



Convicted war criminal Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin is seen leaving in a car after picking up supplies at a supermarket in London.

PHOTO: THE SUN.CO.UK

Spate of rare animal deaths in Malaysia sparks alarm

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

The deaths of two sun bears and a tapir in Malaysia yesterday sparked fresh alarm among activists at the growing number of exotic animals perishing in the biodiverse country.

A sun bear and tapir were killed in road accidents in the northeast of the country on Christmas Eve, with the tapir skinned by villagers after its carcass was discovered, environmental group WWF said.

A second sun bear was killed and cut up, with its parts spotted on the same day sold openly at a market in Sarawak state on Borneo island, local media reported.

"Despite all efforts from various organisations and government bodies, yet again, we as a nation, have failed to stand up for our Malaysian wildlife," said Dionysius Sharma, WWF-Malaysia executive director.

"If we do not take drastic measures to protect our wildlife now, we may lose them to extinction in the near future."

Tropical, jungle-clad Malaysia is home to a dizzying array of wildlife, from orangutans to pangolins, but their numbers have been dwindling.

Businessman

FROM PAGE 2
anti-graft body in its probe found that he had properties worth Tk 41.55 crore.

He concealed wealth worth Tk 7.66 crore, reads the statement.

Examining relevant documents, the ACC also found that Kamal earned Tk 24.5 crore legally.

Arms for freedom

FROM PAGE 20
The better equipped Pakistani army used imported guns, automatic weapons, mortars, artillery trucks, armoured personnel carriers, tanks, airplanes, and ammunition.

Indeed, it was an unequal war, in terms of numbers and experience. The freedom fighters received some training and used a variety of weapons against the invading force during the struggle.

Walking along the gallery of the Liberation War museum in Dhaka where a number of weapons, including rifles and machineguns used in the Liberation War of 1971, had been put on display, Shahzaman Mozumder Bir Protik, a guerrilla freedom fighter, reminisced saying "They had to earn their weapons."

.303 Rifles and Indian SLRs were most common weapons the freedom fighters used, Shahzaman Mozumder said.

With the help of Shahzaman Mozumder, The Daily Star have made a list of the weapons used by the freedom fighters: Smith & Wesson Model 10 Revolver, SKS Rifle or Chinese Rifle, Indian SLR Rifle, Sterling Sub-machinegun, Chinese Light Machinegun, AK-47 Rifle or 'Chinese SMG', Lee Enfield .303 Rifle, British Sten Gun, HE-36 Grenade, MG 42 Machinegun, 105mm Howitzer, Bren gun or British .303 Light Machinegun, Mortar, 120mm Heavy Mortar, ZB 53 Machinegun or 'Czechoslovakian Machinegun', G3 Rifle, Type 53 Machinegun, Chinese Rocket Launcher, M40 recoilless Rifle, ENERGA Anti-Tank Rifle Grenade, M18 Recoilless Rifle, Tula Tokarev 33 Pistol, Italian 9mm 3842 Beretta Model 38 (Sub Machinegun), SA 44 Rifle.

Scan the QR code and watch the video to hear from the valiant freedom fighter of his experience with many of the weapons during the Liberation War in 1971.

A war criminal lives

FROM PAGE 20

get British citizenship and became, among other things, the vice-chairman of East London Mosque and London Muslim Centre, and a director of Muslim spiritual care provision in the National Health Service of the UK.

Four decades after his crimes, a Bangladeshi war crimes tribunal tried Mueen and his cohort Ashrafuzzaman Khan in absentia for killing at least 18 university teachers, journalists and doctors.

And the International Crimes Tribunal-2 handed down death penalty for the crimes in November, 2013.

After his conviction, Bangladesh requested The International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) to issue a red notice to arrest Mueen.

A Bangladeshi police official about the Interpol's procedure said after receiving request from a member country, Interpol verifies all documents related to the fugitive to see if the case was fit for issuing a red notice.

If satisfied with the documents, Interpol issues a red notice. If any member country finds the fugitive on its land, it notifies the Interpol and verifies documents of the fugitive.

"It's a long procedure and it totally depends on the country where the fugitive takes shelter ... whether it sends him or her back. Interpol only facilitates the procedure," the officer said seeking anonymity.

"Having a criminal deported becomes more difficult if there is no extradition treaty between the two countries," the officersaid.

Bangladesh has no extradition treaty with the UK, according to foreign ministry officials.

Wednesday's report of The Sun reads, "Interpol has published a photo

of the Muslim leader [Mueen Uddin] among 25 most wanted Brits on the run. But The Sun easily found him at his £1 million home in Southgate, North London."

One of his neighbours said: "Interpol can't be looking very hard."

Speaking to the newspaper at his home, Mueen said: "It's all rubbish." He has launched an appeal against the Interpol red notice.

The newspaper published three photos which pictured him picking up supplies at a supermarket in London.

Shahriar Kabir, a prominent war crimes trial campaigner, said Mueen Uddin is very influential among Britain's Muslim community that consisted of a large number of Jamaat men from Bangladesh and people of Pakistani origin. And for this reason, British government might not take action against him, he said.

Besides, Bangladesh has failed to launch an aggressive diplomatic campaign to counter the negative propaganda against the ongoing war crimes trial, said Kabir, also the president of Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee.

"He [Mueen] is an offender. If the British government is unwilling to send him back, then Britain can try him as per its law. Bangladesh government has to convince Britain to do so but we didn't see that effort," said Kabir.

Tureen said, "I do understand that they have an issue with death penalty but that does not mean that they would give free life to a convicted war criminal so much that he can give interviews to the media, Al Jazeera."

The British should clarify their position regarding Mueen, she told The Daily Star.

HC rebukes AC (land)

FROM PAGE 20

Justice Md Habibul Gani and Justice KM Kamrul Kader issued a suo moto rule on the legality of the incident.

Yesterday, Biroda appeared before the court and pledged that she would not be involved in such an incident in future.

ZI Khan Panna, a senior lawyer of the Supreme Court, prayed to the HC to give some directives to the authorities concerned to stop misuse of power by mobile courts.

The court refrained from passing any order saying that a case regarding the mobile court law was pending with the Appellate Division of the SC.

Biroda on December 12 fined Nirod Bihari Roy, 60, a member of the Dinajpur Bar Association, Tk 500 and sentenced him to a day in prison in default over the sitting arrangement at her office.

The incident at the Upazila Land

Office in Dinajpur's Birganj triggered anger among the lawyers in the district.

Different newspapers ran reports on the incident. Biroda was later transferred to Bhurungamari.

On December 17, the HC bench issued a suo moto (acting on its own initiative) rule and summoned the AC (land) to appear before it on December 27 after Supreme Court lawyers Syed Mohidul Kabir and Kazi Helal Uddin had submitted clippings of the news report to the HC for necessary order.

Appearing before the HC on Wednesday, Biroda said she asked Nirod Bihari to take a seat outside her office room as there was no space left inside when she was hearing a case.

She said she sentenced the lawyer as he raised his voice in the office.

Advocate Syed Mamun Mahbub appeared for Biroda.

China pledges support for Cambodia poll

AFP, Phnom Penh

China will donate ballot boxes and voting booths for Cambodia's 2018 election, an official said yesterday, weeks after Western democracies pulled their support in protest over a crackdown on opposition politicians.

The US and the European Union withdrew their backing after a Phnom Penh court dissolved the main opposition party in November -- a move they said stripped next year's election of any legitimacy.

The ruling all but guarantees a victory for premier Hun Sen, an authoritarian leader who has been methodically sweeping out rivals as he looks to extend his 32-year run in office.

Western powers and rights groups have warned that the unprecedented crackdown could spell the death of democracy in the Southeast Asian nation.

But Beijing -- a top ally and benefactor -- has stuck by Cambodia's side, offering to provide an array of equipment for the July 2018 election.

"China pledged to give the equipment to serve the election in 2018," Dim Sovannarum, a spokesman for Cambodia's National Election Committee (NEC), told AFP.

He could not confirm the total cost of the donated gear, which includes computers, ballot boxes and voting booths.

The official -- who denied Beijing was filling the gap left by the EU and the US -- said the Chinese assistance would help "ensure transparency, accuracy and accountability" in the poll.

China is Cambodia's biggest source of foreign aid and regularly provides electoral support, including vehicles and other supplies worth \$11 million for local polls held this year.

UP chairman 'helps arrange' child marriage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A union parishad chairman allegedly assisted in arranging a child marriage in Rajshahi on Monday.

Locals said parents took a 16-year-old boy and a 13-year-old girl from Bhallukgachhi village of Durgapur upazila to neighbouring Somaspara village in Bagmara upazila. Later, the two were married off at the house of one Abdus Samad, a relative of Galkandi UP Chairman Alamgir Sarker.

Dayem Uddin Sardar, a madrasa teacher who conducted the marriage, told local reporters that he acted on the order of the UP chairman.

Alamgir refuted the allegation. He said, "It's true that Samad is my relative. But why would I order anyone to arrange a child marriage?"

He claimed that he learnt about the marriage after visiting Samad's home later on. "We are working to find out the culprits," he said.

Vinayakram

FROM PAGE 20

their thundering beats in astonishing speed and complexity, performing pieces like "Shiva Thandava", "Seven and a Half", "Guru Vandana" and "Ganesha Thalam", among others. Vikku Vinayakram sat with four ghatams, while Selvaganesh sat on a percussion kit consisting of cymbals of varying sizes, a snare, kanjeera and a kick pedal. Incorporating intense vocal bol, the group displayed a wide range of rhythms that swayed the audience from start to finish.

The next performers of the night were students of Government Music College who presented a khyal in Raga Malkauns. They were followed by accomplished sarodiya Abir Hussain, who gave a textbook classical presentation on Raga Abhogi. Bangladeshi flautist Gazi Abdul Hakim took stage before midnight, performing Raga Desh on the bansuri (bamboo flute).

With weekend coming up, the venue saw crowds swell as the night went on with dhrupad vocals by Pt Uday Bhawalkar, Carnatic violin by Vidushi Kala Ramnath and khyal vocals by veteran classical singer Pt Ajoy Chakrabarty still to come.

The Bengal Classical Music Fest is presented by Square and supported by Brac Bank Ltd. Blues Communications is in charge of event management, with support from Perfect Haromny, Singapore. This year's festival has been dedicated to eminent educationist and researcher Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman.

DB sues

FROM PAGE 2
claimed.

He did everything on the instruction of his captors to save his life, he added.

Mazhar also claimed that the statement he submitted before a Dhaka court was scripted by police. Police denied the claim.

India

FROM PAGE 20

"I have been a Michael Jackson fan for years and copied his moonwalk step to halt traffic 12 years ago," Singh told AFP. "Initially, people were surprised, but it worked wonders over the years and has gained popularity."

"It's a tiring task maintaining traffic amid noise pollution and reckless motorists but moonwalking amuses commuters and drivers," Singh added, after another tiring day seemingly gliding backwards across the street.

Singh has become a social media phenomenon with nearly 50,000 people following his activities on Facebook while spectators add videos to sharing platforms every day.

Singh claims the number of traffic violations at the high court intersection where he spends most days has fallen over the years. An Indian university is studying his methods to see whether he has cut traffic jams too.

India's city streets are notorious the world over for gridlock. Drivers, already battling crater-pocked roads and faulty traffic signals, often take out their anger on police trying to keep cars moving and pedestrians safe.

Singh said some of India's younger drivers have paid for their recklessness with their lives.

"I have picked up the bodies of over 40 youngsters after accidents over the years and I feel terrible," he said.

"I just want youngsters to stay safe and follow rules."

Singh's colleagues were initially apprehensive when he used moves popularised by the late King of Pop to attract attention and manage traffic but they have since warmed to his unorthodox tactics, and he now gives moonwalking lessons to fellow officers.

"My parents are very proud of me for doing my job with extreme passio and with an innovative twist that includes Michael Jackson's step," he said.

Obliged to stop it

FROM PAGE 1

High School, alleged that the chairman issued such fake certificates for 33 students of class-VI to class-X at the institution, mentioning that the girls were 18 and above.

Akkas Mia from Dakkhindia village brought similar allegations against the local government representative.

According to Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017, whenever a local government representative is informed about child marriage verbally or through a written complaint, he or she will stop that marriage or can take necessary measures to initiate legal

steps against it.

Goalnagar High School Headmaster Md Habibur Rahman said the school authorities have been trying to resist child marriage in the area for long, but many guardians marry off their daughters with fake certificates taken from the UP chairman.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Liakat Ali said he heard about the complaint.

"We will recommend taking proper steps against the chairman if investigation finds him guilty," he said.

Deputy Commissioner Rezwanur Rahman said necessary action would be taken over the matter.

Work in remote

FROM PAGE 1

jobs. They can earn huge money if they do private practice staying in Dhaka. They may quit their jobs. We'll then go for new recruitment.

"When we appoint new doctors, and give them postings to the upazila-level hospitals, they don't stay there. This problem arises in the case of government jobs. Whenever we give them postings, they somehow manage to return to or stay in Dhaka."

The PM said this at a programme organised for handing over keys of ambulances to 98 government hospitals, upazila health complexes and health institutions at her office.

Hasina directed the authorities concerned to maintain the standard of education in medical colleges for producing quality physicians.

"We've set up many medical colleges ... but they [the authorities concerned] need to maintain the quality of education. They've to look into the matter whether their students are going to be physicians of killing people or saving them."

Mentioning that internet service is now available across the country, the PM said it would be fruitful if medical college students could follow classes and lectures of quality colleges via internet.

She said foreign expert physicians should be allowed to the country's medical institutions for teaching purpose so that local doctors could gather experiences staying with them. "If that can be done, our patients will not need to go abroad for treatment."

Hasina asked the health ministry to create a fund for maintaining ambulances during the formulation of the ministry's annual budget so that minor repair work of those can be done timely.

She also stressed the need for introduction of river ambulance services for

Madan Tak gives birth

FROM PAGE 20

such birds. The birds finally gave birth to two chicks in November and two more during the current month.

Visitors to the Park are also showing great interest in the new guests who are being cared for by their parents.

At present, the number of Madan Taks in the Park stands at 10.

The lesser adjutant are generally found around wetlands feeding mainly on fish, frogs, reptiles, large invertebrates, rodents, small mammals and rarely also on carrion.

Except during the mating season, the lesser adjutant storks are known as solitary creatures. They build nests on the branches of big trees from November till January and lay eggs there. The female Madan Tak lays three to four eggs at a time. The eggs take 28 days to hatch.

Though the species are no longer seen in different areas of Bangladesh,

they are still found in the Sundarbans. The bird has already become extinct in Singapore and China.

In the Safari Park, the birds are fed on a diet of nola and puti fish. Water reservoirs have also been built near their enclosures and fish are being released there so that they can feed naturally.

Prof Dr Monwar Hossain of the zoology department of Jahangirnagar University said, as the birds' habitat and source of food have been destroyed, and due to climate change and problems in the ecosystem, the birds have become endangered and are on the brink of extinction. He said initiatives have to be taken to increase their population and protect the bird.

Acting officer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park Abdul Motaleb said the births Madan Tak is a happy news. He said if they breed at this rate the birds will be saved from extinction.

Probe team formed

FROM PAGE 20

to find the reason behind the crashes," Inter Service Public Relations Directorate (ISPR) Director Lt Col Rashidul Hasan told The Daily Star.

Chief of Bangladesh Air Force Air Chief Marshal Abu Esrar also visited the spots, reports our Cox's Bazar Correspondent.

The two Yak 130 aircraft crashed around 6:30pm on Wednesday after they lost all communication with the control tower at around 6:15pm, around 15 minutes after they took off from Jahurul Haque Air Base in Chittagong.

One of the aircraft crashed in Putibila village and the other in Maispara of the upazila, around five km away from one

another. The aircrafts caught fire soon after the crashes.

Of the four pilots, group captain Sharif was with squadron leader Monir and wing commander Rajib was with squadron leader Azim.

All four pilots of the two aircrafts survived the crashes with minor injuries. They are still being treated at Bangladesh Navy Hospital in Patenga and Combined Military Hospital, Chittagong, ISPR said.

Members of BAF and Police cordoned off the two crash sites. The officials collected the wreckage which will be sent to the air base in Chittagong, air force officials working on the spot said.

North Korean boat skipper 'charged over Japan theft'

AFP, Tokyo

Japanese prosecutors reportedly charged a North Korean fishing boat captain for theft yesterday, accusing him of making off with items ranging from home appliances to solar panels.

The 45-year-old was among 10 North Korean "fishermen" spotted aboard a tiny wooden boat struggling in bad weather off the northern island of Hokkaido in late November.

Some of them admitted to "taking out" some electronic products from a

remote Japanese island where they landed briefly to take refuge.

The captain and two other crew members, who all identified themselves as North Korean nationals, were arrested earlier this month on suspicion of stealing a power generator on the small island.

According to the indictment, the captain took the lead in stealing some 40 items ranging from home appliances to solar panels worth 5.65 million yen (\$50,000), public broadcaster NHK said, adding that he will stand trial in a Japanese court.