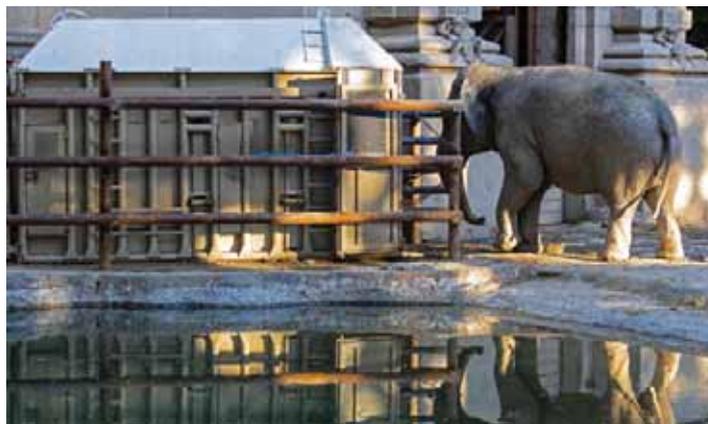




A crane lifts a fitted cage carrying the elephant Mara.



Mara begins a journey of more than 2700 km to an elephant sanctuary in Brazil in a fitted cage.



Mara is pictured before a journey of more than 2700 km to an elephant sanctuary in Brazil.

Canada zoo to send pandas home after bamboo shortage

A Canadian zoo is shipping two pandas home to China after the coronavirus pandemic left it struggling to source the massive bamboo stockpiles needed to feed the giant creatures. Er Shun and her mate Da Mao have lived in the country since 2013 as part of a 10-year loan agreement with a breeding facility in Chengdu. The arrival of the cute and furry animals was a huge spectacle that was broadcast live on all major Canadian television networks. Er Shun later mothered two twin cubs — the first pandas born on Canadian soil.

But Calgary Zoo said it was cutting short the pair's stay because the COVID-19 outbreak had disrupted transport links and made it harder to supply the 40 kilograms (90 pounds) of bamboo a typical adult panda eats each day. Staff had worked to find alternative bamboo providers but there were concerns that supplies could be disrupted without warning and leave the animals hungry, the zoo said in a statement. "Knowing a second wave of COVID-19 is likely... the Calgary Zoo feels it's critical to move the beloved giant pandas back to China where there are abundant local sources of bamboo," the statement said. The zoo is currently closed due to the pandemic and said it would not be able to allow the public to bid farewell to the animals. Er Shun and Da Mao's cubs have already been relocated to China, according to national broadcaster CBC. —AFP



Sea lion 'Leo' draws an Amabie mascot, that is associated with viruses and it became popular after the pandemic in Japan, at the Hakkeijima Sea Paradise aquarium in Yokohama, suburban Tokyo yesterday.—AFP photos