

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA MONDAY AUGUST 8, 2016, SHRABAN 24, 1423BS

Death of terror-suspect dent investigation process

Why not take more precautions?

INVESTIGATION into the Sholakia attack has made little progress. Meanwhile, the only attacker caught alive from the scene was killed reportedly, in a gunfight between law enforcers and militants taking the tally of terror-suspects killed in such gunfights with law enforcers in the past 2 months to 19.

While suspected terrorists continue to be killed in gunfights, masterminds of such attacks remain at large and key information that could lead to their identification, disappointingly, also dies with the suspects. This trend is especially worrying given that the authorities are potentially grappling with threats to our national security and some of these terrorists could have provided important leads. In the interest of the rule of law also, it is necessary that the alleged terrorists be prosecuted in a court of law.

Circumstances under which the suspects are dying are also confusing. For instance, why was the Sholakia attacker being transferred at midnight and how did the militants get information relating to his transfer? The question also arises as to why key suspects are not provided with more protection and more safety measures not taken while they are being transported given that those seeking justice would want them most to stay alive, particularly to enhance chances of apprehending the masterminds and for preventing any more future attacks.

The government should take all the steps necessary to identify the masterminds and ensure better protection of terror suspects in police custody.

Schools on boats

An example worth replicating

REFUSING to bow down to the forces of nature, twenty two boats turned into schools, libraries and computer labs are moving across the Chalan Beel region, a large wetland in Bangladesh, illuminating the lives of many impoverished children with the light of education. The floating schools, as they are popularly called, are run by a non-profit organisation and provide basic agricultural training to underprivileged children and computer courses to people in Pabna, Natore and Sirajganj. We commend this courageous and benevolent initiative that is changing lives in some of the remotest places of the country.

The floating schools are special because they are the only ones operating during the rainy season in this region as many others are forced to close due to heavy flooding caused by the swelling up and overflowing of rivers. The boats are outfitted with solar panels that power computers, lights and other equipment. But they offer more than education. The organisation also runs floating clinics that have doctors and paramedics.

Founded in 2002, the schools have been functioning mainly on private donation, although free books are given to the students by the education ministry. The government should do more to help the 22 floating schools but for which education would have remained a distant dream for thousands of school-age children. More importantly, making sure that all schools are resilient against natural disasters should be a priority for any disaster risk reduction preparedness and planning.

Why Donald Trump scares me

HIGH NOTES
LOW NOTES



HASAN FERDOUS

Vanity Fair magazine's Mark Bowden summed up these epithets in one sentence in a slightly more charitable manner: He argued that Donald Trump is "adolescent, hilariously ostentatious, arbitrary, unkind, profane, dishonest, loudly opinionated, and consistently wrong."

Yet, this "dishonest" man whose state of mental sanity was openly questioned by Mike Bloomberg, his one time friend and a former mayor of New York City, at last month's Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia - is only a heartbeat away from becoming America's next President!

As many as 14 million people - most of them white, many of them without a college degree and very few of them women - voted him to victory through a primary process that included 16 seasoned and sane politicians. Right now, although he is trailing Hillary Clinton, his Democratic opponent, a significant portion of the American electorate appears willing to endorse him and his policies, which centres on three things: banning Muslims, expelling illegal immigrants and building a wall with Mexico.

To me, that is the scariest thing. How could 14 million Americans so eagerly embrace a white supremacist ideology that disparages whole groups of people who either look different or practice a different religion? Trump even endeared himself by disparaging women and people with disability.

Recently, three New York Times reporters put together a video montage, bringing together the sounds and fury of Trump supporters at various public meetings (<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/04/us/politics/donald-trump-supporters.html>). These people are almost exclusively white, universally crude and completely happy to hurl the worst epithets at Muslims, immigrants, gay and anyone who does not speak English.

Build a wall - kill them all. Ignorance and immigrants, they mix together. If you don't speak English and don't contribute, get out. They chant, as Trump from the podium exhorts, "Am I a unifier or

what?" The crowd goes wild, and everyone begins chanting, *build that wall*.

What are these people angry about? Most fair-minded American pundits - most of them white, too! - seem to agree that Donald Trump has successfully appealed to the economic anxiety of America's bottom half. Over the past twenty or so years, while America's top one percent prospered, the middle class and the rest of the country languished, trapped in an economic morass. These whites once held good jobs at local factories and coal mines, or owned their own small businesses. The recession killed them all. In rust belt States of the Midwest, such as Indiana, Michigan, Iowa and even Pennsylvania, most mines remain idle, factories shuttered and small

most of them, America is a white man's country that they alone conquered by vanquishing the American Indians. They once owned farmlands, cotton fields, and yes, hundreds of thousands of slaves. Now all are lost, except perhaps a framed photo on the wall of the old farm house.

Donald Trump claims he will be the "law and order President," making no secret of his disdain for those picketing against police brutality in inner cities. This veiled attack on protests by Black people has delighted the white supremacists.

We have to note here once the black man was considered to be only three-fifths of a white man, barred from travelling on the same bus with a white man or entering into the union of marriage with a white woman.



CARTOON: JOHN COLE

businesses closed.

Now they are angry and need a scapegoat. Donald Trump has given them two - immigrants and Muslims.

Sure, that's a good reason to feel frustrated about, but the 99 percent that has been left behind also include people from other groups, most notably African-Americans, and millions of documented and undocumented immigrants. Bernie Sanders built a whole movement on the theme of economic disparity that has brought together millions of young Americans, white, black and everyone else in-between. Instead of joining hands with them to demand economic fairness, why are the Trump supporters venting against those who too are facing the same quagmire?

I believe they are angry at the loss of their sense of power - white power. To

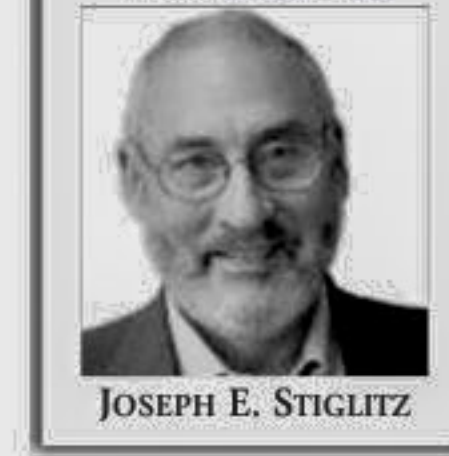
While the original framers of the US Constitution used the three-fifth formulation for the purpose of counting slaves, Supreme Court Justice Roger Taney made its hidden meaning amply clear. In his now infamous Dred Scott decision of 1857, Taney ruled that neither slaves nor free slaves were eligible to be US citizens, and since blacks are "regarded as beings of an inferior order," they had "no rights which the white man was bound to respect."

Fast forward the tape to present day. The descendants of the same slaves now enjoy - at least on paper - the same rights as whites do. Worse, one of them is now the country's President, occupying the White House! The last eight years, a mostly white Republican Party has argued over and over again that Obama was

PROJECT SYNDICATE

Globalisation and its new discontents

BUSINESS & FINANCE



JOSEPH E. STIGLITZ

FIFTEEN years ago, I wrote a little book, entitled *Globalisation and its Discontents*, describing growing opposition in the developing world to globalising reforms. It seemed a mystery: people in developing countries had been told that globalisation would increase overall wellbeing. So why had so many people become so hostile to it?

Now, globalisation's opponents in the emerging markets and developing countries have been joined by tens of millions in the advanced countries. Opinion polls, including a careful study by Stanley Greenberg and his associates at the Roosevelt Institute, show that trade is among the major sources of discontent for a large share of Americans. Similar views are apparent in Europe.

How can something that our political leaders - and many an economist - said would make everyone better off be so reviled?

One answer occasionally heard from the neoliberal economists who advocated for these policies is that people are better off. They just don't know it. Their discontent is a matter for psychiatrists, not economists.

But income data suggest that it is the neoliberals who may benefit from therapy. Large segments of the population in advanced countries have not been doing well: in the US, the bottom 90 percent has endured income stagnation for a third of a century. Median income for full-time male workers is actually lower in real (inflation-adjusted) terms than it was 42 years ago. At the bottom, real wages are comparable to their level 60 years ago.

The effects of the economic pain and dislocation that many Americans are experiencing are even showing up in health statistics. For example, the economists Anne Case and Angus Deaton, this year's Nobel laureate, have shown that life expectancy

among segments of white Americans is declining.

Things are a little better in Europe - but only a little better.

Branko Milanovic's new book *Global Inequality: A New Approach for the Age of Globalisation* provides some vital insights, looking at the big winners and losers in terms of income over the two decades from 1988 to 2008. Among the big winners were the global 1 percent, the world's plutocrats, but also the middle class in newly emerging economies. Among the big losers - those who gained little or nothing - were those at the bottom and the middle and working classes in the

technology, eventually it would be as if Chinese workers continued to migrate to the US and Europe until wage differences had been eliminated entirely. Not surprisingly, the neoliberals never advertised this consequence of trade liberalisation, as they claimed - one could say lied - that all would benefit.

The failure of globalisation to deliver on the promises of mainstream politicians has surely undermined trust and confidence in the "establishment." And governments' offers of generous bailouts for the banks that had brought on the 2008 financial crisis, while leaving

ago; it was part of the social contract that maintained an open society - open to globalisation and changes in technology. Neoliberals elsewhere have not - and now, in elections in the US and Europe, they are having their comeuppance.

Globalisation is, of course, only one part of what is going on; technological innovation is another part. But all of this openness and disruption were supposed to make us richer, and the advanced countries could have introduced policies to ensure that the gains were widely shared.

Instead, they pushed for policies that restructured markets in ways that increased inequality and undermined overall economic performance; growth actually slowed as the rules of the game were rewritten to advance the interests of banks and corporations - the rich and powerful - at the expense of everyone else. Workers' bargaining power was weakened; in the US, at least, competition laws didn't keep up with the times; and existing laws were inadequately enforced. Financialisation continued apace and corporate governance worsened.

Now, as I point out in my recent book *Rewriting the Rules of the American Economy*, the rules of the game need to be changed again - and this must include measures to tame globalisation. The two new large agreements that President Barack Obama has been pushing - the Trans-Pacific Partnership between the US and 11 Pacific Rim countries, and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership between the EU and the US - are moves in the wrong direction.

The main message of *Globalisation and its Discontents* was that the problem was not globalisation, but how the process was being managed. Unfortunately, the management didn't change. Fifteen years later, the new discontents have brought that message home to the advanced economies.

The writer, a Nobel laureate in economics, is University Professor at Columbia University and Chief Economist at the Roosevelt Institute. His most recent book is *Rewriting the Rules of the American Economy*.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2016. www.project-syndicate.org (Exclusive to The Daily Star)

The failure of globalisation to deliver on the promises of mainstream politicians has surely undermined trust and confidence in the "establishment." And governments' offers of generous bailouts for the banks that had brought on the 2008 financial crisis, while leaving ordinary citizens largely to fend for themselves, reinforced the view that this failure was not merely a matter of economic misjudgments.

advanced countries. Globalisation is not the only reason, but it is one of the reasons.

Under the assumption of perfect markets (which underlies most neoliberal economic analyses), free trade equalises the wages of unskilled workers around the world. Trade in goods is a substitute for the movement of people. Importing goods from China - goods that require a lot of unskilled workers to produce - reduces the demand for unskilled workers in Europe and the US.

This force is so strong that if there were no transportation costs, and if the US and Europe had no other source of competitive advantage, such as in

ordinary citizens largely to fend for themselves, reinforced the view that this failure was not merely a matter of economic misjudgments.

In the US, Congressional Republicans even opposed assistance to those who were directly hurt by globalisation. More generally, neoliberals, apparently worried about adverse incentive effects, have opposed welfare measures that would have protected the losers.

But they can't have it both ways: if globalisation is to benefit most members of society, strong social-protection measures must be in place. The Scandinavians figured this out long

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Qualities of a good doctor

In my opinion a good doctor should have the following characteristics:

- The doctor will welcome the patient with a smiling face
- The doctor will try to make the patient feel secure and comfortable
- He or she will patiently listen to the patient's problems
- He or she will go through if there are any previous issues
- While prescribing drugs, a good doctor will enquire if the patient had any previous drug or food reactions
- He will not eat or drink anything before the patient or devote in lengthy telephonic conversation
- He will treat all patients equally.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Department of Agricultural Extension & Information System, SAU
Dhaka

COMMENTS

"IS sent foot soldiers to Bangladesh"
(August 4, 2016)

Md Bakhtier Hossain Pappu

IS is not an Islamic organisation, it's just a terrorist organisation.

Habibur Rahman Khan

Their ideology will not work in Bangladesh.