

# CU Zoology Museum W

*Fund shortage, lack of space, manpower dearth among main 1 animal species getting perished, claim students and teachers*

MD ABBAS, CU

There is a room on the fourth floor of the faculty of science building, near the zoology department, on the Chittagong University campus, which is quite shabby and dusty, and at first glance looks like a storeroom with numerous jars and shelves crammed together.

Upon a closer look, the room suddenly becomes filled with broken skeletons and remains of dead animals, birds, reptiles and fish, preserved through taxidermy or in solutions inside big jars.

Many of these samples are either lying or kept on top of the glass-covered wooden shelves.

Curious, if you look around, you will notice a small rectangular signboard on the hallway wall, announcing that this 25 by 25 square feet room is actually a zoology museum.

Due to a lack of space inside the room, a number of glass showcases including one with a skeleton of a cow brought from Poland, another containing a taxidermied jackal and a Maya Horin (barking deer) have been kept in the hallway outside the museum.

Looking at the deer, one may wonder if it had albinism.

"We could not stop bleaching of the species (samples of which were taxidermied) as we cannot control the temperature of the room," said Assistant Prof Mohammad Abdul Wahed Chowdhury of the zoology department.

Museum section officer Abdus Salam, working in the museum since its opening in 1976, said the museum has about 5,000 preserved samples from 687 different animal species, of which at least 100 are rare.

However, due to improper preservation, lack of space, staff shortage and inadequate fund allocations, the valuable samples of different rare animal species are getting perished, claimed students and teachers of the department.

Visiting the museum, The Daily Star found that at least samples of 100 species were lying on the floor.

Some 150 samples, including the taxidermy of a 15 feet python lay on top of the shelves in the museum, gathering dust and losing its original colour and texture. Another 14 feet taxidermied King Cobra wrapped around a wooden stump was found in a similar condition.

Some skeletons and taxidermied sam-

ples of birds and reptiles were due to negligence. Also no sticks of the identity of the species were at pots or jars.

Showing a taxidermied which was kept in the hallway is the only preserved sample of animals in the country.

"Only one room has been the museum, which is inadequate for serving all the samples," said Prof Salam explaining why some of the samples were kept on the hallway.

"We have sent letters several times to the authority seeking two more staff, but we have only received a reply," he added.

The students also expressed dissatisfaction over the space crisis.

"Ninety percent of practical work is held at the museum. But only students can stand together while to remain outside," said Toukman, third year student of zoology.

The department stopped displaying samples as it has no space for them," said Manzoorul Kibria, an associate professor.

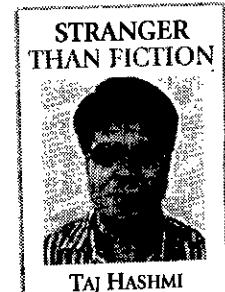
Fund crisis is another ch-

... and an anti-  
stood for racial and religious causes even more than a tated to give up virtually most of his income - to in. He rooted firmly aga tered to become the face of the oppressed. And that extr him The Greatest.

Born Cassius Marcellus, Kentucky, to middle-class parents when he was only 12. A champion in the 1960 Commonwealth Games, he reportedly, threw the gold medal in the river as he was refused services at a hotel of his race.

A year before he won the gold medal, Ali converted to Islam at the hands of Cassius Clay. The next year, Clay refused to ser

## DEFIAN

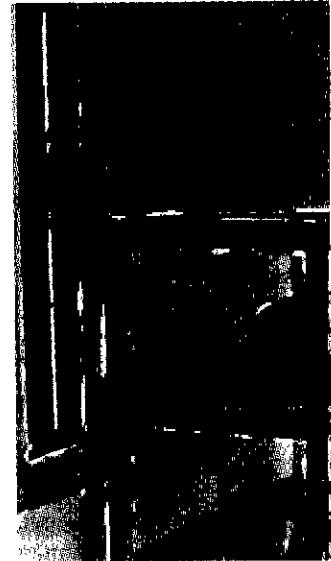
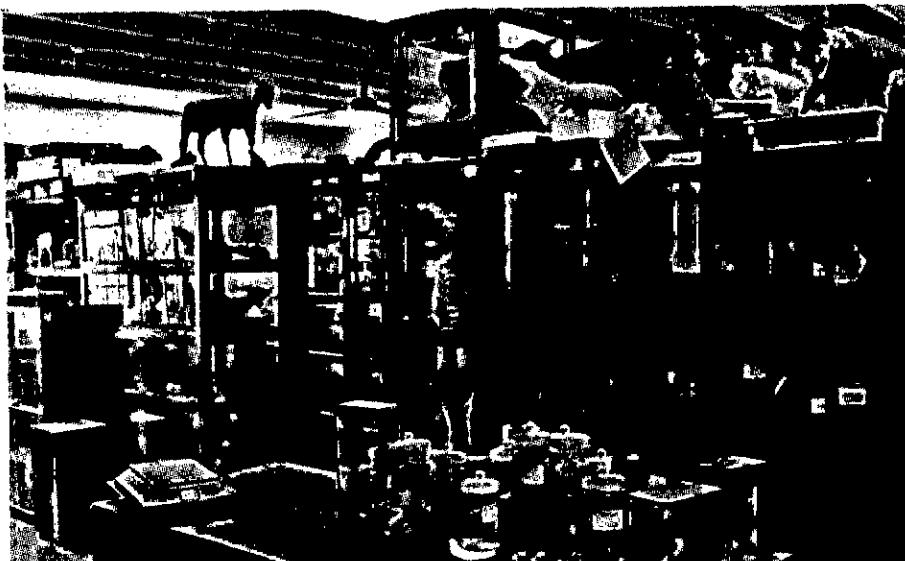


STRANGER THAN FICTION

TAJ HASHMI

inal laws, as evolved in India and in all the former British colonies worldwide - are based on the British Law. However, barring a few former British colonies, there are endemic violations of the law and impunity from arrests and trials of certain privileged persons. Bangladesh provides impunity to "well-connected" politicians, businessmen, and their h

As arbitrary power lies in the hands of the privileged, so members of the bureaucracy and law-enforcement agencies break the law by taking advantage of ordinary people's complicity with colonial and pre-modern British - who introduced the Law and nurtured the r



*Left, this might look like a storeroom; but it's actually a museum, where preserved animals and samples are kept in a space that is too small and inadequate for the collection. So the CU zoology museum has to keep a number of glass showcases in the hallway exp*