocated for trapping stray dogs, the corporation manages to run its dog-control activities with help from other departments. The DCC has three workers each in two teams that move around the city to trap and kill stray dogs. A dog-trapper gets Tk 20 for each catch. Officials claimed that 40 to 50 dogs are killed a day during the drives that usually start at night. Trapped dogs are dumped and buried at the dumping site in Demra. The dog-trappers get their allowances on submitting the tails of the dogs.

According to DCC's dog abating division, it had trapped and killed 20,170 stray dogs last year. But officials of the division said that breeding check is more important than killing adult dogs as each female dog can give birth to a number of puppies at a time.

The DCC's drives against stray dogs take place almost every day. Sometimes, dog-catching teams launch special drives on receiving complaints from residents. Officials said three to four complaints are received daily.

"We often face problems in catching dogs due to lack of enough manpower. If we conduct a drive in one area this week, ideally our team should visit the same area within the next two weeks. But we are unable to do that before three or four months," said Dr. Rahman.

Children suffering for unplanned habitation

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

Housewife Shamima Hasan feels helpless in controlling her six-year-old son Akash.

"I do not understand what is wrong with him. He has become irritable and unfriendly ever since we moved into this small apartment in a new neighbourhood," she said.

But this is not an isolated case with Akash. A good number of children are being affected both mentally and physically by unplanned habitation in the city.

"The architectural designs of houses in Dhaka of yesteryears showed the harmony between people and nature with gardens, open spaces and low boundary walls," said architect Md. Rafiq Azam. "Nowadays the houses lack a sensitive plan to accommodate greenery, daylight and wind which are the basic requirements of healthy living. The boundary walls have also gone up due to security reasons."

Child psychologists say a proper living place moulds the personality of a child as he grows up. But as people are compelled to live in small apartments these days, the environment is not letting children to develop in harmony with nature. Moreover, lack of socialisation also affects their mental growth leading to ignorance of social,

moral and human values.

Kazi Mansurul Quader, an expatriate psychotherapist who is now in Dhaka, said mental diseases are caused not only from genetic reasons but also by environmental influence.

"The present environment in the city compels most parents into not allowing their kids to step out of the house without an escort. When a child adopts the idea that there is danger outside, it tightens his muscles and he seeks to be protected. Gradually, it creates a hostile attitude in him towards everyone," said Quader.

Unplanned habitation causes medical problems for children of every section of the society, said Professor Manzur Hossain of Dhaka Shishu Hospital.

"Children living in slums fall sick due to lack of proper sanitation, drinking water and other facilities while children growing up in apartments suffer due to the congested living area and lack of playgrounds," he said.

Children may suffer from pneumonia, acute respiratory infection, bronchial asthma, fungal infection and other skin diseases if their houses lack enough sunlight. Also congested rooms easily contaminate diseases like chicken pox, tuberculosis, cholera among family members, especially children, said Professor Monzur. He also added that lack of

vegetation increases Co2 (carbon-di-oxide) in houses resulting in various respiratory diseases among children.

"Everybody is aware of these facts but it is beyond our means to provide ideal living for our children. Even the thought of renting an apartment with a small facing balcony, small

garden and enough playing area is unimaginable let alone buying it," said Samiul Islam who works in a private company.

However, architects said proper utilisation of space can still ensure all the basic requirements of healthy living.

"There can be a patch of green and enough sunlight and

air if houses are designed properly," said Rafiq Azam. He cited the example of a building located at Khajedewan in the old part of the city where 14 families have been accommodated. "It has enough air and sunlight coming in and it also has miniature gardens," he said.



The city becoming a concrete jungle without any room or green for children.

Bangla Motor: A risky spot for pedestrians

IMRUL HASAN

Pedestrians are facing a serious problem in crossing the

road at Bangla Motor intersection as there is no foot overbridge in this busy spot.

Thousands of people coming from different directions cross

the intersection every day risking their lives. They have no alternative to crossing the road on foot as rickshaws are not allowed to pass the intersection.

"This is a very busy spot. We cross the road with high risk," said Rehana Sultana, a housewife of Moghbazar who goes to Hatirpool kitchen market every day.

Another housewife from Kanthalagan said, "I have to take my kids to school at Eskaton every day... It is very dangerous to cross Bangla Motor with children as there is no over-bridge at the intersection."

The on-duty policemen also said there must be a foot overbridge at the point as sometimes they fail to control the pedestrians who often lose patience and cross the road risking their lives when the red light is on.

Sources at Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) said the construction work of a foot overbridge at the intersection started in 2003 under the financial assistance of World Bank but the work was stopped following objections by the owners of nearby buildings.

"Two years ago the owners of



The Bangla Motor intersection is badly in need of a crossing point to avoid risks.

healthouting,taxicab&taintiming

HEALTH



Hospitals

Heart

National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 9122560-59

Burn

Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Burn Unit-8626812-6

Cancer

National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8826561-65, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9

Diabetes

Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM)- 9661551-5, 8616641-50

Mother & Child Care

Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62, Azimpur Mother & Child Health Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980

Eye

Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315, National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807

Dental

Dental College -9002035

Orthopaedics

National Orthopaedics (Pangu) Hospital- 9114075, 9112150

General

Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6, Rushmoni General Hospital- 8317819

Holy Family Hospital-

83111731-25

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital-

8612550-4, 8614545-9

Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital-

8115443, 9118202,

Shamrata Hospital- 9131901, Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800,

Eye Bank

Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040

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,

Yellow Cab

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.

Blood Bank

Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday, Stadium Market-Friday, Bangabazar Market-Friday, National Museum-Thursday, Ahsan Manzil-Thursday, New Market-Tuesday

Eye Bank

Gausia Market-Tuesday, Mouchak Market-Sunday, Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday

Ambulances For Dead Body

Farmview Super Market-Sunday, Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday, Dhaka Zoo-Sunday, Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

Union 8130485, Kool 0171826731, Black Cab

Cab Ex 9358401, Cabline 8321162, Nihon 8624741-2, Orion 9347277, Anudip 8125285 and 8127611, Capital 9352847

Yellow Cab

Subarna Express, Mahanagar Prabhati, Mahanagar Godhuli, Turna, Parabat Express, Joyantika Express, Upabon Express, Tista Express, Ekata Express, Upakul Express, Agnibeena Express

Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm, Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am, Leaves Dhaka at 3-15 pm, Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm, Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am, Leaves Dhaka at 12:45 pm, Leaves Dhaka at 9:45 pm, Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am, Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm, Leaves Dhaka at 8:00 pm, Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

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 pm, Reaches Bahadurabad at 1:05 pm, Reaches Bahadurabad at 11:15 pm, Reaches Noakhali at 5:00 am, Reaches Jagannath at 2:30 pm

LIBRARIES, CULTURAL AND INFORMATION CENTERS

Central Public Library- 8626001-4, Shishu Academy- 9564128, Shilpkala 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

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express, Mahanagar Prabhati, Mahanagar Godhuli, Turna, Parabat Express, Joyantika Express, Upabon Express, Tista Express, Ekata Express, Upakul Express, Agnibeena Express