

Meet the lesula

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years. The identification of the monkey in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is significant, as identification of mammals new to science is rare.

Lesula (*Cercopithecus lomamiensis*) has a naked face and a mane of long blond hairs, and is described by the researchers who identified it as shy and quiet.

It lives both on the ground and in trees in a 6,500 square mile habitat of the lowland rainforests in the centre of the DRC between the middle Lomami (the inspiration for the species' name) and the upper Tshuapa Rivers. Its diet is mostly fruit and vegetation.

John and Terese Hart of Yale University's Peabody Museum of Natural History first saw the species in 2007 at the home of a primary school director, who was keeping a young female in the town of Opala.

Later that year, the team found the species -- which is similar in appearance to the owl-faced monkey (*Cercopithecus hamlyni*) but with different colouring -- in the wild. Genetic tests later verified it was a new species.

The monkey lives mostly in small groups of one to five, and only one animal was seen on its own during eight encounters. In what they describe as an "exceptional" sighting, the researchers observed an apparent attack on one of the monkeys by a crowned eagle (*Stephanoaetus coronatus*), which killed the female monkey.

There are already fears for the newly discovered species' fate despite its home in a relatively remote and underpopulated region, as it is hunted for bushmeat.

The director who owned the captive monkey said he had acquired it after a family member had killed its mother in the forest. The researchers have provisionally categorised it as already vulnerable under the authoritative IUCN red list of threatened species.

The last monkey to be discovered in Africa was the kipunji (*Rungwecebus kipunji*) in Tanzania in 2003, nearly two decades after the last find, the sun-tailed monkey (*Rercopithecus solatus*) in Gabon, in 1984.

The researchers' work on the Lesula was published this week in the journal PLoS ONE.

ACC sues Mridha

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assistant director of ACC, filed the cases with Chittagong Kotwali Police Station.

Bangladesh Railway's east zone ran seven advertisements in October and November, 2010 for recruitment of more than 3,200 employees in 25 categories. The recruiting procedure continued until April this year.

The anti-graft watchdog has so far investigated the recruitment done under six categories and found that the trio was involved in altering many tabulation and answer sheets of the examinees, ACC Director Moniruzzaman told reporters at the commission's office in the capital.

The categories are fuel checker, tool keeper, ticket issuer, assistant chemist, assistant loco master and trade apprentice.

The accused appointed unqualified candidates in exchange for money,

Moniruzzaman said.

"They gave grace marks to some candidates.... They also violated the district quota system."

The ACC director, however, failed to say exactly how many had been appointed through these unfair means and how much money had been exchanged as bribes.

Widespread irregularities and corruption in the recruitment came to light when Ali Azam, driver of former railway minister Suranjit Sengupta's APS Omar Faruq Talukder, pulled over Faruq's microbus at the Pilkhana headquarters of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in the wee hours of April 9 and hollered at the guards that there was illegal money in the vehicle.

Upon search, BGB personnel found Tk 70 lakh reportedly collected from job seekers in the railway's east zone.

Meanwhile, ACC lodged

two cases against seven people, including six officials of the health department, with Banani Police Station for misappropriating over Tk 12 lakh from the government exchequer in the name of an awareness programme.

The accused are former line director Anwarul Islam Khan, former deputy chief (administration and training) Sajjadur Rahman, assistant chiefs Matier Rahman and Shariful Islam, Accountant Nazrul Islam and Media Development Officer Abu Hanif of the railway department, Dhaka and General Manager Taufiqul Islam of Alif Ad, an advertisement firm in the capital.

Except Hanif, the rest were implicated in both the cases.

They received the money between 2007 and 2010 but did not carry out the awareness campaign against swine flu and diarrhoea.

Tk 40,000 a worker

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potential employers. If approved by the government, employers will then get a number to access the Bangladeshi jobseekers' database and select them for recruitment, he added.

Earlier in 2006, the Bangladesh government fixed the cost at Tk 84,000 each for jobs in Malaysia but the jobseekers had to spend around Tk 2 lakh each due to corrupt practices of private recruiting agencies and brokers. And this led to labour exploitation and the ban on recruitment in 2009.

In the wake of increasing labour demand in his country, Subramaniam came to Dhaka on Wednesday on a three-day visit to discuss and finalise a deal on recruiting workers from Bangladesh.

Mosharraf said both the sides agreed that the Malaysian employers will give the workers advance air tickets when they go to Malaysia. The workers will repay the fare in installments after they join jobs.

The employer will also give to the workers return tickets.

Primarily, workers will be recruited for five years. Later, their job contracts can be extended for five more years if the employers want, the minister said.

At the talks, both the sides agreed that Bangladesh's Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) will register the jobseekers skill-wise and put their names in

a database. It will also provide orientation on Malaysian laws, culture and language.

Mosharraf said the employers will then arrange visa for the selected workers, while the BMET will complete all other formalities for the jobseekers' migration to Malaysia.

"When workers arrive at Kuala Lumpur Airport, Bangladesh's welfare assistants will handover them to the Malaysian employers."

A joint committee comprising officials from Bangladesh and Malaysia will be formed to monitor the entire recruitment process and address problems, if any, he said.

Asked how the Malaysian government will verify if the employers have genuine demands for workers since many fake companies had earlier hired workers for making money, Subramaniam said their human resources ministry will strictly check the job demands.

The terms and conditions and facilities of jobs will be clearly mentioned in the job contracts, and his ministry will also work for protection of the workers, said the Malaysian minister.

About the number of workers to be recruited from Bangladesh, he said, "It will depend on the economy, but for now there are demands (for workers) for our plantation and manufacturing sectors."

Kandahar hijack suspect held in J&K

PTI, Jammu

In a major breakthrough, Jammu and Kashmir Police has arrested a top militant who is suspected to have provided logistical support to hijackers of IC-814 in 1999 and was operating for the last 25 years in the state.

Mehrajuddin alias Javed, a close associate of United Jihad Council (UJC) chief Syed Salahuddin and underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, was arrested during an operation in Kishtwar forest belt, a senior police officer yesterday said.

His name had figured in the IC-814 hijack case as he had provided logistic support for hijacking of the Indian aircraft to Kandahar from Nepal, the officer said.

The Indian Airlines plane, with mainly Indians passengers, had taken off from Nepal on December 24, 1999 and just as it entered Indian airspace, the militants hijacked it to Kandahar in Afghanistan. The hijackers also killed one passenger.

The hijacking ended when the Indian government released three terrorists including Maulana Masood Azhar and Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh for the safe return of the passengers.

Mehrajuddin was one of the first five militants including Salahuddin who crossed over into PoK in 1987 to get arms training.

Govt using antibiotics

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effort to survive", saying it will not work as the government has lost its popularity and public trust.

He was talking to reporters at the grave of former president Ziaur Rahman at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital. He went there along with the newly nominated leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), a student wing of BNP, to place a floral wreath.

On September 3, BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia approved the new committee of JCD, with Abdul Quader Jewel as its president and Habibur Rashid Habib as general secretary.

Fakhrul said the government is now trying to live on by taking antibiotics of the cabinet expansion.

Seven lawmakers of the Awami League-led alliance took oath as new ministers at Bangabhaban yesterday afternoon, marking the third expansion of the cabinet to date.

Replying to a query, Fakhrul said BNP was working for the reinstatement of a non-party caretaker government and won huge support. "I hope many more will join us in the upcoming days."

"Time was over," he added. "People did not want to see this government anymore. And the prime minister tried to tackle a revolt within the grand alliance as the left-leaning leaders started to criticise the government."

"We know the grand alliance's partner parties. And we will not be surprised if they quit the alliance," he added.

Asked about the possibility of an election in advance, the BNP leader said people will not accept any election without a neutral overseer.

BNP leaders Mirza Abbas, Aman Ullah Aman, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annee and Fazlul Haque Milon, among others, were present there.

Four hours of fire

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militants launched an attack on the complex, pelting it with gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades.

The attackers ignited a fire in the building and the safe room was filling with smoke.

Stevens, information management officer Sean Smith and a US regional security officer would soon be forced to leave their temporary refuge from the assault.

Senior administration officials called the conditions inside "awful," describing "incredibly thick smoke and fire."

The officials, while still trying to piece together the details of how the Tuesday night consulate attack unfolded, began Wednesday to give a clearer picture of events.

The violence began around 10:00pm Tuesday amid a protest by the radical Islamist group Ansar Al-Sharia against a film mocking Islam's prophet.

Four hours later, the consulate was destroyed, its walls blackened by shooting flames. Four Americans, including Stevens and Smith, were dead.

Within 15 minutes of the first gunshots, the attackers were able to enter the main compound of the consulate complex and set it ablaze.

Stevens, Smith and a regional security officer were the only people inside the building at the time.

Photos taken Tuesday night show flames shooting from every orifice of the

building as militants wielding weapons walk through the compound.

The heavy, black smoke added to the confusion of the situation and the three diplomatic officers became separated as they evacuated the safe room, the administration officials said.

Meanwhile, American and Libyan security personnel, forced to fend off an attack on the outside and the raging fire within, were grappling with how to handle the increasingly complicated scene, US officials said.

The regional security officer with Stevens and Smith managed to escape the building and returned with others to try to rescue the men.

For Smith, the rescue came too late. He had already succumbed to smoke inhalation by the time they arrived. Stevens, in Benghazi on a short trip from the capital Tripoli, was missing, apparently able to make his way out unnoticed in the chaos.

About 45 minutes after the first gunshots rang out, security personnel attempted to retake the main compound, but were repelled by heavy gunfire and retreated to an annex in the complex.

They made a second attempt at 11:20pm -- more than an hour after the attack began -- and successfully regained control of the main building.

But the incident was far from over. The gunbattle con-

tinued and the attack moved from the main compound to the complex's annex.

"It was during that time that two additional US personnel were killed and two others were wounded," one of the senior administration officials said.

Finally, around 2:30am, four and a half hours into the attack, US security personnel, assisted by Libyan forces, took back control of the entire consulate complex.

Still unknown at that time, however, was Stevens' whereabouts.

Libyans said bystanders had helped carry an unconscious Stevens to a hospital. However, US officials could not confirm that account.

"We are not clear on the circumstances between the time he got separated from the rest of the group inside the burning building to the time we were notified that he was in a Benghazi hospital," the senior administration official said.

"We were not able to see him until his body was returned to us at the airport."

As dawn broke Wednesday, the magnitude of the previous night's events was felt by both Americans and Libyans. Charred debris and ash littered the floor of the burned-out consulate. A small American flag lay amid the rubble. And both the governments of the United States and Libya, on this "very, very difficult day," mourned the loss of Stevens.