



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

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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

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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 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

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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 officer said.

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

HC rebukes AC (land)

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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 Bhallukachhi 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 Goalkandi 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

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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 khyl in Raga Malkauns. They were followed by accomplished sarodhi 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 dhruvapad vocals by Pt Uday Bhawalkar, Carnatic violin by Vidushi Kala Ramnath and khyl 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 Harmony, Singapore. This year's festival has been dedicated to eminent educationist and researcher Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman.

DB sues

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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

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"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 passion and with an innovative twist that includes Michael Jackson's step," he said.

Obliged to stop it

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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 Dakhindia 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

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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

the country's islands and haor regions.

Noting that her government is taking the healthcare services to people's doorsteps, the PM directed all concerned to concentrate on ensuring the health services.

She said directives had already been given to the housing and public works ministry to build multi-storey buildings at the upazila level where physicians and other officials could stay after paying rents.

Hasina underscored the need for producing more gastroenterologists as the country has a few physicians in this field.

The premier focused on creating a trust fund for the community clinics so that no one can halt its activities in the future as the BNP-Jamaat government did. The BNP-Jamaat government had taken a suicidal step by closing the clinics. "If they come to power, they will shut down those again."

Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammed Nasim, State Minister Zahid Maleque, Health Services Division Secretary Serajul Huq Khan and Director General of Directorate General of Health Service also spoke on the occasion.

Hasina handed over dummy keys of seven ambulances to the authorities concerned of Bandarban Sadar Hospital, upazila health complexes of Tungipara in Gopalganj, Rajibpur in Kurigram, Phultala in Khulna, Kendua in Netrakona, Kaliakoir in Gazipur and the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases in Dhaka.

Officials said 60 ambulances of Japan's Toyota brand procured at a cost of Tk 41 lakh each would be handed over this month, while 38 more such ambulances would be handed over next month.

Madan Tak gives birth