

Stop battle of birds and buffalos



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Traditional fights of birds and buffalos would soon come to an end in the time of Magh Bihu. Animal lovers across the state are dead opposed to the idea.

“Why two buffalos should be brought to a battle only for our entertainment? Isn’t it an act of cruelty?,” said an [animal](#) lover who said that we should take pains at this tradition.

Another [animal](#) activist said, “We should leave the birds to fly freely. But what we do is painful. I don’t understand what entertainment we get when two bulbul birds after weeklong torture are fielded to [fight](#) in public.”

A circle of [animal](#) lovers told Assam Times that the birds and animals should not be allowed to bear the brunt of an age old tradition.

This time the [animal](#) lovers are publicly opposed to the bird and buffalo fights for entertainment. In a letter [chief](#) minister Tarun Gogoi, Humane Society International has urged the government to stop the practice which normally take place in Magh Bihu mainly in Sivasagar, Nagaon, [Morigaon](#) and Kamrup.

They deplore that the buffaloes are forced to participate in fights for a reward of Rs [10,000](#) or more. The tradition pulls huge crowd in Ahatguri.

Bulbuls or 'songbirds' as they are known, protected under the [Wildlife Protection Act](#), 1972, are reportedly captured from the wild by villagers who then train them by intoxicating their food with marijuana and starve the bird a night before the [fight](#).

HSI India chapter managing director NG Jayasimha called it a blatant violation of Section 11(1) (m) (ii) and (n) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) [Act](#), 1960.

The Supreme Court had already passed an order prohibiting all [animal](#) races and fights, thereby directing the [Animal](#) Welfare Board of India and the government to prevent infliction of unnecessary pain and suffering to animals. The order also ensures that [animal](#) caretakers shall not incite any [animal](#) to [fight against](#) a human being or another [animal](#).

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BY ABDUL GANI

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