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Similar thoughts were shared by Saria Saguaro Ahmed, a painter, pastry chef, and partner at Pat a Pet café. "Why do we need zoos? We have the internet or other resources now if we want to get to know an animal. Back then, there were no modern technologies. So, we needed zoos or similar establishments to research and continue conservational work. We should be thinking futuristically and think about the values we want our children to learn."

That said, the revamped zoos can serve as hubs for environmental education and awareness. Interactive exhibits, educational programmes, and conservation workshops will engage visitors of all ages, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for wildlife.

Joyeeta Trisha, a photographer and passionate animal lover, expressed her perspective on the importance of creating naturalistic habitats within zoos. "Now and then, we hear the news of animals dying in the zoo, and this is extremely sad. Animals should live in their natural habitats, not in cages. So, I am happy to hear the authorities have decided to change the scenario, and the initiative will hopefully foster a deeper connection and respect for animals among visitors."

The renovation of the zoos presents a unique opportunity to redefine the relationship between humans and wildlife. By focusing on the well-being of the animals, conservation, education, and community engagement, these zoos can become a beacon of hope for wildlife preservation.

As we anticipate completion of this remodelling project, our expectations are high, but so is our optimism. The Rangpur Zoo and Bangladesh National Zoo can set new standards for animal care, conservation, and public engagement. This transformation promises not just an improved zoo experience but a step forward in our collective journey towards a more ethical and sustainable coexistence with the natural world.

**By Ayman Anika**

**Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed**

