



KERATAN AKHBAR
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SURAT KHABAR	:	THE MALAY MAIL			
TARIKH	:	15/11/2018	MUKA SURAT	:	7
JABATAN	:	PERHILITAN			
KLASIFIKASI	:	<b>PERHATIAN</b>			

## Taiping Zoo welcomes birth of rare gaur



The female baby gaur born at Taiping Zoo. The gaur is an endangered species. — Picture by Farhan Najib

**TAIPING** — The stork has been busy at the Taiping Zoo and Night Safari this year, delivering four baby animals, including a rare species of gaur called the Malayan gaur (*bos gaurus hubbacki*).

Weighing between 20kg and 30kg, the female gaur was born to her mother Maya on Oct 19 and has yet to be named.

She will be left with her mother until the age of nine months to be fed.

The baby gaur will reach maturity after three years and has a lifespan of between 20 and 25 years.

Zoo director Dr Kevin Lazarus said the gaur is an endangered animal and feared to be extinct following the loss of habitat and poaching.

“The gaur has been listed as vulnerable in the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List since 1986,” he told reporters.

“It was also listed as totally protected under the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010.”

Dr Lazarus said there are four Malayan gaur, including the newborn, at the zoo and the last time a gaur gave birth was in 2012.

He also said the baby gaur has a brown coat now, but it will turn dark brown and eventually take on a black coat as it grows older.

The gaur has also been chosen as the zoo’s logo, and the mascot for the state football team.

Dr Lazarus said the zoo also had another bundle of joy with the birth of a female zebra foal (*equus quagga burchelli*) on Sunday, which has also not been named.

“The baby, which weighs around 30kg, was born to an 18-year-old mother and 10-year-old father, via an animal exchange programme,” he said.

It was the first birth of a zebra foal in the zoo, which now has three zebra foals.

The zoo had also welcomed a white-handed gibbon baby (*hylobates lar*), born on April 22, and a crowned crane chick (*balearia regulorum*), born on July 13.

Dr Lazarus described the birth of the crowned crane as another success for the zoo as the animal was also threatened with extinction because of the change in weather pattern and trapping for embellishment purposes.

Taiping Municipal Council president Datuk Abdul Rahim Md Ariff said the birth of the animals is a good sign as it will attract more visitors to the zoo.

“When a baby hippopotamus was born two years ago, we received a large number of visitors. We hope more people will come and visit these newborn animals,” he said.