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Trump defends travel ban

Lashes out at Republican senators for opposing it; mass protests across US cities continue

CNN, Washington
President Donald Trump enters the second week of his presidency facing a growing political backlash -- with protesters in the streets, lawsuits mounting and his own party fracturing over his executive order banning travel to the United States from seven Muslim-majority nations.

The resistance is offering an early and immediate preview of the dynamics of the Trump presidency: It tests the opposition's strength and durability, the White House's crisis management capabilities and Capitol Hill Republicans' willingness to stomach the controversy that accompanies Trump's efforts to fulfill his campaign promises.

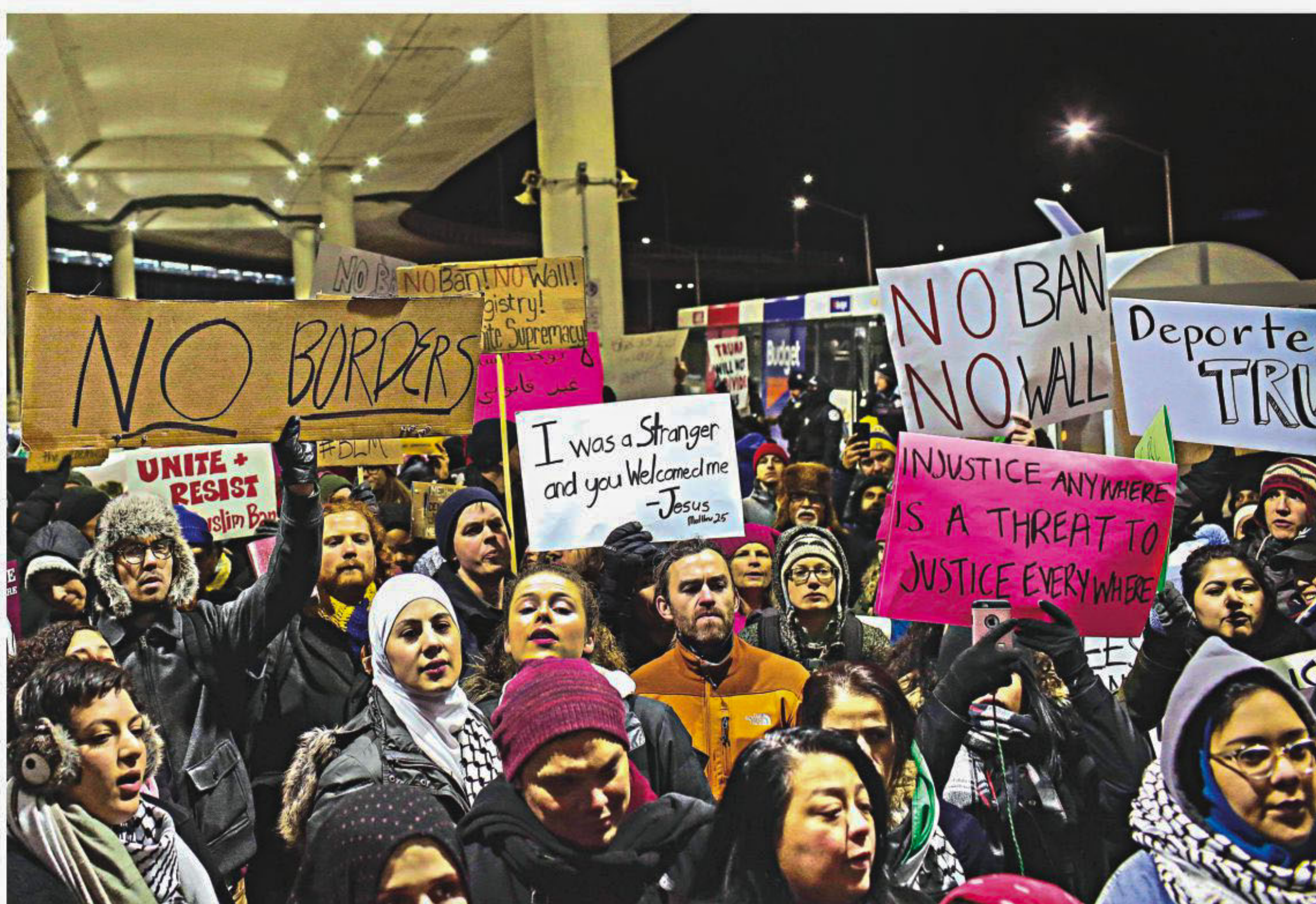
Trump released a statement defending his ban Sunday evening, while also lashing out at two Republican senators who had opposed it and the news media over its coverage of the ban.

"America has always been the land of the free and home of the brave. We will keep it free and keep it safe, as the media knows, but refuses to say," Trump said in the statement.

He continued: "To be clear, this is not a Muslim ban, as the media is falsely reporting. This is not about religion -- this is about terror and keeping our country safe."

In a joint statement, Arizona Sen John McCain and South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham earlier Sunday had called Trump's travel ban a "self-inflicted wound in the fight against terrorism."

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Demonstrators protest President Donald Trump's executive immigration ban at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Illinois, on Sunday. Trump signed the controversial executive order that halted refugees and residents from predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States.

Khaleda for further probe into Zia Trust graft case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

At the final stage of the trial, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday filed a petition with a Dhaka court seeking further investigation into the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case claiming that the earlier probe was faulty.

Khaleda's lawyer Abdur Rezak Khan submitted the petition to the Special Judge Court-3 of Dhaka saying the investigation conducted by the Anti-Corruption Commission was "not appropriate and legal".

According to the petition, ACC Deputy Director Nur Ahmed, who enquired into the graft allegation, during the trial told the court that some of the money had come from the Kuwait amir.

But Investigation Officer Harunur Rashid, also a deputy director of the ACC, mentioned the amount of money in his probe report "without probing the matter

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TOP!
QUOTE

"The necessary and decisive fight against terrorism in no way justifies a general suspicion against people of certain beliefs, in this case people of the Muslim faith or from a certain origin."

GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL ON TRUMP'S TRAVEL BAN

2 crore suffer from kidney diseases

Country needs more kidney donors; experts stress need for amending laws on transplantation to cope with increasing number of patients

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health experts have called for amendment of laws on kidney transplantation in order to increase the number of donors in the country as the nation faces more and more kidney patients but there is a shortage of donors.

The estimated number of kidney patients a decade ago was over 80 lakh, but it has now gone up to nearly two crores, Prof Shahidul Islam Selim, chairman of nephrology department of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), said.

Patients with kidney failures have two options -- lifelong dialysis or kidney transplantation. While dialysis is very costly, kidney transplantation in the country is also challenging, he said.

A large number of patients go abroad, mostly to India, where the cost of transplants ranges from Tk 20 lakh to Tk 50 lakh. At BSMMU the cost would be only around Tk 1.6 lakh, according to a report by the university.

"It is crucial to change laws or enact new laws to encourage kidney donors," Prof Shahidul said in his keynote presented during a discussion organised by BSMMU marking 500 kidney transplantations between 1982 and 2016.

Prof MA Wahab, former chairman of the urology department at BSMMU, suggested that existing laws be amended to allow donation of kidneys from brain-dead people.

Brain death is the complete and irreversible loss of brain function. In such conditions, organs like the kidneys of the brain-dead person can be transplanted, he said.

The Kidney Transplantation Act 1999 allows donation of kidneys by blood-relatives as father, mother, siblings, children, maternal and paternal uncles or aunts and spouses, according to a report prepared by the BSMMU.

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HC RULE ON AUTHORITIES Explain why they shouldn't be directed to make law on EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed to formulate a law under Article 118 of the constitution for constituting the Election Commission.

The chief election commissioner, the cabinet secretary, the law secretary and the parliament secretary have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Choudhury and Justice JBM Hassan came up with the rule following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Eunos Ali Akond seeking necessary orders on the authorities to formulate a law under the constitution for appointing the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners.

The petition, filed on January 11, said the government was supposed to formulate a law for constituting the Election Commission under Article 118 of the constitution, but it was yet to take any initiative in this regard.

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The smart laugh at black humour



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Joking about death, disease, deformity, or warfare is a sign of a person's intelligence, a study has found.

Research led by Ulrike Willinger at the Medical University of Vienna and published in the journal Cognitive Processing, aimed to demonstrate the links between black humour, intelligence and a person's levels of aggression.

The study asked 156 adults to rate 12 black humour cartoons from Das Schwarze Buch [The Black Book] by German cartoonist Uli Stein and researchers assessed their comprehension and reactions to the illustrated jokes.

Participants were half women and half men and were 33-years-old on average, all with a variety of education backgrounds.

They were asked to rate the cartoons considering a range of criteria, including the difficulty to

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SEVEN MURDERS Nur Hossain challenges death penalty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former ward councillor of Narayanganj City Corporation Nur Hossain yesterday challenged the death penalty awarded to him by a trial court in the seven-murder case.

SRM Lutfor Rahman Akand, a lawyer for Nur, submitted two separate appeals to the High Court, seeking his client's acquittal

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Social Islami Bank Limited
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PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 31
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-35 12-45 4-15 5-46 7-15
JAMAAT 6-10 1-15 4-30 5-50 7-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Jihadi books, bombs seized in Rajshahi

Cops say it was 'secret office' of Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An alleged Jamaat-e-Islami activist has been arrested with jihadi books during a raid on a "secret office" in the city's Seroil Kanchabazar area, police said yesterday.

Law enforcers conducted the raid on Sunday on a tip-off. The arrestee, Monirul Islam, 35, is a lab demonstrator of Masjid Mission School of Rajshahi, according to police.

More than 3,000 jihadi books, two crude bombs and hundreds of leaflets and banners of Jamaat and its student body Islami Chhatra Shibir were recovered during the raid, said Shahadat Hossain Khan, officer-in-charge of Boalia police.

The books seized include copies of Bangla translation of a publication of 1989 by Master Hei

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Left, Jihadi books police seized during a raid at a "secret office" of Jamaat-e-Islami and Chhatra Shibir in Rajshahi city's Seroil Kanchabazar area on Sunday. Top right, books on how to kill silently and methods of making bombs, and a flag, bottom right, recovered during the raid. PHOTO: STAR



ANNAN COMMISSION ON ROHINGYA

Team hopes to submit report by August

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

After completing its two days' visit to see Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar, the team of Myanmar's "Advisory Commission on Rakhine State" yesterday said they would submit an evaluation report to Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi by August this year.

The three-member team visited three Rohingya slums and a Rohingya registered camp in Ukhia and Teknaf upazilas in the two days.

Former Lebanese minister for culture and UN Special Adviser to Secretary-General Ghassan Salame, who is leading the team, yesterday made the comment while talking to journalists.

Two other members of the delegation are Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman U Win Mra and Core Member and Founder of Religions for Peace in Myanmar U Aye Lwin.

In the report, Salame said they would also make recommendations for focusing on ensuring security, citizenship and the fundamental rights to all permanent citizens of the Rakhine state.

Around 9:30am, the delegation members along with International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Programme Manager Petti Siddique visited Kutupalong Rohingya slum and talked to some Rohingyas, who recently entered Bangladesh from Myanmar.

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