

Editor (The Daily Star)
Mahfuz Anam

Editor (Star Weekend)
(Dilshad) Elita Karim

Staff Writers
Md Shahnawaz Khan Chandan
Fayeka Zabeen Siddiqua
Naziba Basher
Apurba Jahangir
Nilima Jahan

Columnist
Osama Rahman

Staff Photographer
Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo

Graphics & Illustrations
Manan Morshed

Make-up
Md Saiful Islam

General Manager, Production
Selim S H Chowdhury

Published by the Editor from
Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon
Industrial Area, Dhaka on behalf
of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel
C.A., Dhaka-1000.



PHOTO: PON CHAKMA

Into each life some rain must fall.
— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Poet

SNAPSHOT

ANIMAL RIGHTS

Over the past few years, animal welfare and rights have finally become a topic that is being discussed and taken seriously. With *Obhoyaronno - Bangladesh Animal Welfare Foundation* leading the way, many people around the country are increasingly influenced and inspired to save and help animals.

Rescuing has become more frequent among the citizens of Dhaka, and now the compassion is also reaching beyond the confines of the capital. With so many youths now getting involved in animal welfare, or even just rescuing, there are a lot they need to know in order to ensure the best possible care for the animals they are rescuing, starting from providing first aid to managing shelters, and much more.

Rubaiya Ahmad, founder of *Obhoyaronno - Bangladesh Animal Welfare Foundation*, believes that cats and dogs are best left in their localities, unless injured or in dire need of help.

"All the well-established dog owners and lovers make maybe only 1 percent of dog lovers in the country. If we look in the slums and the villages, we will find many, many more. These people not only have big hearts, but carry out their responsibilities accordingly as humans by caring for all creatures – people and animals alike. They do not need to give the animals lavish homes. They leave them be in their own places, and give them the food, the love and the care they require," she says.

Nabila Basher, an avid animal welfare activist, who has worked with *Obhoyaronno - Bangladesh Animal Welfare Foundation*, says "There are rehabilitation centres. *People for Animal Welfare (PAW)* caters to rescues and so does *Care for Paws (CFP)*. Ideally, they only keep sick dogs, not healthy ones, due to limited space, shortage of manpower, and insufficient funds. Not only is it hard work maintaining these animals, but the scorching summer we are experiencing is not making it any easier for them. They are trying their best, and if given the assistance (funds, and later finding homes for the rescued animals) they can and will thrive!"

Currently in Bangladesh there is only one government approved animal shelter – the *ALB Animal Shelter*, located in Mamudpur, Narayanganj. There is reason to believe that there are more shelters scattered across the country, but even though these shelters most definitely help a lot, there is only so much they can do with their limited resources. "I personally think that when someone cannot keep an animal that they rescued, they should at least try their best to find a foster home first, and if all else fails only then should they seek out one of the shelters," says Farhana H Chowdhury, co-founder and CEO of CFP.

She added that the introduction of multiple Facebook animal welfare groups have proved to be very helpful in this case.

One thing that rescuers need to know is that not every animal on the street needs to be 'rescued'.

"If you see a new-born kitten, for example, do not pick it up right away unless it is in danger. First find out whether the newborn has a mother or not. Mother cats go out to find food, and it might take several hours before she comes back, so you need to observe first from afar (not too close, the mother cat might not come if she sees you). If the mother cat is taking too long, feed the kittens while waiting for her to return. If you are absolutely sure the kittens do not have a mother or if they have been abandoned then take the kittens with you.

FOR OUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

NAZIBA BASHER

PHOTO: KAZI TAHSSIN AGAZ APURBO



"Litters below four weeks of age need to be fed round the clock, every two to three hours. So if they have a mother, try not to intrude. Same goes for puppies," says Amy Aporna Baroi, another young activist, who rescues injured animals on a regular basis and finds them homes.

It is really important to understand the seriousness of a case before you begin your rescue operation – and how badly the animal needs it.

"I usually keep a little bag of dry food, in case the animal needs some 'luring', a small bottle of water, some tissues and a medicine called *Nebanol powder* (which is readily available at any pharmacy) just to start treatment, if that's what is called for. Raw wounds like scratches, burns and bites usually heal fast with *Nebanol powder*," says Nabila.

Her other advice include – if an animal needs immediate medical attention, call a vet as soon as possible from the list of veterinarian practitioners available online. If the animal is stuck somewhere difficult, call the fire services first, and if they cannot make it, only then look for help elsewhere. In case of animal abuse, try and stop it immediately; call for help if you cannot do it alone. Take the animal out of the situation, and then follow through with whatever is required. The people involved in the abuse should be spoken to and educated about this later – you should keep this in mind till after helping the animal in need. The one thing that every rescuer and activist keeps mentioning is that not all cats/dogs or kittens/puppies need to be rescued. Only abandoned house pets, abandoned babies and injured animals need rescuing.

"Dogs and cats both give birth to multiple offspring, and it is only natural that some may die out. This is called 'natural selection.' At the end, only one or two may survive. That's just how nature works! We need to deal with that, and accept it.

"Most people are looking to rescue animals in the wrong place. Once that is determined, it is also important to judge how bad the injury is – if it is not too serious, sometimes it is possible to do on-spot treatment. Otherwise, they need to stay at a centre," says Nabila.

If you are not able to handle a case on your own, one is advised to contact the *Animal Lovers of Bangladesh* group, the Facebook group of *ALB Animal Shelter*, *Care for Paws*, *People for Animal Welfare*, and *Raise for Paws* – which are all government-approved organisations.

"Other than that, post for help different animal welfare groups like *Cat Society of Bangladesh*, *Animal Care Society of Bangladesh*, and *Dog Lovers of Bangladesh*. Sometimes volunteers cannot be found and if you wait for people, it could be too late – so don't wait and take action," says Amy.

Noshin Nur, another activist and avid rescuer suggests that if you cannot help in one way, there is always another.

"Provided you care about the cause, you can provide assistance in some way or the other. You can always try to provide expenses for the food or maybe the vet bills, or donate funds. For shelters that take care of so many animals, even a tiny bit of help makes a huge difference."

Care for Paws: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/careforpaws/>
People for Animal Welfare Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/fundrainginjured/>
Check the files section of *Cat Society of Bangladesh* group and page on Facebook.
The Society maintains a database of qualified vets in different districts of Bangladesh.

MAILBOX

thestarmagazine@gmail.com



DHARMARAJIKA'S ACT OF COMPASSION
NAZIBA BASHER
PHOTO: KAZI TAHSSIN AGAZ APURBO

In the Name of Harmony

The *Star Weekend* deserves a big hand for the spotlight article titled "In the Name of Harmony" published on June 17, 2014. It was a great piece as it revealed a beautiful act being done by the Dharmarajika monastery in this holy month of Ramadan. Surprisingly, over the last six years in every Ramadan, this monastery has been giving iftaar boxes to the poor people. This act definitely bears the sign of an immense religious respect for the Muslims and humanity. By doing so, this monastery has set a good example for the religious harmony. On top of it, this monastery helps students in their studies and managing accommodation. The good things done by this monastery should be disseminated countrywide when we see a great number of casualties taking place based on the religious beliefs. Finally good wishes go out for the Monastery for its true religious and compassionate activities.

Samiul Rajjil
North South University, Dhaka

The White Marvel of Rangpur

At the first glance, I was so puzzled and could not figure out whether it was our high court building or another historical site. Reading the article titled "The White Marvel of Rangpur" published in the *Star Weekend* on June 17, 2016; I knew to my utmost surprise that this was a zamindar palace located at Rangpur. They say, Rangpur is the poorest division of Bangladesh. But I think the place that has so much natural beauty, and such historical places can never be called poor. I totally agree with the writer that if proper maintenance and refreshment arrangements are ensured, this historical place can be a centre of recreation and learning for people from all walks of life.

Enam Hasan
Madaniganj, Naryanganj



PHOTO: NAHID FARHAN RIDOY

The Plight of Menstruating Women

When I got to know about the views of different religions and different parts of the world about menstruating woman through the article by Namia Akhtar titled "The Plight of Menstruating Women" (published in the *Star Weekend* on June 17, 2016) I was very astonished. Comparatively Islamic views about menstruating woman is quite amazing! Religious obligatory duties like Salat are forgiven and no change in daily life is imposed. She can do everything as per usual. Furthermore her health and hygiene are ensured by forbidding sexual intercourse at that period. However, I would like to thank the writer for writing about the subject and the *Star* family for their continuous effort to raise awareness about women's health and safety in the country.

Fareed Uddeen
Keraniganj, Dhaka



PHOTO: ANANYA RUBAYAT

The opinions expressed in these letters do not necessarily represent the views of the *Star Weekend*.



www.bsr.com

**Earthquakes Don't Kill People.
Buildings Do! Build Safe!**

