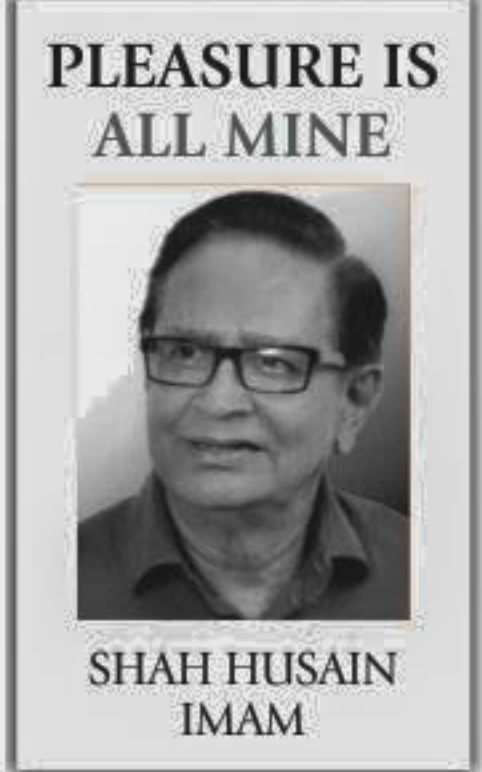


ITALIAN CITIZEN'S MURDER, A RUDE AWAKENING



SHAH HUSAIN IMAM

PLEASURE IS ALL MINE
The antennae of some Western diplomatic missions in Dhaka had received a signal that 'Western interests' might be targeted in a terrorist attack. But why didn't we have a clue of it? This brings to the fore an information sharing gap, a

and local guests couldn't be risked in the face of an 'impending' threat. The party, organised almost without a break since 1980, had to be called off.
The barbaric assassination of Italian aid worker Cesare Tavella, who had been serving the poorest of poor in Bangladesh, evoked shock and consternation on a scale not witnessed so far. It marked a rude awakening to the fault lines in law enforcement and vigilance coverage. Not surprisingly, the United States of America (USA), Canada and New Zealand joined Great Britain and Australia in issuing travel alerts for their citizens in Bangladesh.

The bottom of the crime and meting out deterrent punishment to the killers. Apart from the lack of police or civic reflexes, gaps in human intelligence and those in mechanised intelligence capabilities are starkly revealed.
The IS has claimed that it has killed Cesare Tavella, according to US-based Site Intelligence Group, a website monitoring extremist activities. But there is no confirmation yet from the Italian government of the IS' hand in it. The authenticity of the IS' claim of responsibility is being verified by that government.

matter that comes along downstream along the article.
What, however, followed is common knowledge. Yet, a recap is necessary for a coherent understanding of the chain of events girdling the threat signal and the premeditated, professionally executed murder of Italian citizen Cesare Tavella.

Two questions emanate from the narrative above: First, if the foreign missions' radars had beeped a warning signal about a threat to 'Western interests', how couldn't our antenna, in whatever shape and form it exists, catch an inkling of it? It begs an answer and one knows too well what it would be! Well, our surveillance system is not sophisticated enough to pick such signals. There you come to the second question: What are we to make of the much hyped goal of attaining effective levels of intelligence gathering, sharing and cooperation between nations, particularly in sensitive areas of mutual concerns? A few countries would be privy to some valuable information while others would be denied them even though they have a stake in them; this is not helping either party when it comes to dealing with terror and security threats.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh police intelligence setup found no mention of the purported claim in the IS' website itself.
Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal in his briefing to the press immediately following the murder stated, "We have only heard about the IS presence in Bangladesh but we haven't found any of them." Rather than giving an apparently knee-jerk reaction, we could perhaps say, "We are looking into the authenticity of the claim, as indeed we are, and would reveal our findings when ready." We should seek focused international cooperation to fathom any IS involvement because the spectre needs to be faced head-on, no question about it.

Australia and Great Britain were the first to blow the whistle on the threat perception. Australia did it by postponing, one hopes not abandoning, the Aussies' cricket series with Bangladesh, citing security risks. In parallel, Britain had advised its citizens to remain cautious in their movements in Bangladesh.

Some conspiracy theorists couldn't let go of an opportunity for publicity sniffing at a prospective setback to Bangladesh's cricket calendar. They promptly gave a twist to the story saying that some quarters, having grown impatient with the rising star of the national cricket side, may have just played a trick on us! Never mind the souring bit of an admittedly under-strength Bangladesh A team's pathetic 3-1 performance in India, the Australian encounter was eagerly awaited as a measuring rod for our consistency and strength against a stronger side.

The issue of fighting mindless extremism would be better addressed if we were to avoid political wrangling, blame game and attempted points scoring. The point to, however, seriously ponder is the likelihood of some quarters trying to harm Bangladesh.
For now, principally, we should transfuse our gaze entirely on the agenda of ferreting out the culprits and punishing them exemplarily.

The Glitter Party scheduled for Friday (today) by the Australia-New Zealand expatriate community to host 400 foreign

On the specific case of Cesare Tavella's murder, two deficiencies fly in the face of any serious observer. First, he was shot dead in a diplomatic zone, that too surrounded by important foreign missions. The location was supposed to be highly protected with security details. The failure to prevent such a dastardly murder is itself gnawing, let alone the easy escape of the killers. Not even one could be apprehended to track down the rest or the mastermind by way of getting to

As Ralph Waldo Emerson, the late 19th century American philosopher, journalist and poet, put it timelessly, "There is no den in the wide world to hide a rogue. Commit a crime and the earth is made of glass."

The writer is Associate Editor, The Daily Star.

MA MA MIA

HUMOROUSLY YOURS



NAVEED MAHBUB

DURING Qurbani Eid, I somehow always wished I could stay home, but of course I couldn't or wouldn't due to social obligations. Have to be careful what one wishes for – it just might come true. And it does – I am down with the dreaded Dengue. For me, it's Eid Moooooobarak from the hospital bed.

or not?
Oh MA MA MIA – Mosquito Anopheles, Mosquito Aedes, just go Missing In Action! Was there really any need to accommodate the pair of mosquitoes on Noah's Ark? And you want to tell me the duo didn't drive every species on board nuts, let alone create a few cases of Dengue? But of course, nobody dared squish them, but on the contrary, many a passenger on board had its fleshy parts voluntarily exposed to the royal couple during the royal banquet on the royal yacht.

To pump up the blood platelet count, I am eating papaya leaves (ok, the leaky version). By default, that gets me to be at a fraternal level with the Qurbani goats. This is also one time I am ready to punch anyone on the face who says, "Oh, what can I alone do to keep Dhaka City clean during Qurbani?" Listen up Mr Can-Not-Do, it is ONE single Aedis mosquito that gets this 190 pound *homo sapien* horizontal for two whole weeks!

What ecological balance does the Aedes, or for that matter, the mosquito in general serve? Feed the toads? Hell, I will personally feed them (the toads) *biryani* if that's the alternative. Well, the mosquito at least helps pharmaceutical companies sell mosquito repellents. Aha, so, it's not quite the ecological, but rather, the economical balance that is well maintained.

Whichever Aedis bites me, is now surely a fly-up comedian in the Aedis community. But if I can only get my hands on that lone ranger. . . urgh! Now, now Naveed, calm down. You're comparing yourself with that little blood sucking insect? If he jumps off the cliff, will you also jump off the cliff? Well, actually yes. In fact, I would bite it too.

Oh well, Dengue is here to stay with its epidemic proportions which in turn has made the doctors of today well equipped to tackle the beast. What the picture will be six years from now, i.e., with the graduates of the medical-question-leak batch, that's a different, leaky story. It's Sick-i-leaks. What next? Engineering admission test questions leaked – Geek-i-Leaks? Or, British visa interview questions leaked – Brit-i-leaks. The leaky trail is endless, but the most disturbing is the leaky security in the 'secure' diplomatic zone. We may want to make the area bullet proof instead of focusing on making it *lungi* and rickshaw proof.

And then the message goes viral on social media about putting cloves into sliced lemon as a deterrent to the attack of the drones. To protect the kids, I follow suit. A digital hoax? Who knows. At least somebody makes a killing (no pun intended) selling lemons and cloves when goats and cows are supposed to be the hot ticket items. I get messages on Facebook, "Do let us know if this works." So, I let you know if I get Dengue (again)

Have I opened up a can of mosquitoes and leaked them into the air? You bet. And for once, let's not think with a leaky head. . .

The writer is an engineer at Ford & Qualcomm USA and CEO of IBM & Nokia Siemens Networks Bangladesh turned comedian (by choice), the host of NTV's *The Naveed Mahbub Show* and the founder of *Naveed's Comedy Club*.
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FOUR DECADES OF BANGLADESH-CHINA RELATIONS

What next?

M. SHAHIDUL ISLAM
THE year 2015 marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Bangladesh and China. In the past four decades China-Bangladesh relations have undergone a speedy transformation. Trade between the two countries has grown rapidly, making China Bangladesh's largest trading partner, with the two-way trade accounting for about \$12 billion in 2014. While Mainland Chinese investment in Bangladesh is still low, China is fast becoming an important partner in developing the latter's physical infrastructure.

Sonadia, Cox's Bazar, which could serve the interest of not only Bangladesh but also its vast hinterland in the neighbourhood, remains uncertain owing to the geo-political rivalry of regional and global powers. The current plan to shift the site for a deep sea port might result in sub-optimal outcome for the economy. A consortium involving concerning parties to develop a deep sea port in Sonadia is the only way forward.

Going forward, China-Bangladesh's economic ties, mostly dominated by trade, could continue to drive their bilateral relations. In the last five years, imports from China grew at about 20 percent and exports growth averaged at 40 percent. A back-of-the-envelope calculation, considering a moderate exports and imports growth scenario, indicates that China-Bangladesh trade could reach \$30 billion by 2020.

The second largest source of outward investment and is projected to become the biggest source by 2020. Moreover, as China's wage level rises, it makes a lot of economic sense to relocate some labour intensive sunset industries to Bangladesh. Two economic zones in Chittagong and Dhaka, established exclusively for Chinese investors, is an appropriate step in this regard.

economy in the world's largest bay. To expedite the plan, it has to engage with technologically and financially sound partners like China, Japan, the United States and South Korea, among others.

Another crucial development has been the two nations' security and military relations. China has become the largest supplier of military hardware to Bangladesh. In fact, Dhaka-Beijing security relations are no less important than their economic ties. Greater cooperation between the two countries means Bangladesh hedges its security risks amid the presence of major powers in the region.

Again, while China has taken marked strides with its flagship project 'One Belt, One

In moving China-Bangladesh trade relations forward, the key challenge is to

Financial cooperation between Beijing and Dhaka is likely to add a new dimension to the economic ties between the two countries.

Coincidentally, Beijing has taken up the OBOR initiative to revive the ancient Silk Road connecting the country with Central Asia, Europe, Africa, Middle East, Southeast Asia and South Asia. This multi-billion dollar infrastructure and economic zones development scheme is seen as the largest investment project after the United States' Marshall Plan, which was adopted to reconstruct Europe following WWII. China has invested \$40 billion in the Silk Road infrastructure fund.



Financial cooperation between Beijing and Dhaka is likely to add a new dimension to the economic ties between the two countries. China's ambitious plan to internationalise its currency could help Bangladesh conduct a portion of trade in Renminbi (RMB) and secure some reserves in RMB-denominated assets.

To sum up, Dhaka-Beijing ties, largely driven by trade and investment, could become the most important economic relation from Bangladesh's perspective. However, the bilateral ties between the two nations could face more challenges in years to come. The diplomacy of Bangladesh could be tested further in managing the country's relations with regional and global powers. Regionally, Dhaka needs to have a balanced relation, particularly with New Delhi and Beijing. Globally, Bangladesh has to ensure that it does not face a situation where Dhaka has to take a side between Beijing and Washington.

Both Beijing and Dhaka are great believers of regional cooperation. They have a consensus to connect East and Southeast Asia with South Asia under the aegis of the BCIM Economic Corridor involving Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar.
The growing bilateral ties between China and Bangladesh in the past four decades have largely benefited both nations. However, Dhaka-Beijing relations face significant challenges, particularly from a security perspective. China also faces competition in the Bay of Bengal (BoB) from certain regional and global powers while making strategic investments. Japan, for instance, under the Abe government, is very active in developing energy and other infrastructure in BoB. Competing interests in developing strategic projects pose a huge dilemma for Dhaka. The fate of the proposed deep sea port project in

Road (OBOR)' in Central Asia, Pakistan and some other parts of the world, it faces difficulties in implementing the plan in some areas of South Asia.

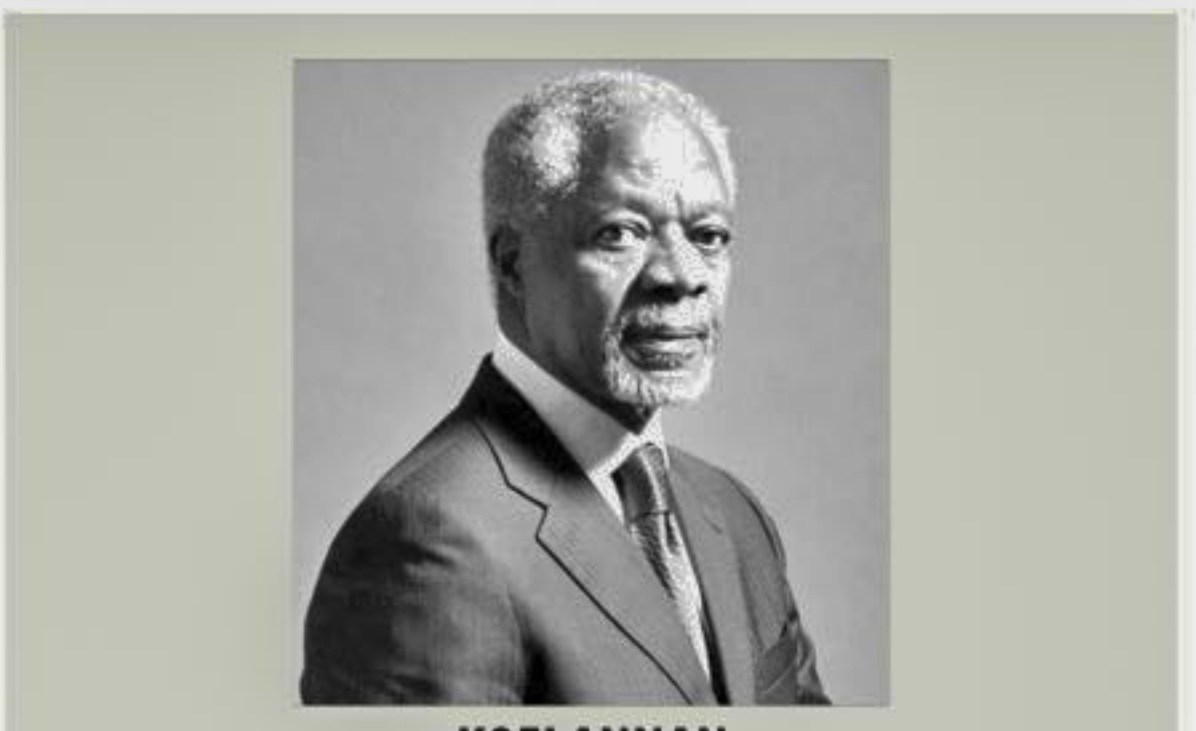
increase exports from Bangladesh. Beijing should relax market access terms, such as rules of origin for Bangladesh products, and the latter should diversify its exports basket to access trillions of dollars worth Chinese consumer markets.

China's ambitious plan to internationalise its currency could help Bangladesh conduct a portion of trade in Renminbi (RMB) and secure some reserves in RMB-denominated assets, thus hedging currency risks. Beijing's ongoing initiatives to set up new financial institutions, such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, could open new opportunities for Bangladesh in accessing funds for infrastructure development.
Dhaka also intends to develop an ocean

To help developing Bangladesh's strategic infrastructure and to manage the security challenges, Beijing's role should be markedly different from the role it played in other parts of South Asia. China should find a way to assure other powers that its interests in Bangladesh are largely driven by economics. Dhaka too needs to convince other powers that it is no Colombo or Islamabad when dealing with Beijing.

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QUOTABLE Quote

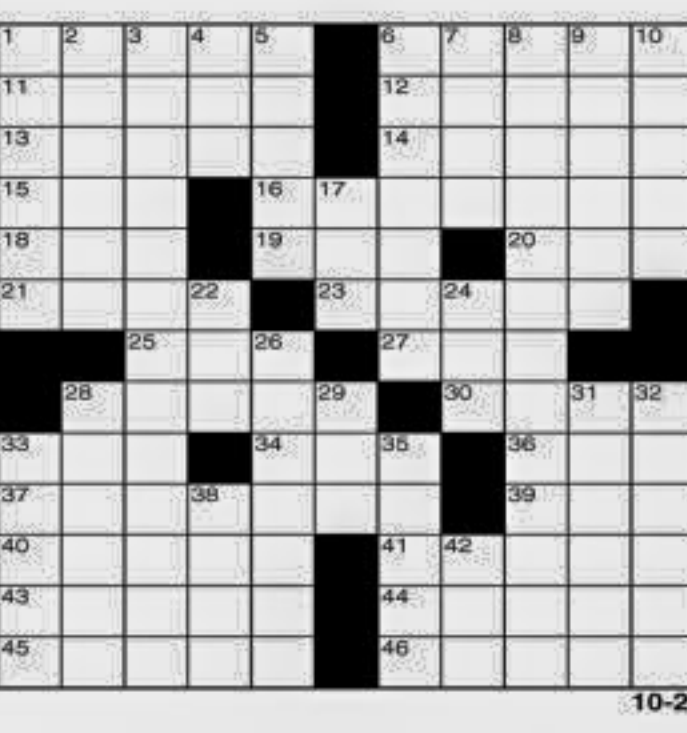


KOFI ANNAN

GENDER EQUALITY IS MORE THAN A GOAL IN ITSELF. IT IS A PRECONDITION FOR MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF REDUCING POVERTY, PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING GOOD GOVERNANCE.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Splinter groups
 - 6 Shows nervousness
 - 11 Some messages
 - 12 Separate
 - 13 Around
 - 14 Caesar's land
 - 15 Avenue tree
 - 16 Cricket player
 - 18 Conk out
 - 19 Take to court
 - 20 Purpose
 - 21 Ages and ages
 - 23 Magnificent
 - 25 Spoil
 - 27 TV's "Science Guy" Bill
 - 28 Referred to
 - 30 Singer Fitzgerald
 - 33 Hole number
 - 34 Atlantic catch
 - 36 Corn unit
 - 37 Running wild
 - 39 New reporter
 - 40 Like some jackets
 - 41 George Jetson's dog
 - 43 Poet Breton
 - 44 Kitchen gadget
- DOWN**
- 1 Break away
 - 2 Estevez of "Young Guns"
 - 3 "Down Argentine Way" performer
 - 4 Quirk
 - 5 Thick cuts
 - 6 Sewing aid
 - 7 Big galoots
 - 8 "Scary Movie" performer
 - 9 Gopher's job
 - 10 Position
 - 17 Summer mo.
 - 22 Plopped down
 - 24 Supporter's vote
 - 26 Wanes
 - 28 Eyetooth
 - 29 Film noir classic
 - 31 Mountain shrub
 - 32 Shady spots
 - 33 From the Arctic
 - 35 Rival of Harry
 - 38 Service period
 - 42 Soak up



YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

GRAD SUPER
ROVE AMPERE
ABEL LEEWAY
MERIDIAN
GUARDIAN
CACHES TIE
HILTS BLADE
IDA PEELED
CANADIAN
FREUDIAN
CASTOR EDNA
ALIENS ROTS
PADRE SLIT

BEETLE BAILEY by Mort Walker



BABY BLUES by Kirkman & Scott

