

The 2020 Kalua's Homes Animal Welfare Crisis in Bangladesh

Background and Timeline of the Kalua's Homes Crisis (2020)

Kalua's Homes was an animal shelter in Dhaka founded by Naim Ibn Islam – an independent rescuer known by the alias “**Adi Guru**.” He started the shelter in late 2017 after the violent death of his beloved pet cat, Kalua[1]. Initially a rooftop cattery in Dhanmondi, the shelter later moved to a 16,000 sq. ft. semi-rural site by the Buriganga River in Rayerbazar[2][3]. By early 2020, Kalua's Homes housed dozens of rescued cats and dogs and relied heavily on public donations. In fact, in late 2019 both Kalua's Homes and another Dhaka shelter (Animal Rescuers Bangladesh) had announced they were on the verge of shutting down due to funding shortages[4][5]. Adi Guru appealed for emergency adoptions and donations to keep Kalua's Homes running[5][6]. His operating costs had ballooned to around Tk 200,000 per month, and he reported exhausting his personal funds[6][7].

Despite these warnings of closure, Kalua's Homes continued operating into 2020. Trouble surfaced by **May–June 2020** when multiple complaints began circulating on social media about dire conditions at the shelter. Responding to these reports, a team of animal welfare activists – including members of the PAW Foundation and other rescue groups – **visited the shelter on May 30 and June 6, 2020**[8][9]. What they found was alarming: **at least 80 dogs and 18 cats** were crowded on the property, **many in life-threatening condition** – emaciated, injured, or paralyzed[10]. **Photos from the raid** showed scores of dogs crammed inside a filthy tin shed and cats confined in small cages[11]. “*It was a gruesome situation, to be honest,*” recalled Rakibul Haq Emil, founder of PAW Foundation, who led the inspection[10]. The animals were visibly malnourished – “*all skin and bones*” – and the food available was **moldy and inedible**[11]. Many sick animals received no proper treatment, and medications were not stored properly, according to Saurav Shameem of Care for Paws[12]. The activists also discovered **no medical or intake records** for the rescues, making it impossible to track what treatment (if any) each animal was receiving[13].

Dogs found in cramped, unsanitary conditions at Kalua's Homes during the June 2020 raid[11]. Activists reported around 80 dogs and 18 cats living in squalor, many starving or ill.

Spoiled, moldy food found at the shelter[14]. Animals were allegedly being fed bread and cake that had grown fungus, indicative of severe neglect.

Shocked by these conditions, the activist team decided immediate intervention was needed. After the June 6 visit, **on June 7** they drew up a **10-point improvement plan** and had Naim (Adi Guru) sign an informal agreement to enact changes[9]. In this signed memo, Naim agreed to critical steps like expanding the makeshift shed (to separate healthy, sick, and feline populations), creating proper logs for each animal, and cleaning

the premises of parasites (ticks/fleas)[9]. For a brief moment, it appeared the shelter might be reformed under pressure.

However, within **48 hours, on June 8, 2020, Naim abruptly announced via Facebook Live** that he was **handing over the shelter** to two associates and stepping away[15]. He claimed he was *“not in a state to look after it”* and promptly left Dhaka for his hometown in Manikganj, abandoning the animals on-site[15][16]. With Naim gone, the activists scrambled to care for the shelter inhabitants. When they **revisited on June 13**, they found little had improved – **dogs and cats still languished in filthy, overcrowded pens**, many with untreated skin infections, and water bowls covered in dust[17][18]. The two people Naim left in charge were overwhelmed and unable to provide adequate care for so many animals[18].

During this chaotic interim, some animals perished. A young rescuer (alias *“Barsha”*) discovered that **an entire litter of puppies she had placed at Kalua’s Homes had died** during a storm, allegedly because they were left without shelter in heavy rain[19][20]. Barsha had brought a mother dog and puppies to Naim’s facility on **March 24, 2020** for fostering during the COVID-19 campus shutdown, even paying him Tk 200 per day for their care[21]. When she checked in by early June, Naim told her the puppies *“had died in the thunderstorm”*, a claim that left her heartbroken and furious[19]. *“Even stray dogs can find shelter under a building in the rain. But these innocent puppies died at a shelter, with no shed to protect them,”* Barsha lamented later[22]. Another rescuer, *“Riya”*, similarly had to **re-rescue a German Shepherd** (named Neel) that she had entrusted to Kalua’s Homes – in the span of a few weeks, the dog went from healthy (aside from a minor limp) to emaciated and covered in new injuries, including fresh cuts and a second injured leg[23]. *“I thought I was rescuing him from the streets, but then he had to be rescued again from the shelter,”* Riya said, describing Neel’s state in June 2020[24].

As news of the shelter crisis spread, independent volunteers and organizations stepped up. Throughout mid-June, activists from PAW Foundation, Care for Paws, and others **provided emergency food, medical care, and cleanup** at Kalua’s Homes on a rotating basis[25]. They sustained operations through early July. **On July 4, 2020**, a new coalition led by members of Animal Lovers of Bangladesh (ALB) and the Animal Care Society of Bangladesh (ACSB) came forward to relieve them[25]. The plan was to **formally hand over responsibility** for Kalua’s Homes to this second group, with the shelter’s founder Naim allowed to return under tight oversight[26]. **Dipanwita Ridi**, founder of ALB, announced in a public Facebook Live that Naim had *“recently returned to Dhaka”* and would be permitted to continue running the shelter *“under her team’s strict supervision.”* She promised to install CCTV cameras on site and ensure proper nutrition, hygiene, and veterinary care going forward[26]. Cats and dogs would be housed separately, shade and ventilation would be provided, and *“all ill animals [would] receive the treatment they need,”* Ridi vowed[27].

It was hoped that this **July 2020 management transfer** would turn things around. Unfortunately, the **aftermath** of the crisis remained painful. **Multiple animals had already died during the ordeal** – besides Barsha’s puppies, other weakened cats and dogs succumbed around this time (the exact death toll remains disputed)[21][22]. One

Bangla-language blog post alleged that “Molly,” a cat, died from neglect on **June 11, 2020** amid the confusion, and **claimed a total of 65 animals died** in the shelter during this period[28]. (*This figure has not been independently verified, but it reflects the scale of tragedy that some witnesses believe unfolded.*) The same post bitterly described how, “*after the shelter was raided, animals were dying,*” yet certain activists went on Facebook Live “*laughing and joking*” with each other instead of focusing on the crisis[29]. Such accusations of incompetence and infighting underscored how traumatic and divisive the Kalua’s Homes saga became within the animal welfare community.

Adi Guru (Naim Ibn Islam) – Founder of Kalua’s Homes

Naim Ibn Islam (widely known by his Facebook nickname “**Adi Guru**”) was at the center of the storm. As the founder and chief operator of Kalua’s Homes, he had been a familiar figure in Dhaka’s volunteer animal rescue circle. **Since 2018**, Naim presented himself as a dedicated rescuer who personally treated injured cats and dogs (describing himself as a self-taught “*paravet*”)[30][31]. In media interviews prior to 2020, he spoke passionately of giving strays a “loving home” and building a haven inspired by the memory of his slain cat, Kalua[1][32]. By mid-2020, however, Naim faced a barrage of serious allegations about his conduct at the shelter:

- **Animal Neglect and Cruelty:** The conditions documented at Kalua’s Homes in June 2020 were attributed to Naim’s mismanagement. Dozens of animals were found starving, diseased, and living in squalor[10][11]. Witnesses said **inadequate nutrition and untreated illnesses** were commonplace, indicating prolonged neglect under Naim’s care[12][33]. Some rescuers accused Naim of effectively hoarding animals without providing basic care, causing needless suffering (an offense under Bangladesh’s Animal Welfare Act 2019)[34][35].
- **Misuse of Funds and Fraud:** Naim had solicited public donations to run Kalua’s Homes, especially during the COVID-19 lockdown. He received an influx of roughly Tk 2.5 lakh in donations in the two months before the scandal[36]. Activists later questioned where that money went, since the shelter’s animals remained unfed and untreated. No financial records were kept. Naim defended himself by claiming that many donations were “*anonymous*” and that “*I don’t need to keep a full record of where every penny is going*”[37]. Such remarks did little to reassure critics. Amid the fallout, **multiple people came forward accusing Naim of fraudulent practices and scamming donors** – for example, taking “foster fees” from pet owners like Barsha while failing to care for their animals[20][38].
- **Harassment and Misconduct:** Troubling reports also emerged about Naim’s personal behavior, especially toward female volunteers. At least two women (using pseudonyms Riya and Barsha) alleged that Naim sexually harassed them when they interacted with him about rescue work. **Riya**, a private university student, said Naim “*misbehaved with me and inappropriately touched me*” during her visits to the shelter in 2019[39]. After that, she avoided being alone with him, but continued sending animals to his shelter until her trust collapsed in 2020. **Barsha** shared screenshots of Naim sending her unwelcome romantic advances

via Messenger while he was supposed to be caring for her fostered dogs[40]. Both women felt they had to tolerate Naim's messages initially "*because the animals were under his care,*" but later realized the situation was intolerable[41]. These accounts painted a picture of an individual abusing his position to prey on young activists.

Naim **denied all wrongdoing**. In a phone interview with *The Daily Star* during the crisis, he insisted that a "*vested quarter*" of rivals was out to defame him[31]. He portrayed himself as a longtime animal lover under unfair attack: "*It isn't cruelty to give animals a home... They would die in the street otherwise,*" he argued, asserting that overcrowding and a few rotten food scraps did not amount to deliberate abuse[42][43]. Naim claimed the shelter had been "*running smoothly before the Covid-19 shutdown*" – until his paid staff quit during the lockdown, leaving him overwhelmed[44]. He maintained that he did his best as one person with little income, and that he had "*planned to develop the shelter*" with the recent donations before the activists "*came after*" him[36][16]. Regarding the harassment allegations, he dismissed them as "*innocent flirting*" taken out of context[45].

Crucially, Naim also **lacked proper veterinary credentials**. Although he had administered treatments and even surgeries on animals at Kalua's Homes, he was not a licensed veterinarian or a registered paraveterinary professional. Bangladesh's Veterinary Council Act 2019 prohibits unlicensed individuals from practicing veterinary medicine (penalty: up to 3 years in prison or Tk 200,000 fine)[46]. Naim asserted that he "*worked with reputed veterinarians*" in the past and was "*endorsed by vets*", claiming "*I don't need a license*" to treat animals[31]. The Department of Livestock Services (DLS) flatly rejected that stance after inspecting the shelter – their official report noted the facility had "*no license or permission from DLS*" to operate and "*no proper arrangement for veterinary services*", in clear violation of the Animal Welfare Act[35].

In summary, Adi Guru/Naim became a **polarizing figure**. To supporters, he was an overextended rescuer who had tried to save too many animals with too few resources. To others, he was effectively an animal abuser – someone who hoarded donations and animals to feed his ego, and whose negligence and misconduct directly led to animal suffering. Naim's abrupt attempt to abandon the shelter on June 8 was seen by many as an admission of failure. Yet, in an ironic twist, he **returned to Kalua's Homes in July 2020 under ALB's oversight**, apparently unwilling to relinquish his creation entirely[26]. His continued involvement beyond that point will be discussed later, but there is no doubt that the 2020 crisis permanently tarnished Adi Guru's reputation in Bangladesh's animal welfare community.

Intervention by Rakibul Haq Emil and PAW Foundation

Rakibul Haq Emil – founder and chairman of the People for Animal Welfare (PAW) Foundation – played a leading role in uncovering and responding to the Kalua's Homes crisis. Emil is a prominent animal rights advocate in Bangladesh, known for investigative activism and pushing for better enforcement of animal protection laws. When reports about Kalua's Homes began surfacing in 2020, Emil quickly mobilized a team to **investigate on-site**. As he recounted, "*I went with a team of seven other animal rights*

activists to see what was going on” at the shelter[10]. That initial visit (May 30, 2020) and the follow-up (June 6) were largely coordinated by Emil and PAW, along with colleagues from Care for Paws and others[8][11].

It was **Emil’s testimony to the press** that vividly conveyed the horror they found: *“There were at least 80 dogs and 18 cats... many of them on the brink of death... It was a gruesome situation”*[10]. Emil and the PAW team documented evidence – photographs and firsthand accounts – of the cruelty at Kalua’s Homes, which later helped galvanize public outrage. They discovered starving animals, disease outbreaks, filthy conditions, and possibly decomposing remains of those that had died. This evidence was shared on social media and eventually in national media[11][47], pressuring authorities to take notice.

After Adi Guru fled the shelter on June 8, **Emil did not abandon the animals**. PAW Foundation volunteers, along with independent rescuers, arranged emergency relief: delivering food, cleaning the pens, and giving whatever medical aid they could to stabilize the worst-off cats and dogs[25]. Emil himself was seen coordinating vet visits and seeking foster homes for critical cases during June 8–13, according to contemporaneous Facebook updates (as cited in news reports). For about **three weeks (late June to early July)**, Emil and others effectively ran Kalua’s Homes in caretaker capacity[25]. They publicly posted updates about the improvements made and animals saved, in an effort to be transparent and restore the animals’ well-being until a long-term solution was found.

Beyond the hands-on rescue work, **Rakibul Haq Emil took initiative in pursuing legal accountability** for what happened. On **June 12, 2020**, after witnessing the shelter’s state, Emil and fellow activist Saurav Shameem went to Hazaribagh Police Station to file official complaints[48][49]. They supported Riya in lodging a **General Diary (GD) entry** accusing Naim of animal cruelty and sexual harassment on that date[50]. Emil also helped Barsha file a similar GD on **June 15, 2020** at Ramna Police Station, detailing the negligence that led to her puppies’ deaths[51]. These GDs were important first steps, since they put the allegations on record with law enforcement.

Emil then pushed further by invoking the relatively new **Animal Welfare Act 2019**. Because offenses under this Act are *non-cognizable* (meaning police can’t arrest without a warrant or a court order unless directed by the DLS), Emil coordinated with the Department of Livestock Services to get an official inquiry started[52][53]. He accompanied the DLS officer (Dr. Shaheen Noor) during the shelter inspection on June 29, ensuring the findings would be formally reported[35]. The DLS report indeed recommended legal action for the documented cruelty and unlicensed shelter operation[35]. Armed with that, Emil and others began preparing to file a **court case under the Animal Welfare Act**. As of early July 2020, it was reported that *“a group of activists including Emil and Shameem are in the process of filing a case”* to prosecute Naim[53]. This would be one of the first such cases under the new 2019 law, and Emil was at the forefront of it.

(Note: The status/outcome of that specific case has not been widely reported in the media. It’s known that police did summon Naim in early June, but he failed to

appear[54]. Any formal charges likely took time to pursue through the court system. Rakibul Haq Emil continued to advocate for enforcement of animal welfare laws, and in 2021 he was involved in a high-profile writ petition to protect wild elephants – demonstrating his ongoing legal activism[55].)

In summary, **PAW Foundation and Rakibul Haq Emil's role** was one of **whistleblower and rescuer**. They brought the Kalua's Homes scandal to light, physically intervened to save animals, and pressed for **accountability** through legal channels. Emil's efforts exemplified the “*investigation, legislation and media attention*” approach that PAW Foundation stands for[56]. Without their actions, the suffering at Kalua's Homes might have continued unchecked much longer.

Dipanwita Ridi, Animal Lovers of Bangladesh (ALB), and the Handover

Dipanwita Ridi is the founder of **Animal Lovers of Bangladesh (ALB) Foundation**, which operates one of the country's first large-scale animal adoption shelters (based in Narayanganj). In July 2020, Ridi and her organization became directly involved in the Kalua's Homes saga when they agreed to take over supervision of the embattled shelter. This followed discussions among Dhaka's rescue community that ALB – being a more established shelter – could step in to prevent further animal deaths after Naim's departure.

On **July 5, 2020 (Sunday)**, Dipanwita Ridi appeared on a Facebook Live video to announce that **ALB and ACSB activists had assumed responsibility for Kalua's Homes**[25]. She explained that Adi Guru (Naim) would be allowed back on site strictly “*under her team's supervision*,” essentially placing the shelter on probation[26]. Ridi outlined a plan to enforce standards: **install CCTV cameras**, segregate dogs from cats, provide proper bedding/shade, ensure ample nutritious food, and administer veterinary treatment to every ill animal[27]. Publicly, she struck an optimistic tone – as a long-time animal rescuer, Ridi expressed hope that with guidance, Kalua's Homes could still be turned into a properly run sanctuary.

ALB's intervention initially earned praise as a **much-needed rescue for the rescue**. Dipanwita Ridi was (and still is) a respected figure in animal welfare; she had been rescuing strays since her teens and founded ALB back in 2014[57]. By 2020 she had overseen the care of hundreds of animals at her own shelter and had campaigned nationally against cruelty. Many assumed that with Ridi's leadership, the animals remaining at Kalua's Homes would finally get professional care. Indeed, from July onwards, ALB volunteers visited Kalua's Homes regularly. They assisted with cleaning and feeding, and some animals were reportedly transferred out to better facilities.

However, **the handover did not go entirely smoothly**. Tensions arose behind the scenes between different factions of activists. Some of the independent rescuers who had been active in June felt sidelined by ALB's takeover. Allegations surfaced later that “**two groups**” were squabbling – presumably the PAW-led group and the ALB/ACSB group – and that this power struggle led to lapses in animal care. The **Bangla blog “Justice for Molly”** harshly criticized how the transition was handled, claiming that

while the new team was busy doing Facebook lives (even joking about trivial matters), animals continued to die unattended[29]. In the author's words, *"in the midst of the shelter raid when animals were dying, they [the activists] went on Live and laughed about putting lipstick on each other"*[29]. The post specifically blamed negligence during the handover period for the deaths of **Molly the cat and 65 other animals**, questioning **"why the shelter was seized by the 'P' group"** (seemingly referring to PAW or one faction) and implying that egos and group rivalries trumped the animals' welfare[28].

It is difficult to verify the full extent of animal fatalities after ALB stepped in; the figure of "65" additional deaths is an unconfirmed allegation[28]. What is clear is that **many of the animals were in critical condition by the time ALB arrived**, and despite everyone's best intentions, some could not be saved. Also clear is that **communication broke down among the rescuers**. Dipanwita Ridi found herself having to defend ALB's role amid rumors that her team might have been too slow or not sufficiently prepared for the scale of the crisis. She maintained that ALB did all it could in a bad situation, investing funds and volunteer labor to stabilize Kalua's Homes in July–August 2020. There were no known **formal accusations of wrongdoing** against ALB or Ridi by authorities; the critiques largely played out on social media and personal blogs.

From Ridi's perspective, her intervention *did* prevent worse outcomes. By mid-July 2020, with ALB's aid, the remaining animals at Kalua's Homes had food, medication, and oversight. The DLS officer's report had kick-started a legal process, so Naim could no longer operate with impunity. ALB's involvement essentially bought time to find homes or alternatives for the rescues. In subsequent months, many animals from Kalua's Homes were adopted out or relocated (often with ALB's networking). **Dipanwita Ridi then refocused on her own shelter's operations**, which by late 2020 housed over 100 animals and was expanding its capacity.

It's worth noting that **Dipanwita Ridi's standing in the community remained strong** after this incident. In fact, she went on to gain international recognition; by 2023 she was featured in an Al Jazeera profile as a key figure in Bangladesh animal welfare, running ALB which cares for 80+ dogs and 60+ cats at any time[58][59]. The Kalua's Homes episode is not directly mentioned in that profile, suggesting that whatever controversy arose in 2020 did not significantly tarnish Ridi or ALB's reputation in the long run. Still, **the claims of negligence during the handover** serve as a cautionary tale about the importance of unity and clear responsibility in rescue operations. Even well-meaning groups can become bogged down in mistrust, with animals paying the price.

In summary, **Dipanwita Ridi and ALB's role** in 2020 was that of **a supervisor and mediator** brought in to rescue a failing shelter. They provided structure and resources that were lacking, likely saving many lives in the process. Yet the **"shelter handover" was clouded by allegations** – largely from frustrated observers – that not enough was done fast enough, and that factionalism among activists led to avoidable animal suffering[28][29]. These allegations highlight the complexity of the situation Ridi walked into, rather than any proven malfeasance on her part.

Legal Actions and Investigations in the Aftermath

The Kalua's Homes crisis of 2020 led to **several legal and regulatory actions**, marking a significant moment for animal welfare enforcement in Bangladesh. Below is a summary of verified actions related to the case and individuals involved:

- **General Diary (GD) Entries:** As mentioned, two GDs (police general diary reports) were filed against Naim in **mid-June 2020**. The first was lodged by “Riya” on **June 12, 2020** at Hazaribagh Police Station, accusing Naim of animal cruelty and sexual harassment[50]. The second was filed by “Barsha” on **June 15, 2020** at Ramna Model Police Station on similar grounds – detailing how her puppies died due to Naim’s negligence and also mentioning harassment[51]. A GD is a preliminary complaint; these reports signaled to law enforcement that investigations were needed. According to Hazaribagh police, Naim was **summoned for questioning** in early June, but he failed to appear[54].
- **Department of Livestock Services (DLS) Inspection and Report:** The government’s livestock authority became involved to assess the situation formally. **On June 29, 2020**, Dr. Shaheen Noor, a Livestock Officer from DLS, **inspected Kalua’s Homes**[60]. He found that the shelter had been **operating for nearly two years with no license or authorization**, and that *“there [was] no proper arrangement for veterinary services”* on site[35]. His **report (submitted July 7, 2020)** concluded that these were offenses under Section 6 of the Animal Welfare Act 2019[35]. Notably, Section 6 of the Act defines various forms of neglect and harmful omissions as animal cruelty – including providing inadequate nutrition or keeping animals in uncomfortable, overcrowded conditions[34]. The DLS report explicitly cited those points, essentially affirming that what was observed at Kalua’s Homes met the definition of cruelty under the law. The report recommended the Officer-in-Charge of Hazaribagh PS to *“follow up with the necessary legal steps”*[52]. This was a crucial development because, under Bangladeshi law, a non-cognizable animal cruelty case typically requires a formal go-ahead (usually in the form of such a report or a magistrate’s order) to proceed to charges. The DLS’s findings thus opened the door for legal prosecution.
- **Criminal Case under Animal Welfare Act:** Following the GDs and DLS report, activists led by Emil and Shameem worked to file a **court case against Naim**. By **July 2020**, they were preparing documents to sue him under the Animal Welfare Act 2019[53]. Offenses under this Act can result in up to **6 months’ imprisonment or Tk 10,000 fine (or both)** for each count of cruelty[61]. Additionally, if Naim were charged for impersonating a veterinary practitioner (as implied by him administering treatments without a license), the Veterinary Council Act 2019 prescribes up to **3 years’ imprisonment or Tk 200,000 fine** for that offense[46]. It’s unclear if the case combined both types of charges. The activists indicated they would include everything – from animal abuse to fraud and harassment – in their legal filings[48][49]. The progress of this case remains somewhat opaque. No widely publicized trial verdict is on record as of 2021–2022; it’s possible the case is still pending in the slow court system, or it may

have been settled quietly. Regardless, the fact that a case was initiated is significant: it signaled a **new use of the Animal Welfare Act 2019** against a shelter operator. This was one of the first real tests of that law on a high-profile cruelty incident.

- **Other Regulatory or Law Enforcement Actions:** Apart from the above, there were broader ramifications. The negative publicity prompted calls for **better regulation of animal shelters and NGOs**. The government's fisheries & livestock ministry took note of unregistered shelters after the DLS report. While no new regulatory framework has been fully implemented yet, the Kalua's Homes incident has been cited in policy discussions as an example of why oversight is needed. Furthermore, personalities like **Rakibul Haq Emil** continued to push through legal channels on related issues – for instance, Emil (alongside actress Jaya Ahsan) filed a writ petition in the High Court in February 2022 to protect wild elephants, showing that the network of activists remained engaged in legal advocacy beyond just this case[55].

In terms of **verified legal documents**, the key ones we know of are the GD entries and the DLS inspection report. These form the evidentiary basis for any court proceedings. It's worth highlighting that in Bangladesh, lodging a GD is not the same as an FIR (First Information Report); animal cruelty cases often require activism and persistence to move from GD to formal charges. The Kalua's Homes matter exemplified this – it took a coordinated effort by activists to trigger the official report from DLS, without which a case might not progress[52][53].

In summary, the legal fallout of the Kalua's Homes crisis saw **new ground being broken**. For the first time, Bangladesh's updated animal welfare laws were invoked to hold a shelter accountable. While justice moves slowly, the paper trail – GDs accusing Naim of cruelty, a damning government report, and court filings – stands as a record that severe abuse **did not go ignored**. Animal welfare advocates have pointed to this case when urging stricter monitoring of shelters and more responsiveness from police in cruelty cases going forward.

Kalua's Homes in 2025: Current Operational Status

More than five years on from the 2020 crisis, one might assume Kalua's Homes shut down – but in reality, **Kalua's Homes has continued to operate** (under Adi Guru's direction) through 2021–2025, albeit amid ongoing challenges. The shelter's journey post-2020 is a complex one:

After the July 2020 supervision arrangement, Kalua's Homes remained under Dipanwita Ridi's oversight for a period, but by early 2021 it appears that Naim Ibn Islam was effectively running the shelter again on his own. Many of the original animals were either adopted out or passed away by late 2020. Naim gradually replenished the shelter with new rescues. Over the next few years, he kept the **Kalua's Homes Facebook page** active with updates and fundraising appeals. As of mid-2023, the page still described it as “a non-profit Animal Shelter & Rescue Center” in Dhaka, with a following

of nearly 4,000 people[62]. This indicates that the brand or name “Kalua’s Homes” survived the scandal and retained some support.

In **early 2023**, a report in *Press Xpress* noted that Kalua’s Homes had once announced closure (back in 2019–20 due to funding issues) but later resumed work[63]. The same report implied that the shelter’s operations were much diminished from their peak. Fast-forward to **2025**, and Naim (Adi Guru) himself has been posting on social media about the shelter’s status. In a Bangla Instagram post dated **May 3, 2025**, he wrote that “*Kalua’s Homes is on the verge of closure*” once again – stating that **over 200 dogs and cats** were under his care, but resources were severely strained[64]. “*To say it’s struggling would be an understatement... our shelter has over 200 animals today and is almost at the point of shutting down,*” the post reads[65]. He appealed for help, urging that even a small donation could keep the shelter running[66]. This suggests that Naim managed to scale back up the number of resident animals (possibly through new rescues), but without steady funding the operation is perennially unstable.

Supporting this, a YouTube video from mid-2025 showcased “Kalua’s homes | Animal Shelter in bd 2025,” giving a tour of a facility with numerous dogs and cats (likely the Rayerbazar site) and describing ongoing rescue activities[67]. While not a formal news source, it shows that **Kalua’s Homes is still functioning as a shelter in 2025**, continuing to take in street animals. Naim’s messaging in 2025 mirrors his past rhetoric – emphasizing how unwanted cats and dogs find love and care at Kalua’s Homes, but lamenting that “*to keep this shelter alive we desperately need your support.*” Indeed, a Facebook fundraiser was circulating to “save this shelter... in desperate need of funds” for Kalua’s Homes[68]. Thus, it appears the cycle of financial peril and public appeals has continued.

No evidence has emerged of any **new management or oversight** at Kalua’s Homes after 2020. ALB and other groups are no longer publicly associated with it. Essentially, Adi Guru regained sole control, for better or worse. This has raised concerns among some animal welfare circles – given the history, donors and volunteers remain wary. Yet, sympathizers note that Naim significantly reduced the shelter population after 2020 and that conditions there, while basic, have not relapsed to the extreme neglect seen during the crisis. Periodic posts show animals being fed and some receiving vet visits, and Naim often shares anecdotes of rescues that he claims to have rehabilitated.

In short, as of **late 2025, Kalua’s Homes is still operating in Dhaka**, still led by its controversial founder. It continues to identify as a non-profit rescue shelter, housing on the order of 100–200 animals at any given time. The shelter has not registered formally with the government (to public knowledge), and it largely relies on Naim’s personal social media campaigns for funding. Its **public credibility** remains mixed – some in the community support giving it another chance, while others refuse to forgive the past abuses. For now, however, **Kalua’s Homes lives on**, a rare instance of a scandal-hit shelter that did not permanently close its doors.

Broader Issues: Corruption, Fund Misuse, and Ethics in Bangladesh's Animal Welfare Sector

The Kalua's Homes incident shone a light on **systemic challenges** in Bangladesh's nascent animal welfare sector. It became a case study in how good intentions can be undermined by poor oversight and unethical practices. Several broader themes and problems were highlighted:

- **Reliance on Individual Efforts and Donations:** Animal shelters in Bangladesh are mostly grassroots initiatives, often run by passionate individuals without steady institutional funding. As a 2019 New Age report noted, **“most of these facilities are personally funded”** and always in need of donations[69]. This was true for Kalua's Homes – Naim started it with personal money and only later begged for public donations when he became overwhelmed[6][7]. Funding crunches are common, leading some rescuers to take on more animals than they can afford to care for. Kalua's Homes and ARB shelter both nearly shut in 2019 due to funding collapse[4][5]. This financial instability can tempt mismanagement or cut corners in care.
- **Lack of Transparency and Accountability:** The sector has little formal regulation. There's no standard reporting requirement for how donations are spent. In the Kalua's Homes case, donors sent money via bKash and bank transfers, but Naim kept **no accounting records**[37]. He could not or would not provide a clear breakdown of expenditures when asked. Such opacity erodes trust – Barsha's bKash logs showed she paid over Tk 6,600 to Naim for her dogs' care[20], yet her puppies still died due to negligence. Stories like this fuel public skepticism about where their charity money goes. It also underscores the need for better governance of animal NGOs, perhaps via registration, audits, or at least community watchdogs.
- **Allegations of Fraud and Exploitation:** Sadly, the Kalua's Homes saga illustrated that **not all “animal lovers” are above misconduct**. Beyond Naim's case, there have been **claims of others in the rescue scene engaging in exploitative practices**. For instance, some individuals have been accused of **injuring animals or staging extreme neglect situations just to solicit donations on social media**. This is part of a wider phenomenon of “fake rescue” scams seen globally, where YouTubers or Facebook pages put animals in peril only to “rescue” them on camera and tug at donors' heartstrings[70][71]. In Bangladesh, activists have warned about certain people who frequently post graphic images of injured street animals and raise funds, but lack transparency on how the money is used. In extreme accusations, a few have been suspected of **intentionally harming animals to create fundraising narratives** – essentially monetizing cruelty. While hard evidence of such deliberate injury-for-donation in Bangladesh is scarce (no one has been prosecuted for it yet), **the community is alert to the possibility**. A Bangla social media post in 2020, for example, lambasted unnamed rescuers for *“engaging in extortion in the name of caring for street dogs and cats,”* noting that a cat was found half-dead coming

from Kalua's Homes[72]. The use of the word “চাঁদাবাজি” (*chadabazi*), meaning extortion, reflects a perception that some so-called rescuers are essentially running donation rackets, exploiting sympathetic animal lovers for cash.

- **Harassment and Volunteer Exploitation:** Another ethical issue is the treatment of volunteers (often young women) in animal welfare groups. The allegations against Naim for sexual harassment highlight a risk in loosely organized volunteer networks – without formal HR or oversight, predators can operate under cover of “doing good.” This incident sparked conversations about establishing **codes of conduct** for shelter operators and creating safer channels for volunteers to report abuse. It also raised the question of vetting – who is qualified to run a shelter? Prior to 2020, anyone could declare themselves an animal rescuer and solicit funds. The scandal underscored the need for some form of credentialing or at least community vetting of leaders.
- **Structural Corruption and Negligence:** On a larger scale, Bangladesh's animal welfare efforts often butt heads with structural issues. Government support is minimal – the Animal Welfare Act 2019 is a progressive law on paper, but enforcement is weak and many police officers were initially unaware of it[73]. Corruption can impede action; for instance, activists sometimes allege that local authorities turn a blind eye to animal cruelty or illegal breeding/trade if bribes are involved. The sector also lacks shelters run by municipal governments (Dhaka South opened the first city-run dog shelter only in 2022, and its capacity is small). Thus, private initiatives fill the gap, but without oversight, **misuse of donor funds or substandard care can go unchecked** until a disaster occurs (as with Kalua's Homes).
- **Social Media Fundraising Ethics:** With the rise of Facebook-based rescue appeals, ethical guidelines are still evolving. Best practices like posting vet bills, updating on the animal's status, or refunding unused funds are not always followed. Some organizations like PAW and ALB have tried to model transparency (publishing annual reports or detailed updates on cases). Yet, as the **Social Media Animal Cruelty Coalition** reported, worldwide there's a dangerous trend of “**monetizing animal suffering**” for clicks and donations[71]. Bangladeshi animal lovers have become more cautious, often cross-checking claims or demanding proof before donating. For example, in late 2020 there was a surge of awareness posts warning about fake rescuers stealing photos or exaggerating injuries to raise money, echoing reports from India and elsewhere[74][75].

In conclusion, the 2020 crisis around Kalua's Homes served as a wake-up call about the **need for ethical standards and oversight in the animal welfare sector**. It exposed how one individual's mismanagement and alleged misconduct had ripple effects – animals died, donors were defrauded, and the reputation of the rescue community as a whole took a hit. Positive changes since then include greater community vigilance: rescuers now more readily **call out bad actors**, and there are Facebook groups devoted to sharing “red flags” about scams. There's also a push to formalize shelters

into registered NGOs with some accountability. The government, for its part, has the legal tools (Animal Welfare Act) to act, but enforcement will require continued pressure.

Ultimately, the story of Kalua's Homes is a cautionary tale that mixes both **inspiring dedication** – many volunteers worked tirelessly to save animals – and **sobering dishonesty**, where some seemingly altruistic actions masked self-interest or incompetence. The sector is learning from these events. The hope is that with stronger collaboration, transparency, and perhaps light-touch regulation, the **many genuine heroes** in Bangladesh's animal rescue arena can do their work without being undermined by the few bad apples who engage in corruption or cruelty for personal gain.

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