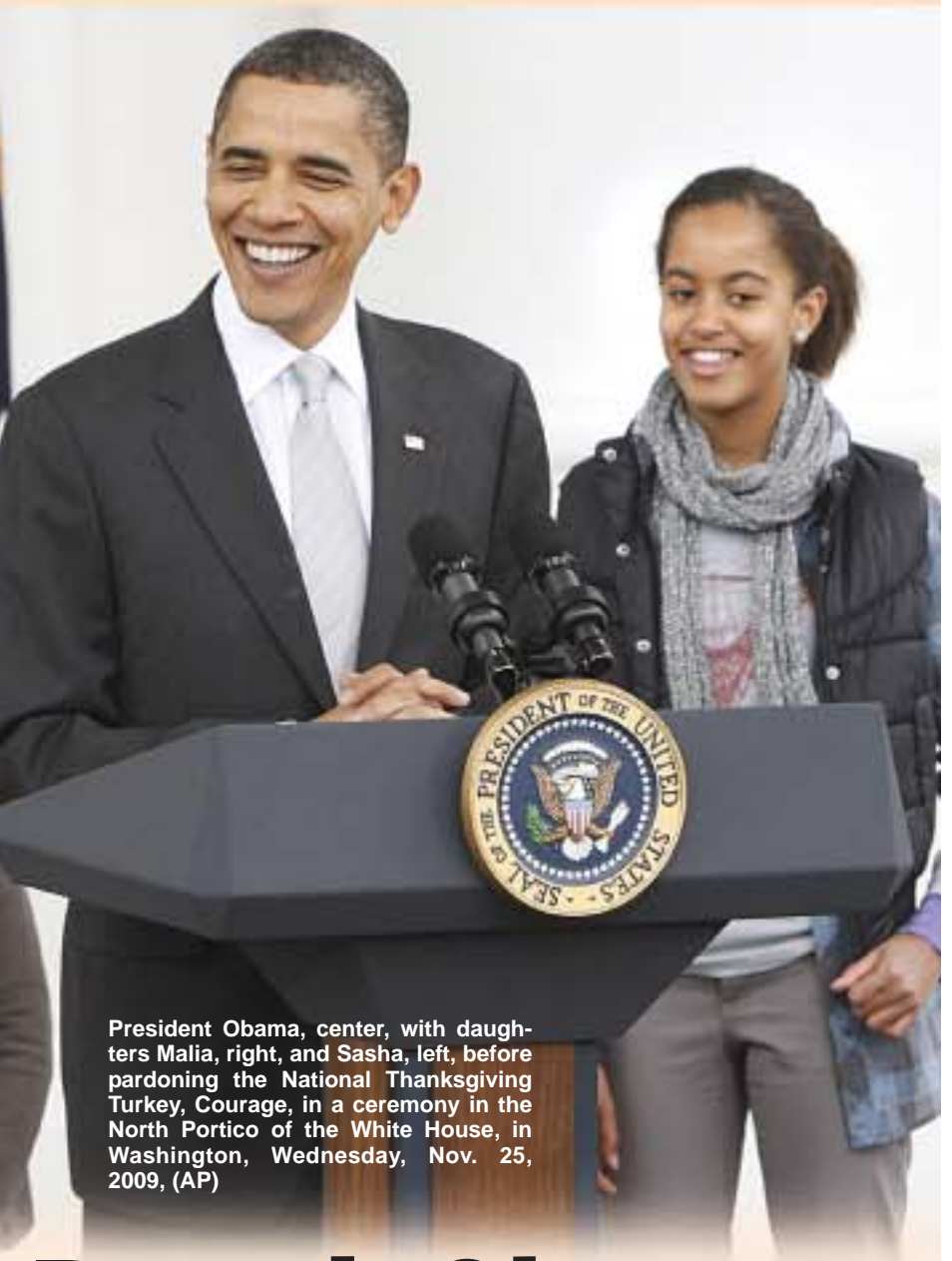


Friday 27th November, 2009

The Island Leisure LAND



Courage, the turkey, stands as President Barack Obama speaks as he pardons him, the day before Thanksgiving, during a ceremony in the North Portico of the White House in Washington Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2009.(AP)

President Obama, center, with daughters Malia, right, and Sasha, left, before pardoning the National Thanksgiving Turkey, Courage, in a ceremony in the North Portico of the White House, in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2009, (AP)

Barack Obama may be facing criticism for not changing the ways of Washington as promised, but yesterday he fulfilled one eccentric tradition that few wanted to see altered: the presidential pardoning of a Thanksgiving turkey.

Barack Obama pardons Thanksgiving turkey

By Alex Spillius in Washington

A bird named Courage was spared slaughter for the first family's table in a ceremony made official by the first George Bush in 1989.

Chosen by the president's young daughters Malia and Sasha from a batch donated by the National Turkey Board, the lucky 45lb bird was swiftly transported to live out his days in California.

"There are certain days that remind me why I ran for this office," smiled Mr Obama. "Then there are moments like this when I pardon a turkey and send it to Disneyland."

Courage, accompanied by another turkey Carolina - there is always a runner-up - was due to head the Thanksgiving parade at the theme park today and then stay on at an exhibit on the settlers' early days.

The Obamas later took "two of their less fortunate brethren" to

Martha's Table, a Washington charity feeding the needy. "So today, all told, I believe it's fair to say that we have saved or created four turkeys," joked the president, poking fun at White House spin on how the stimulus bill would "save or create" millions of jobs.

Striking a serious note, he paid tribute to "every servicemen at home or in harm's way". "We are proud of you we are thinking of you and we are praying for you," he said, before acknowledging the pain "the American family" was suffering this year with unemployment high and wages stretched thin.

Thanksgiving was first offered by the pilgrims for surviving early winters and then was enshrined as a tradition on the fourth Thursday of every month by Abraham Lincoln in 1863 as a way of asserting unity during the civil war.

(AP)

Inside Reaching out to the Unreachable SLS



Organising a health camp in a month was a lot of work, stress, fear and it was a challenge too. The organising committee worked tirelessly day and night, to make sure that every little detail was looked into, and to make sure that the day's proceedings would flow smoothly.



The pulsating beat of 'NAADRO'



The website describes the band as a 'trendy percussion band in Sri Lanka whose performances include the miasma of percussion sounds from the world over; from its native Sri Lanka to Indian, Latin, African and others. Further it has achieved massive popularity within a short period of two years and continues to wow audiences at local events often winning many praises and accolades for their brilliant performances.

Siyothru - exhibition on birds on clothes



Young Samantha Kumari will stage a unique exhibition portraying common residents and endemic birds on clothes. The three day exhibition will commence at the Lionel Wendt today and ends Sunday (29).



President Barack Obama's daughter Sasha Obama, 8, reaches to pet a turkey, Courage, the day before Thanksgiving, during a ceremony to pardon him in the North Portico of the White House in Washington Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2009.(AP)



Some of the 4,000 pounds of turkey available are being prepared for a Thanksgiving diner at St. Anthony Dining Room in San Francisco on Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2009. The dinners will be served to the poor and homeless by Members of the San Francisco chapter of the Hells Angels motorcycle club. (AP)



President Obama, center, with daughters Malia, far right, Sasha, second from the right, pardoning the National Thanksgiving Turkey, Courage, in a ceremony in the North Portico of the White House, in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2009. With Obama is the Chairman of the National Turkey Federation, Walter Pelletier. Woman on left is unidentified. (AP)

Curbing global warming saves lives, studies say

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Cutting global warming pollution would not only make the planet healthier, it also would make people healthier too, new research suggests.

Slashing carbon dioxide emissions could save millions of lives, mostly by reducing preventable deaths from heart and lung diseases,

according to studies released Wednesday and published in a special issue of The Lancet British medical journal.

Global and U.S. health officials unveiled the results as they pushed for health issues to take a more prominent role at upcoming climate change negotiations in Copenhagen. Also on Wednesday, President Barack Obama announced that he would go to Copenhagen at the start of international climate talks. U.S. health

officials said the timing was not planned.

"Relying on fossil fuels leads to unhealthy lifestyles, increasing our chances for getting sick and in some cases takes years from our lives," U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said in a telecast briefing from her home state of Kansas. "As greenhouse gas emissions go down, so do deaths from cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. This is not a small

effect."

Sebelius, British health officials, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and the head of the World Health Organization all took part in briefings based in Washington and London.

The journal Lancet took an advocacy role in commissioning the studies and timing their release before the Copenhagen summit, but the science was not affected by the intent, said jour-

nal editor Dr. Richard Horton.

Instead of looking at the health ills caused by future global warming, as past studies have done, this research looks at the immediate benefits of doing something about the problem, said Linda Birnbaum, director of the U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. That agency helped fund the studies along with the Wellcome Trust and several other international public health groups.