



Crowds watched in Jalandhar as the leopard attacked a man on a ladder and mauled another in a garden (below)

INDIA

Leopard mauls residents in seven-hour city rampage

By Oliver Barnes

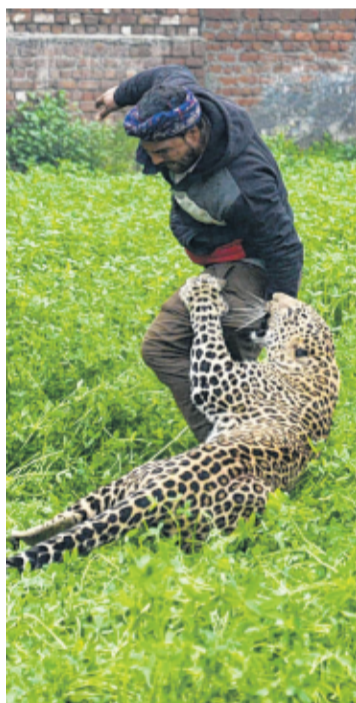
A wild leopard caused mayhem in the Indian city of Jalandhar yesterday, mauling six people and evading capture for more than seven hours.

It took three tranquiliser darts to subdue the animal after it bit one man's arm and knocked another man off a ladder.

Despite police blocking several residential streets, hundreds of people gathered on rooftops to watch as authorities scrambled to capture the big cat.

Khushwinder Singh, a wildlife official, said: "There were a lot of people - that's why it became aggressive. The area was very congested and the lanes were very narrow, so catching it became very difficult. We shot it with three tranquilisers, but when leopards are very aggressive, the medicine does not affect them as much. It only started to work after the third tranquiliser was fired."

No one attacked by the leopard



was severely injured. After initially cornering the animal in a house, authorities spent hours trying to trap it with a large net, but the leopard hurdled over a member of the rescue team before frantically running around a residential area to try to avoid capture. As it dashed around the streets, stones were thrown to try to knock it out, but this only made it more agitated.

A team of zoologists finally arrived and shot the animal with the tranquiliser gun. Even then, the leopard still took three hours to fall unconscious. Once sedated, it was taken to a nearby zoo for examination, where it will be kept until the authorities decide its fate.

i A census carried out in 2015 by the Wildlife Institute of India estimated that a leopard population of between 12,000 and 14,000 was living in the wild across the country.

NETHERLANDS

Dutch skaters take to Austrian lake for marathon competition

By Lisi Niesner
IN TECHENDOR

Enterprising Dutch ice skaters, frustrated by their country's mild winters, have created a reliable back-up for the all-important Elfstedentocht - on a lake in the Austrian Alps.

It's a race that originally linked 11 towns in the Netherlands via frozen canals, but milder winters mean that it is now rare for ice to form to the required thickness of



six inches. The Dutch meteorological institute KNMI predicted in 2007 that there would be only four races this century, compared with 15 in the 20th century.

No such problems affect the Weissensee (left), a lake in the southern Austria state of Carinthia, which freezes over every winter.

Instead of one big loop through the northern Netherlands, the 4,000 skaters taking part do 16 laps of an eight-mile circuit winding across the lake. REUTERS

RUSSIA

Athletes found guilty of doping

By Oliver Barnes

Twelve Russian track-and-field athletes, including the 2012 Olympic high jump champion Ivan Ukhov, have been found guilty of taking part in state-backed doping.

The Switzerland-based Court of Arbitration for Sport said that Ukhov had been disqualified from the London Olympics, while hammer thrower Tatyana Lysenko and high jumper Svetlana Shkolina have also been disqualified after winning gold at the 2013 World Championships.

JAPAN

Police investigate sale of 'uranium' in online auction

By Oliver Barnes

Japanese police have launched an investigation into an alleged online sale of uranium.

Police are questioning the seller and bidders on the item that was listed on Yahoo's auction site as "Uranium 99.9 per cent" in 2017. The auction page contained a picture of the chemical in powdered form inside a glass tube.

Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) was tipped off about the sale not long after it went live.

"We were asked, 'Is it OK? How is it possible?'" We immediately called Yahoo!, which then took down the product," an NRA official said.

Early tests, carried out on the powder by the Japan Atomic Energy Agency have reportedly confirmed that it was uranium, but authorities are as yet unsure whether the uranium was enriched or not.

Enriched uranium is up to

50 times more radioactive than natural uranium.

The seller allegedly wrote on the site that he had purchased the radioactive material outside of Japan.

Uranium is strictly regulated in Japan. Being caught in possession of it can result in a jail sentence of a year or a fine of ¥1m (£7,000).

Only businesses with a special license are permitted to handle uranium and other radioactive materials.

Last year, it emerged that Japan had amassed enough plutonium to make 6,000 atomic bombs, as part of a program to fuel its nuclear plants.

Japan has long been the only non-nuclear-armed country with a program to reprocess spent nuclear fuel from its power plants into plutonium. The reprocessing is meant to create a new and emissions-free fuel source for resource-poor Japan. But concern is growing that its stockpile is vulnerable to terrorists and natural disasters.

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