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Local News

Rhinoceros pair at Lal Sohanra fails to procreate

Maira Fayyaz

LAHORE - The pair of rare rhinoceros gifted by late King of Nepal to Pakistan in 1982, housed in the Lal Sohanra National Park, has so far failed in procreating despite attair prime reproductive age.

The strong attraction between the couple in their teenage seems to have died down as they are often seen grazing away from each other in the park, spread over an area of 162, acres, the Officer Incharge Wildlife Muhammad Noman told this correspondent during a visit to the park Wednesday.

"Love was in the air and the couple used to wander around the park together till some time back, but their interest seems to have waned after their mating failed in producing results," he said and termed it important that the female rhinoceros must conceive, so that the species could have a sure future.

"Most wildlife experts believe that another female rhinoceros needs to be included in the family either on a permanent or temporary basis, to develop the jealousy factor, which will mark the end of the pair's estrangement phase," he said adding that of the two, the male rhinoceros was comparatively co-operative. "Another female could stir up some excitement in the relationship, and the jealousy aroused can possibly lead to more rhinoceros," he said. The Bahawalpur area provides the natural habitat for this particular breed of rhinoceros, a time when hundreds existed in the region, but these became extinct with the passage of time due to lack of proper conservation efforts and rising urbanisation.

Nepal had developed their rhinoceros population from the same breed, which was gifted to the Nawab of Bahawalpur many decades before, and the King of Nepal returned the park to that very breed to the president of Pakistan.