

CU Zoology Museum W

Fund shortage, lack of space, manpower dearth among main 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 to negligence. Also no stick identity of the species were at pots or jars.

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

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

"We have sent letters several authority seeking two more staff, but we have only received he added.

The students also expressed isfaction over the space crisis.

"Ninety percent of practica held at the museum. But only dents can stand together while to remain outside," said Touk third year student of zoology.

The department stopped samples as it has no space for said Manzoorul Kibria, an associa Fund crisis is another ch

stood for racial and relig 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 oppressed. And that extr him The Greatest.

Born Cassius Marcell Kentucky, to middle-clas when he was only 12. Al champion in the 1960 C reportedly, threw the gol was refused services at a of his race.

A year before he won Ali converted to Islam a Cassius Clay. The next y champion refused to ser

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STRANGER THAN FICTION



TAJ HASHMI

inal laws, as evolved in l in all the former British wide - are based on the Law. However, barring a mer British colonies, the endemic violations of th and Asia, including extr and impunity from arre tions of certain privileg Bangladesh provides un nity to "well-connected" politicians, businessmen; tary officers, and their h

As arbitrary power le privileges, so members bureaucracy and law-en break the law by taking ordinary people's comp colonial and pre-model British - who introduce 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 sl and inadequate fund allocation. So the CU zoology museum has to keep a number of glass showcases in the hallway ex