

# The pet doctor and his clinic

SHARMIN MEHRIBAN

As you move up the stairs on the building at the rear end of the DCC market at Gulshan 2, you would be taken aback by the sight of a lying dog or any other animal being injected with saline.

The initial shock would give way to relief once you see a signboard flashing 'Gulshan Pet-Animal Clinic'. On the right of that signboard is a small room where veterinarian Dr Md Azmat Ali sits.

"I started this clinic in 1990. I have all the equipment in there," said Ali, pointing to a cupboard behind him.

"The syringes are disposed after use but the surgery materials are sterilised by boiling," added Ali.

The clinic offers vaccination, pathology, general treatment and surgery of birds, reptiles, fishes and animals all in a single room. It also treats domestic animals like goats.

A few packets of pedigree food lie on top of the cupboard. There is a showcase containing collars,

chains, shampoos, combs and medicines. Vaccines are stored in a refrigerator.

All the surgical equipment are Pakistani while the medicines are local, Indian and French. Local medicines such as cefprozil, saline and dextrose are fit for both animals and human. The combs and shampoos to rid canine and feline of fleas.

"Animals suffer diseases similar to humans. Such diseases include diarrhoea, viral infections, drowsiness and gland infection. We perform spaying (removal of uterus and ovaries) for females and castration for males. These are meant to avoid procreation," said Ali.

Ali said pet shops are the main source of all animal diseases as different species are kept there in a congested environment. The irony is that such species survive as long as they are in pet shops but once they are brought home, they often fall sick and die a few days later.

Local species are less prone to diseases as they can adjust to the local climate. Imported animals on the other hand tend to have a short life span, informed Ali.

Most of his patients are dogs of the Doberman or Rottweiler breed. "Sometimes dog owners want me to 'dock' their dogs which is the term used for cutting short a dog's tail for beautifying."

Apart from medical treatment, the clinic offers euthanasia or painless killing. This is authorised by the government and is implemented when animals suffer from incurable or painful diseases, pose health hazards to others around it or when owners cannot afford treatment.

"Sometimes dogs become mentally retarded and start biting people. The treatment of a dog tends to be expensive but despite that owners would rather have their pets killed painlessly than have them thrown out," explained Ali.

Euthanasia is done by initially

anaesthetising the animal and then injecting magnesium sulphate into its heart.

Certain pet owners tend to throw their deceased pets into dustbins but the clinic recommends them to bury their pets to avoid environmental pollution.

Awareness towards animals has increased over the years, according to Ali. Initially he treated pets belonging to foreigners or the local elite. But currently, even the upper middle-class own pets.

"I own a cat," said Ali. The cost of vaccination ranges between Tk 300 - 1,400. Ali's assistant Siddique is available for housecalls but pet owners have to pay extra for that service. Tubectomy and castration rates are between Tk 1,000 - 3,000 depending on the required amount of anaesthesia. Docking costs Tk 600 and euthanasia between Tk 500 - 800 according to the level of anaesthesia.



A house-dog been attended to at the clinic in Gulshan,

# Biman losing trust of C&F agencies



The cargo terminal at Zia International Airport.

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

Smaller freight forwarding agencies of the city have started preferring foreign carriers to Biman Bangladesh Airlines reportedly due to the rampant corruption in the national flag carrier.

"Big companies are always served better by Biman authorities as they can pay the hefty bribes to the supervisors of the cargo department. This corruption, that has existed for the last decade or so in the cargo department, is making survival difficult for most of the small agencies," said Wahidullah, owner of a freight-forwarding agency.

Wahidullah claimed that bribery was a must to please the supervisors of the cargo department.

"An agency has to reserve space on cargo planes and invariably big freight forwarding agencies get preferential treatment as they pay hefty sums to officers of the space booking section. Most of these officials make over Tk two to three lakh a month. Because of this reason, most small companies are eliminated from the queue as they cannot afford to offer the same kind of money," said Wahidullah.

The next round of harassment occurs during the sealing of the goods.

"Each Duty officer in this section charges around Tk three per kg of cargo that needs to be sealed properly," said Tareq, a freight forwarding agent.

Tareq pointed out that freight forwarding agents, who have mutual understanding with the duty officers, usually get away by paying Tk one or two per kg.

"Most of the time the cargo would not fly on the desired date if the duty officers are not satisfied with the payment," said another freight forwarding agent.

The staff at the gates of the cargo section also charge around Tk 10 - 50 while issuing gate passes to the agents.

"Even the typists who prepare the bills for the agents, demand around Tk 80-120 for each bill," said Kamrul, an agent.

Agents also complained about the cargo department's 'extra service' for members of the vegetable exporters association.

"Biman had been a very reliable channel through which all kinds of goods could be sent without any hassle. But at present the organisation is giving more priority towards vegetable and perishable goods rather than the non-perishable ones," said forwarding agent Tareq.

Biman currently uses the DC 10 and the Airbus for its freight service. The aircrafts have capacities of 12 tons of 9 tons respectively.

"Almost 50 percent of the capacity of these carriers are usually reserved for the members of the vegetable exporters association while the rest are for non-perishable goods," said an agent.

"During the peak period for vegetables, which is from July to September and from January to March, non-perishable goods like readymade garments and other items barely received attention. Almost the entire capacity during that period was dedicated to vegetable cargo," he added.

Hasan, another freight forwarding company owner, pointed out that situations become complicated when freight ships, which pick up the vegetable cargo from the Chittagong port, miss a shipment due to strikes or other reasons.

"The vegetable cargo is then forwarded to Biman which sends it over the next few months," said Hasan.

Hasan complained that when such

circumstances arise, the cargo authorities of Biman put the vegetable cargo on planes despite the fact that the space had been reserved by other agencies.

Freight forwarding agencies in general have become frustrated with the corruption of Biman's cargo authority.

"Biman is losing out on huge revenues due to such unethical activities. Most agencies are rapidly switching to foreign carriers," said Wahidullah.

He said that foreign carriers are extremely efficient and reliable as far as the service is concerned.

"These carriers belonging to different airlines like Thai, Emirates, Saudia still follow the 'first come first serve' basis which is a fair process."

S M Mosaddek Hossain, general manager of the cargo department of Biman, however, denied the allegations.

"We tend to focus our efficiency towards our regular and reliable customers to ensure their loyalty. Possibly some agents are mistaking this business aspect of ours as corruption," said Hossain.

Hossain further pointed out that non-perishable goods are given priority as the vegetable exporters are very reliable compared to other exporters.

"Biman's revenue earning increased by 30 percent on an average during the last three years through efficient delivery of non-perishable and perishable items to different parts of the world," he said.

The country currently has around 100 freight forwarding agencies most of which forward freight through road, air and seaways.

"Most companies still prefer the air as it is a lot more convenient and efficient," said a freight forwarding agent.

## useful telephone numbers

### COURIER SERVICES

**International**  
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724  
Air Couriers Int'l (BD) Ltd.- 8815970  
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075  
Airspeed Express- 9563494  
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543  
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606  
Banmgladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114  
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563989  
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666  
Bangladesh Int'l Courier- 953636  
Continental Service Ltd.- 9552948, 9558425  
DHL Worldwide Express- 9881703-7, 9886305-9, 9882057  
Enem Express- 9330699  
Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114  
Modhuban Courier Service-

9550884  
Overseas Courier Service- 9352431, 8321169  
Pacific Courier- 9568446  
Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249  
Sky International service- 9660442  
Skynet world Wide Express- 9558062, 9560258, 7114787, 7113184  
TNT Express- 9566662, 9558239, 8618155  
Union Courier Service- 9341722  
United Parcel Service Air alliance Ltd.- 8826429, 8810223

### National

Asian Courier Service Ltd.- 8313543  
BAE- 9884851  
Central Courier Service- 9881118  
Confidence Courier Service Ltd.- 9567036  
Chisty Courier- 7110177-9,  
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975  
Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222

Dolphin Courier- 9558802  
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975  
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759  
Probashi Courier Services- 9346359  
Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703  
Reliance Express Services- 9558515, 7110249  
Sundarban Courier Services- 9551984, 9556189, 9551656  
Sunrise Courier Services- 9568751  
World Runner Express Ltd. 9112068, Fax - 880-2-9112068

### TIPS

Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site between 4pm and 10pm

### LIBRARY & INFO-

#### Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers

**Central Public Library-** 8626001-4,  
**Shishu Academy-** 9564128  
**Shilpakala Academy-** 8614673  
**Bangla Academy-** 8619550  
**Islamic Foundation-** 9550280, 955640  
**The American Centre (IRC)-** 8813440-4, 9886395  
**The Nazrul Institute-** 9114602  
**Ford Foundation-** 8116133  
**Alliance Francaise-** 8611557  
**British Council-** 8618867-8, 8618905-7  
**Community Development Library-** 8113769, 8113604  
**Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka-** 9126525-6  
**Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library-** 8850141, 8850142  
**The Russian Cultural Centre-** 9116314, 9118531, 9118314  
**Drik Photo Gallery-** 9120125, 8112954, 8123412

### OUTING

#### Museum and Zoo

**National Museum-** 8619396-9  
Open: 10 am - 5 pm, Friday 3 pm - 8 pm, Thursday closed  
**Muktijuddha Jadughar-** 9559091  
Open: 10:30 am - 6:30 pm, Sunday Closed  
**Bangabandhu Smiti Jadughar-** 8110046  
Open: 10 am - 5 pm, Wednesday closed  
**Ahsan Manzil**  
Open: 10 am - 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed  
**Shishu Jadughar-** 9666466  
Open: 10 am - 6 pm, Sunday Closed

### CITY BUS ROUTE

Bus No.	Route	Starts from
1	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12	Golap Shah Mazar
2	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2	Phoolbaria bus station
3	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur	Phoolbaria bus station
4	Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi	Shyampur
5	Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur	Sayedabad
6 A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6 C	Motijheel Shapla chattr- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2	Motijheel Shaplachattr
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gaboli	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahall
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biswa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Syedabad
12	Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur	Motijheel
14	Signboard -Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12	Signboard (Chittagong Road)
15	Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12	Chittagong Road
24	Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile	Gulistan