

RARE RHINO SHOT FOR THE FIRST TIME

One of the world's most endangered mammals, the Bornean subspecies of the Sumatran rhinoceros, has been captured on film in the wild for the first time. The rhino, believed to be one of a population of as few as 13 individuals, was photographed by a motion-triggered camera trap set up in remote jungle in Sabah, Malaysia.

"This is an encouraging sign for the future of rhinoceros conservation work in Sabah," said Mahedi Andau, director of the Sabah Wildlife Department. "To capture a photo of one just a few months after placing camera traps in the area is extraordinary."

On Borneo, there have been no confirmed reports of the species, apart from those in Sabah, for 20 years; experts fear that it may be extinct on the rest of the island.



IN BRIEF

ANTARCTICA NASA satellites have detected what could be a 480-kilometre-wide crater under the East Antarctic ice sheet. Scientists say that the crater could have been made by a meteorite impact 250 million years ago. If they are correct, the meteorite may have triggered the largest mass extinction in the Earth's history, when 95 per cent of marine species and 70 per cent of land species disappeared.

USA A new lava dome has grown inside the crater of Mount St Helens in Washington state and there has been an increase in seismic activity and gas, steam and ash emissions. The US Geological Survey reports that the eruption could intensify suddenly and explode. The volcano erupted violently in May 1980, devastating forests within a 240-kilometre radius and killing 60 people.



A COOL HALF MILLION FOR ANTARCTIC HUTS TRUST

The campaign to preserve three historic huts on Ross Island in Antarctica used by Sir Ernest Shackleton and Captain Robert Falcon Scott has been given a financial boost thanks to a £500,000 donation to the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust.

The huts are being damaged by the strong polar winds and incursions of snow and ice. In

2004, the trust applied to the National Heritage Memorial Fund for assistance to help conserve Shackleton's Hut at Cape Royds, but was turned down because the site is not located within the UK.

The donation was made by the executors of Audrey Dance's estate; Dance's grandfather was Shackleton's brother-in-law.

BREAK-UP OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA NOW COMPLETE

Montenegro officially declared an end to its union with Serbia during a special parliamentary session that took place on 3 June in the capital, Podgorica, signalling the complete break-up of the former Yugoslavia. The declaration followed a public referendum in May where just over 55 per cent of Montenegrins voted to secede from Serbia by a margin of just 0.5 per cent.

The union of Serbia and Montenegro was all that remained of the six federations that made up the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia, which was created in 1945. The others – Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia – gained independence during the 1990s. Serbia and Montenegro became unified in 2003 after EU intervention to stabilise the region.

Montenegro is now expected to begin talks with the European Commission on eventual EU membership. Previously, the EU had suspended talks with Serbia and Montenegro due to Serbia's failure to arrest war crimes suspects.

LA due for quake as fault suffers stress

A new study suggests that huge stresses have built up in the southern end of the San Andreas fault. The release of this stress could trigger a catastrophic earthquake, according to the

study's author, Yuri Fialko of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California. Fialko used satellite data to gain the most accurate estimate yet of the pent-up energy in the fault.

GEOGRAPHICAL FLAGS OF THE WORLD

Yemen



DESCRIPTION A rectangular tricolour banner made up of equal, horizontal stripes of red, white and black. **HISTORY** Yemen's first flag, adopted by the north in 1927, was red with a white sword running horizontally across the centre. The sword was bordered by five white stars, representing the five pillars of Islam.

In 1962, Yemen divided into two countries. The flag of South Yemen featured red, white and black bands, with a blue triangle on the hoist side, representing the Yemeni people. In the centre of the blue triangle was a red star, representing the socialist ruling party. The North Yemeni flag was very similar, featuring the same tricolour bands, this time with a green star, symbolising Arab unity, placed at the centre of the white strip. When the two countries were reunited in 1990, the unified state adopted the tricolour flag that both had shared.

INTERPRETATION Red, white and black are three of the four pan-Arabic colours (the other being green), which are also used in the Syrian, Egyptian, Afghan and Iraqi flags. Each of the colours is in some way connected to Arabic dynasties and the prophet Mohammed. Red represents the blood of martyrs and is also thought to be the colour of the Hashimite Dynasty. The use of black and white dates back to the seventh century, when two flags – one white, one black – were carried in Islamic ceremonies and used during prayer meetings. The white flag, the colour of the Umayyad Dynasty, was inscribed with the motto – "There is no god but God (Allah) and Mohammed is the Prophet of God." The Abbasid Dynasty, ruling from Baghdad, took black as a symbol of mourning for the assassination of relatives of the Prophet and in remembrance of the Battle of Karbala.

Further reading: *Complete Flags of the World* (Dorling Kindersley, £9.99)