

WORLD
world

Australia builds world's longest cat-proof fence



Australia's native wildlife has been affected by habitat loss as well as introduced creatures such as cats, foxes and rabbits going feral and killing native species

AFP | Sydney

A conservation agency has constructed what is believed to be the world's longest cat-proof fence in central Australia to save native wildlife and vegetation ravaged by the feline predators.

Australia has the highest extinction rate in the world, while declining populations are affected by habitat loss as well as introduced creatures such as cats, foxes and rabbits going feral and killing native species across the vast continent.

The Australian Wildlife Conservancy this month finished building and electrifying the 44-kilometre (27-mile) long fence to create a predator-free area of almost 9,400 hectares (23,200 acres) some 350 kilometres northwest of Alice Springs.

"Australia does not have an effective strategy for controlling cats," AWC chief Attius Fleming told AFP.

"The only way we can save Australia's most endangered

animals is by establishing these massive feral cat-free areas using conservation fencing."

Fleming said as part of the project -- which is funded by public and government donations -- cats and other feral animals were being removed from the area, with threatened native mammals to be reintroduced next year.



For biosecurity reasons any cats that are imported into Australia must meet conditions set by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Police find \$28m cash in Malaysia's ex-PM's bags

● Najib's home, and the apartments of a son and a daughter were among a dozen properties searched since May 18

AP | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Malaysian police said yesterday the cash stashed in bags at an apartment linked to former Prime Minister Najib Razak and seized in a money-laundering investigation amounted to 114 million ringgit (\$28.6 million).

Police seized 284 boxes of expensive designer handbags and 72 pieces of luggage stuffed with cash, jewellery and watches from an unoccupied apartment at a high-end Kuala Lumpur condominium on May 18. Allegations of corruption at the 1MDB state investment fund that Najib set up led to his shocking defeat and the end of his coalition's 60-year unbroken rule in May 9 elections. He has denied any wrongdoing.

Najib's United Malays National Organization, which is the main party in the former ruling coalition, said in a statement that the cash seized by police was donations to the party, partly for the recent elections.

Najib has stepped down as party president after the election loss and hasn't yet transferred the money to the new leadership, the statement said.

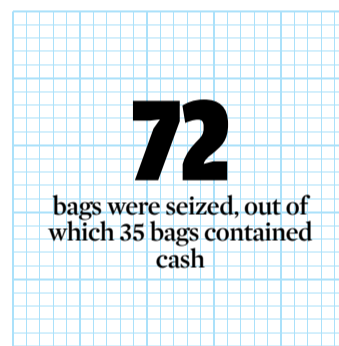


Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, centre, speaks to media as he leaves the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Office yesterday

It called for the money to be returned to the party once the investigation is completed.

Commercial crime investigations chief Amar Singh said 35 of the 72 pieces of luggage contained cash in 26 denominations, largely the Malaysian and Singapore currencies, amounting to 114 million ringgit. Singh said police are still assessing the value of jewellery and watches in the other 37 items of luggage.

He declined to say who the apartment belongs to, saying the investigation is ongoing.



In total, Singh said police raided 12 locations as part of the probe into a criminal breach

of trust involving the 1MDB fund.

He said police also seized 500,000 ringgit (\$126,000) in cash and an unidentified amount of foreign currencies, as well as more handbags and valuables from Najib's family home. Police also separately took 150 handbags and valuables from an apartment occupied by Najib's daughter, he said.

Najib and his wife have been barred from leaving the country. Najib was grilled for more than 10 hours over two days this week by the anti-graft agency.

Child dies from mother's 'snake bite' breast milk

AFP | New Delhi

An Indian woman who was bitten by a snake in her sleep and unknowingly breastfed poisoned milk to her daughter has died along with the child, police said yesterday.

The 35-year-old woman from Uttar Pradesh state did not realise she had been bitten when she woke and breastfed her

daughter.

The three-year-old girl and the mother fell ill on Thursday and both died before they could reach hospital, police inspector Vijay Singh told AFP.

The family spotted the snake in another room but the creature escaped.

A post-mortem is to be carried out but police have registered a case of accidental death,

the officer added.

India is home to some 300 snake species and 60 are highly venomous, including the Indian cobra, krait, Russell's viper and saw-scaled viper.

India accounts for 46,000 of the 100,000 snakebite deaths around the world each year, according to a 2011 study by the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

China to create 3D digital version of terracotta army



Terracotta warriors and horses stand in partially unearthed pits at the Museum of Qin Terracotta Warriors and Horses, in Xi'an

IANAS | Beijing

The conservation authorities of Emperor Qin Shi Huang's mausoleum in central China announced yesterday that they would digitize the museum's collections, including the famous Terracotta Army guarding the emperor's tomb.

Three-dimensional modelling techniques and panorama photos will be used to digitally

reproduce 20,000 square metres of the pits at the site, which contain thousands of soldiers and horses, *Efe* news agency reported.

The digitization will be carried out jointly by the museum and Northwestern University, China.

The construction of the Terracotta Army -- composed of over 8,000 figures -- was ordered by Emperor Qin, the

founder of the first dynasty of the eastern civilization, who ruled between 221-210 BC.

The Terracotta Army was discovered by chance in 1974 by farmers and is considered to be one of the most important archaeological finds of the 20th century.

It symbolically guards the emperor's tomb and has never been opened for fear its interior may get damaged.



3D modelling techniques will be used to reproduce thousands of terracotta soldiers and horses

Woman fights off grizzly bear

BBC | Washington

A 28-year-old woman walked away with a fractured skull after managing to fight off a grizzly bear in the US state of Montana.

Amber Kornak had just started her dream job researching the fearsome animals when she was mauled by one on a remote mountain range this month.

She managed to fend off the creature using Mace-like bear spray, then walked nearly two miles to her vehicle.

Kornak is in a stable condition in hospital, a friend said.

Kornak accepted a seasonal



Grizzly bears are some of the largest carnivores on Earth

Kornak was able to reach a canister of bear spray, but accidentally sprayed it on herself before she was able to use it to ward off the animal. The repellent is made from the same ingredient as pepper spray.



Grizzly bears are considered a threatened species in the US, and are under federal protection

According to a GoFundMe page set up by her friend, Kornak was able to drive away and find help.