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A tale of turkeys

Tangail man's success in novel poultry industry

MIRZA SHAKIL with ANDREW EAGLE

When North Americans celebrate Thanksgiving, of all the festival dishes none is more significant than roast turkey. In the United Kingdom and elsewhere, turkey is the most traditional fare for Christmas dinner. There is something in its rich but delicate flavour that befits celebration. But in Bangladesh this largest of poultry retains novelty. Turkey farming is yet a nascent industry.

Farmer's son Md Alauddin, now 44, from Tangail, first left for Singapore to seek his fortune in 1991, when he was just 18. While in the city-state he first heard of turkeys. "Since childhood I loved birds," he recalls, "so when I saw television news reports of turkey farming I started to dream of establishing a turkey farm at our house."

In 2015, partly disillusioned with the results of years of hard labour in the construction industry, Alauddin made the decision to return home, to Paschim Boali village in Sakhipur upazila.

"I used my savings to construct a shed on 20 decimals adjacent to our house," he says. "I bought 200 turkey chicks in Sylhet, through the owner of a farm in Dhaka."

Within 18 months, Alauddin's turkey flock had doubled in number, with most birds aged between five days and six months.

"Around 100 of them are layers," he says. "From their eggs I breed more chicks. Turkeys grow fast; they like to eat

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Alauddin feeding turkeys at his farm in Boali village of Sakhipur in Tangail. The photo was taken recently.

LOCAL 3-WHEELERS
Some MPs want them on highways till election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With locally made three-wheelers still plying the highways ignoring a ban, a section of lawmakers now want the government to suspend the ban till the next national polls.

They think this ban, if implemented strictly, will have an impact on the election results as a large number of people are involved in this sector.

The demand from the MPs was put forward by Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader at a meeting of the National Road Safety Council yesterday.

"Even though I want it [the ban], local representatives won't let it happen," a participant in the meeting quoted Quader as saying.

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Trump backs US spies on Russia meddling

AFP, Manila

Donald Trump said yesterday he backed the US intelligence agencies who concluded that Russia meddled in the 2016 US presidential election, but slammed "fools" who oppose better ties with Moscow.

Key former Trump aides are under US investigation for possible collaboration with the Kremlin, and the issue of whether Moscow interfered with last year's vote has overshadowed the tail end of the president's Asia tour.

Trump returned to the subject in a Twitter storm in Vietnam, which also saw him take a sarcastic dig at North Korea's "short and fat" leader Kim Jong-Un.

At a press conference in Hanoi, Trump was asked to clarify comments he had made the day before about Russian President Vladimir Putin's insistence that Moscow had never tried to affect the US vote.

"I believe he feels he and Russia did not meddle in the election," Trump said.

"As to whether or not I believe it or not, I'm with our agencies. I believe in our... intelligence agencies," he added.

But in his barrage of tweets, Trump slammed "haters and fools" who questioned

his efforts to improve ties with Russia.

"There (sic) always playing politics -- bad for our country. I want to solve North Korea, Syria, Ukraine, terrorism, and Russia can greatly help!" he said.



In May, US intelligence chiefs told Congress they agreed with their analysts' conclusion that Russia had interfered in the election.

CIA director Mike Pompeo, who was appointed by Trump, said Saturday he still held to that evaluation.

'SHORT AND FAT'

Trump's tour of Asia, which moved to its final leg in Manila yesterday, has been dominated by the issue of North Korea and its ambitions to become a fully-fledged nuclear state.

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Man abducts nephew for Tk 10,000

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police rescued a three-year-old boy from the Chittagong city's Shulokbar area yesterday, around 22 hours after he was abducted allegedly by his aunt's husband.

According to police, Mohammad Rafiq, 26, who was arrested in the city's Chandaon area, told them that he kidnapped his nephew Jobayer as he needed Tk 10,000 to pay an instalment of a loan he had taken from an association.

Jobayer, son of a community club employee Nasir Uddin, was rescued from the house of Rafiq's aunt at Shulokbar around noon yesterday, said Polash Kanti Nath, additional deputy commissioner of Detective Branch of police.

The police official said Rafiq used to live in his father-in-law's house in

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THAKURPARA MAYHEM Influential locals spread hatred

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A large number of influential locals have come under the scanner following Friday's mayhem in Thakurpara of Rangpur that stemmed from a Facebook post.

Sirajul Islam, an Imam of a mosque in a nearby village, and Alamgir Hossain, a trader, filed a case against one Titu Chandra Roy with Gangachara Police Station, accusing him of making a post on Facebook that hurt religious sentiments of Muslims.

Sirajul and Alamgir then met imams in the area and made them deliver inflammatory speeches against the Hindus of Thakurpara village. Loudspeakers were rented or the horn mics of mosques were used for spreading hatred, locals and police said.

On the night of November 4, hundreds of people gathered in front of Paglaepeer Mosque in Rangpur Sadar for bringing out a procession demanding the death penalty of Titu for his alleged Facebook post.

Rafiqul Islam Master, president of the Paglaepeer Mosque committee, said Sirajul and Alamgir even tried to persuade him into organising a movement against the Hindus.

But the local influential people pilled on.

Anticipating an untoward incident, the villagers of Thakurpara had even tried to solve the issue through talks with Sirajul. The imam refused to sit with them, the villagers claimed.

Police arrested Sirajul on Saturday morning. On Friday, hundreds of people attacked Thakurpara

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Dhaka Literary Festival opens on Thursday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Curtains to the three-day Dhaka Literary Festival (DLF), previously known as the Hay Festival Dhaka, are to rise on November 16 for the 17th time, on the historic grounds of the Bangla Academy in the capital.

The announcement came yesterday at a press conference organised by the DLF organisers at an auditorium of the academy.

This year's event will notably feature eminent poet Ali Ahmad Said Esber, known as Adunis, eminent Padma-Shri-winning poet Nabaneeta Dev Sen and British actress Tilda Swinton. Eminent personalities from Bangladesh including Educationist Syed Manzoorul Islam, Writer Imdadul Haq Milon, Poet Helal Haifiz and Academician Salimullah Khan will also be present during the fest.

One of great highlights of this year is the announcement of the winner of the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature. Besides that, the

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Criminals hack freedom fighter in Bagerhat

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Miscreants attacked a freedom fighter Abu Baker Mallik in Bagerhat early yesterday hacking him with sharp weapons.

Mallik, 65, is a resident of Kardar area in Bagerhat town.

Locals said the miscreants attacked Mallik when he opened the main entrance of his house early in the morning as he got out to prepare for Fazr prayers.

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 13

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-00 12-45 3-45 5-22 7-00

JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-25 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



People spend
\$25b on
'Singles Day'

AFP, Beijing

Chinese online shoppers spent a record \$25 billion on this year's "Singles Day" promotion run by e-commerce giant Alibaba, up nearly 40 percent from last year, figures showed on Sunday.

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Heartiest Felicitations

RANA SHAFIULLAH, Chairman and RAQUIBUL KABIR, Managing Director, Union Group have once again been awarded with the coveted Commercially Important Person (CIP) Award by the Government, the highest achievement of its kind in Bangladesh business community.

They have been recognized for the contribution to the export of Dyed Yarn & Sweaters. Their endeavor have significantly reduced the import of dyed yarn in Bangladesh as their ventures are meeting the local needs, saving invaluable foreign currencies. They plan to reduce the imports of dyed yarn in Bangladesh to almost nil by end of the year after the completion of a new energy & technically efficient factory.

They also contributed to the employment of more than 7,000 hardworking members in his ever growing business conglomerates. Both of them heavily invested in numerous CSR projects.

All members of Union Group are extremely proud to share this success.

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Union Centre, 68/1 Gulshan Avenue.

www.uniongroup.com



Renowned Industrialist and Businessman from Gulshan, Dhaka Engineer Khandker Badrul Hassan (Mamun) receiving 3rd Highest Taxpayer Award in Business category from honourable Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith MP, in presence of State Minister for Finance and Planning MA Mannan MP, Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee for Finance Abdur Razzak MP and Chairman, National Board of Revenue (NBR) Md. Nojibur Rahman.