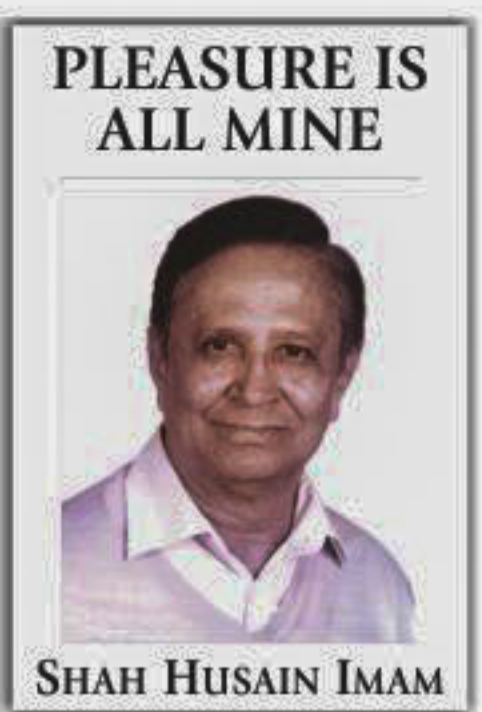


# BAN ON MUSLIMS Manic or panic disorder!



SHAH HUSAIN IMAM

**PLEASURE IS ALL MINE**

**L**AST Sunday towards the end of evening prayers at a Mosque in Quebec, two terrorists wearing black water proof jackets opened fire on dozens of worshippers.

Six were killed and eight injured out of the 50 who had come to the prayers. But the dark symbolism of the terror attack in the choice of the target and the backdrop in which it took place goes beyond the casualty figures.

The attack came following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's open arms policy to receive Muslim immigrants and refugees affected by Trump's 'temporary' ban on their entry into the US. The so-called suspension of arrivals since last Sunday aiming at extreme vetting of applicants sparked travel chaos and outrage around the world.

transformed from being fringe elements to having a considerable share in the vote-banks. In this context, extremist utterances and policies of leaders could foment xenophobic outbursts.

On the other hand, Islamic extremists could predictably take dual advantage of harsh and discriminatory measures being taken against Muslims or selected Muslim countries. While they are happy at the spike in the alienation between communities they could exploit the anger to incite a terrorist cell into a violent act.

Muslim ban has set off reactions within the United States itself. The upshots have been on different levels: Justice system, bureaucracy and inter-party caucus.

Sally Yates, the acting Attorney General was fired by Trump because she considered the travel ban as unlawful, and therefore not worthy of implementation.

This reminded political pundits of the Dark Saturday Massacre of the Water Gate scandal. Nixon dismissed independent special prosecutor

Archibald Cox at an advance stage of the Watergate investigations. As a result, two attorney generals resigned leaving the country gripped by a constitutional crisis. Well, before the Water Gate blow-out there were muffled murmurs of things to come and they did.

A hundred State Department officials have aired their disagreement with a travel ban applicable to people solely on religious grounds. The discrimination is palpable when the official policy favours Christian refugees.

President Trump has brought forward the Supreme Court judge appointment process apparently to divert attention from the protests. After he has picked his nominees, they will have to be confirmed by the Senate. Trump has an important stake in the SC equations.

Most people think that Trump has yet to transform from the campaign time obsession with populist pledges to be acting presidential. He is still being drawn on to his populist freeway.

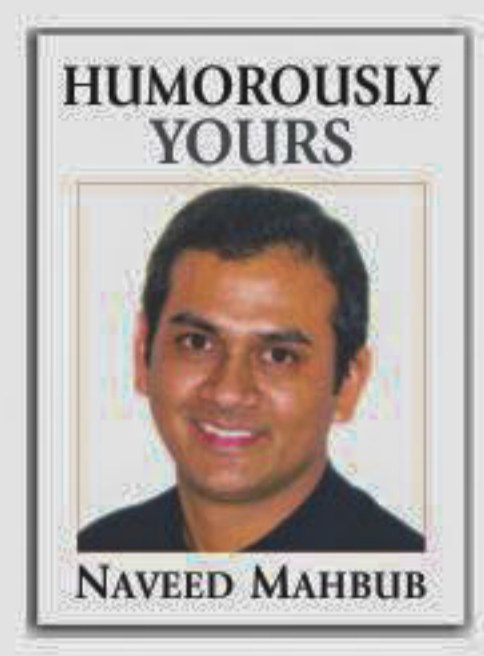
Nevertheless, two things that he is thatching on are: 1) Polls show that 56 percent voters agree with his action on migration; and 2), according to Homeland Security, the ban on the seven countries has been allegedly prompted by their intelligence non-cooperation in the US vetting of their citizens.

Recently, however, Donald has made an unguarded utterance. After making the observation that the US should have taken over the oil assets of Iraq. May be next time, he reportedly added.

Let me end with two quotes from a Guardian opinion piece written by David Shariat Madari: "An apocalyptic view of Islamic terrorism is the threat that connects the key figures of Trump administration underpinning the week-end migration chaos."

Then he asks a million dollar question, "But is the ramped up rhetoric going to give them what they want?"

## The United States of Hysteria



NAVEED MAHBUB

**HUMOROUSLY YOURS**

**S**ORRY I'm not writing today on Rampal or the proposed Fat VAT (ok, Fat Tax). I have a feeling that the next 200 *Humorously Yours* columns will all be on Donald Trump. I also have a feeling that there will not be a dull moment for the next four years. The only way to shorten the sentence (no pun intended) is to have the 46th President of the United States, Mike Pence, sworn in - post-Watergate style.

Meanwhile, Hurricane Trump sweeps across the world with a barrage of executive orders - all within the first seven days (feels like seven years) of his presidency.

First - taking China head on with the Great Wall of OooSaaa (U-SA) in competition with the Great Wall of China. The latter is visible from space, the former will be visible from the crowded space of Tijuana, Mexico. I'm sure Mexico will have a bumper business of ladders.

What else did we expect? Trump is a real estate mogul (by the way, 'Mogul' is his Secret Service code name) and he HAS to go for brick and mortar. Then again, who will build this real estate with (illegal) Mexican migrants not coming in? But he seals the deal and the borders with 3M scotch tape - 'M'exicans, 'M'uslims, 'M'igrants while the University of 'M'ichigan, the Alma 'M'ater of Naveed 'M'ahbub, which refuses to disclose any information on the immigration status of 'M'uslims (I'm safe). Meanwhile 'M'utlipe Choice Questions get the 'M'ensa touch:

Question: "Donald Trump is 'M'alicious" - the statement is:

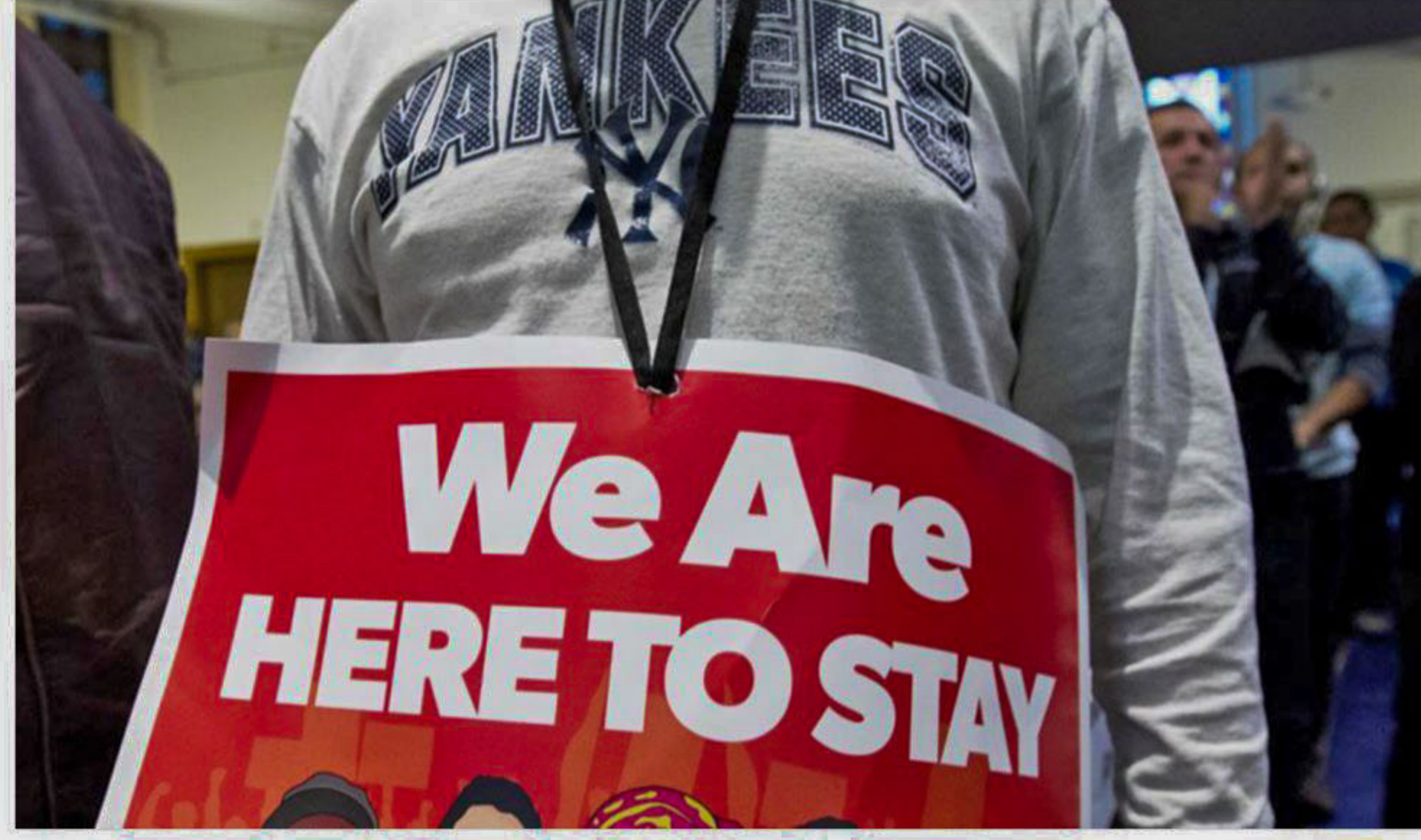
Answer: (1) True (2) False (3) An alternative Fact

The first seven days also see Trump slapping seven countries with travel bans because "they will come here to harm us." That includes the Iraqi ready to board a US bound flight after risking his life to help the US military in that very country. Oh, no ban on countries from where the 9/11 attackers originated.

Thank heavens the ban is not retroactive. Otherwise, even Jesus Christ (PBUH) himself would have had a challenge (though many are now calling out his name with an exclamation mark at the end) while the Orange Man's directive would have given us no Apple as Steve Jobs' dad was a Syrian migrant.

Also, thank heavens one of America's forefathers, Chief Cherokee, didn't sign an executive smoke signal to build a wall along the East Coast - to be paid for by Spain, or, one imposing a travel ban on seven European countries.

Trump is a man who sets precedence - a politician actually living up to his campaign promises as well as contesting the results of an election that he has won.



Immigrant rights activists demonstrate against President-elect Donald Trump's immigration policies in Washington. PHOTO: AP

But see the force of conviction of the Canadian prime minister after the incident. Not only has he reiterated his commitment to shelter the refugees, he has also made a reassuring statement, "Muslim Canadians are an important part of our national fabric, and these senseless acts have no place in our communities, city and country."

Now, is there any connection between the Mosque attack and Trump's 'suspension' of Muslim arrivals? It could not have been a mere coincidence—that's for sure. You may not rule out that hired or self-enthused killers went on a retaliatory mission to warn Trudeau against his principled welcome to Muslim refugees.

This seems likely from the arrest and indictment in Quebec of Alexandre Bissonnette, a 27-year-old university student. Known as a Far-right, ultra-nationalist, white supremacist, he has been booked on six counts of first degree murder.

The rise of the Far-right feeding off the scare-mongering on migration is becoming a phenomenon across the West. Only in recent times, have they

## BANGLADESH'S TIES WITH NORDIC COUNTRIES A tale of solidarity and partnership

MIKAEL HEMNITWINTHER, SIDSEL BLEKEN, JOHAN FRISSELL

**The Nordic countries are pleased to cooperate with an ever more active Bangladesh in the United Nations and other international fora on important global challenges such as migration, climate change and women's empowerment.**

**T**HE 4th of February marks the 45th anniversary of the recognition of the People's Republic of Bangladesh by the Nordic countries. This is a day for celebration!

The victory by the Bangladeshi freedom fighters and the Indian troops on 16 December 1971 set in motion an intensive policy process in the capitals of the Nordic countries. There was a strong argument to recognize the just-born People's Republic of Bangladesh. The Nordic countries had supported de-colonization of African and Asian nations in the 1950's and 1960's on the basis of people's right to self-determination. The fact that Bangladesh liberated itself not from a European colonial power but from another developing country initially obscured the legal analysis. The return of President Sheikh Mujib to Dhaka and the clear statement that the Indian Armed Forces were in Bangladesh upon invitation straightened out the last question marks - it was clear that all criteria for legal recognition of the newly independent state were being met.

In January 1972, the Nordic capitals started to consult on the timing and mode of recognition. It was a common preference

to take this important step together. Diplomatic telegrams and phone calls were exchanged between Copenhagen, Helsinki, Oslo, Reykjavik and Stockholm, as well as with London and Bonn. A week before the end of January, the five countries had made individual, but coordinated decisions to recognize Bangladesh and these decisions were made public. On the timing, they opted to do the actual recognition on the same day as United Kingdom would, the 4 February 1972. This date has become a landmark date in our countries' relations to Bangladesh.

The three Nordic countries that we represent - Denmark, Norway and Sweden - have embraced Bangladesh on the basis of peoples' friendship and solidarity. The fundamentals of the Bangladeshi nationhood - democracy, secularism, human rights and tolerance - are core values of our own societies. They are still the essentials for an inclusive and prosperous Bangladesh.

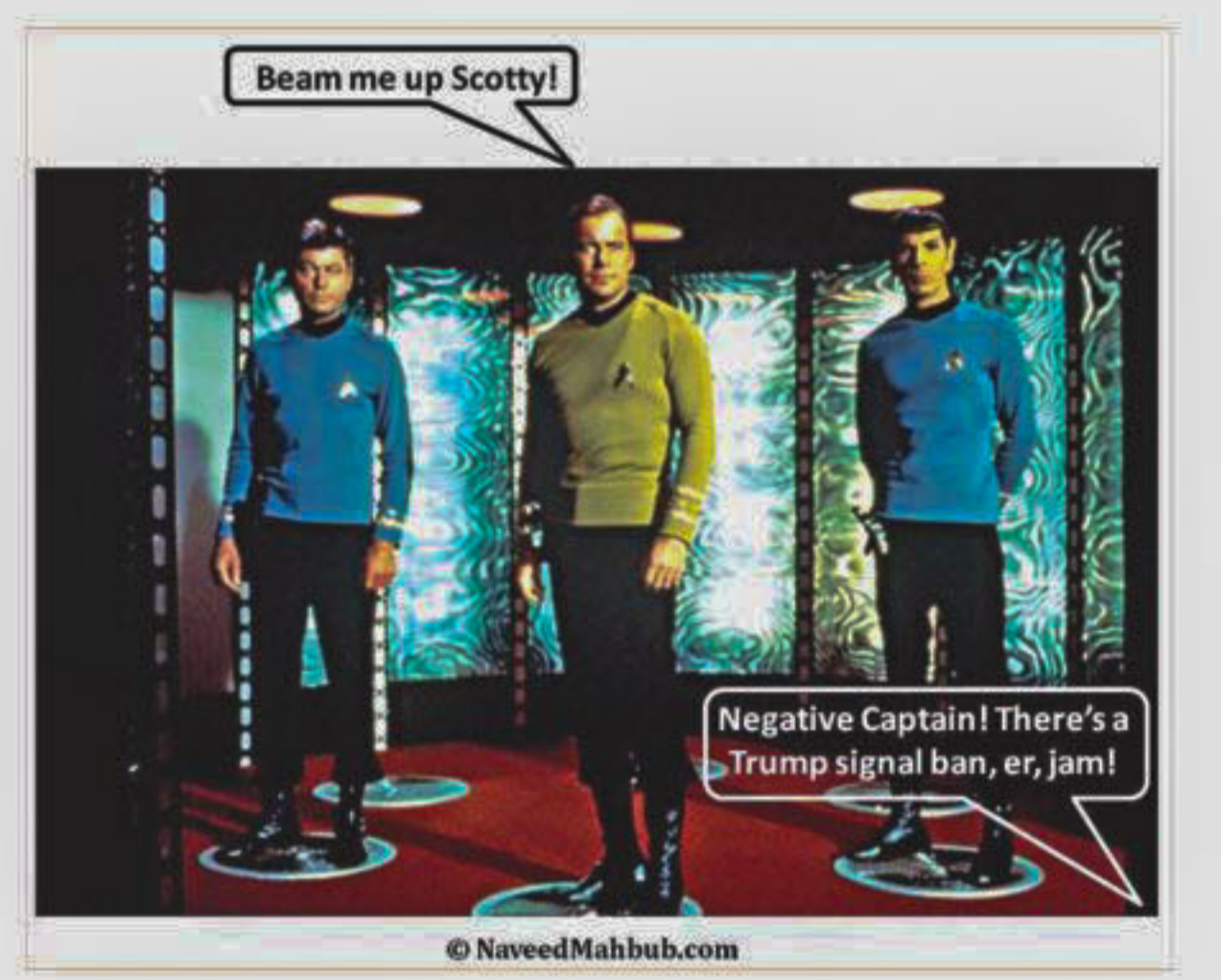
We have been consistent development cooperation partners since a few weeks after the birth of Bangladesh. When we travel around the country, we are proud to see traces of our small, but often catalytic aid projects in such wide areas as education, micro finance, employment, rural infrastructure, health, agriculture, gender equality and human rights.

Over 45 years, the relations between Bangladesh and the Nordic countries have matured and broadened. The impressive poverty eradication results, including on the Millennium Development Goals, have led to shifting priorities of development cooperation. The commercial relations have grown significantly and are now as important as our development relations. To promote growth in trade and investment, in both directions, is the top priority in the further development of our bonds.

One and a half years ago, the common Nordic commitment to Bangladesh found its expression in the opening of a joint Nordic Embassy in Dhaka. Our cooperation today expands into culture, science, technology, academia and tourism. We are united in the fight against corruption. The Nordic countries are pleased to cooperate with an ever more active Bangladesh in the United Nations and other international fora on important global challenges such as migration, climate change and women's empowerment.

Looking back at 45 years of steadfast progress in our relations, we are confident that the ties between Bangladesh and the Nordic countries will continue to strengthen!

The writers are Ambassador of Denmark, Ambassador of Norway and Ambassador of Sweden, respectively.



And de ja vu from *The Apprentice* - the very first recipient of Trump's classic "You're fired!" is the acting Attorney General.

But it's not all doom and gloom. There will be frequent cease fires in the Middle East to read Trump's frequent tweets. History students will not have to memorize the Gettysburg Address, but Trump's 140 character (and in character) tweets. Muslims are saying their prayers at US airports amidst cheers (quoting Hasan Minhaj). US Lawyers are working pro bono around the clock to block Trump's travel ban. We're back into reading books - 75,000 copies of George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty Four* get re-printed. Post Brexit, Brits unite to sign a petition to block Trump's visit to the UK (hence the meme of the Queen wearing a red cap sporting 'Make America Great Britain Again').

Then again, Trump may be uniting IS and Al Qaeda...

The writer is an engineer at Ford & Qualcomm USA and CEO of IBM & Nokia Siemens Networks Bangladesh turned comedian (by choice), the host of ATN Bangla's The Naveed Mahbub Show and ABC Radio's Good Morning Bangladesh, the founder of Naveed's Comedy Club. E-mail: naveed@naveedmahbub.com

**QUOTABLE Quote**

**W.G. SEBALD**  
German writer and academic

*Tiny details imperceptible to us decide everything!*

**CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Sash site
- 6 Wine buys
- 11 Singer Lennox
- 12 Ticket category
- 13 Hunting goddess
- 14 Dark fur
- 15 Outback bird
- 16 More willowy
- 18 Cloth scrap
- 19 Long time
- 20 Writer Beattie
- 21 Seedy area
- 23 Churlish fellows
- 25 Stadium cry
- 27-Lanka
- 28 Winter air
- 30 Cuts off
- 33- de mer
- 34 Filming site
- 36 Long swimmer
- 37 Labor go-between
- 39 Lingerie buy
- 40 A, for one
- 41 Be patient for
- 43 Lawn pests

**DOWN**

- 44 Do a puzzle
- 45 One of Titans
- 46 Jarlsberg feature
- 1 Tall boots
- 2 Muppets drummer
- 3 Quadrennial event
- 4 Major no-no
- 5 Taunt
- 6 Gaming spots
- 7 First name
- 8 Sidearm pitch
- 9 Barkin and Burstyn
- 10 Boat back
- 17 High hit
- 22 Spoil
- 24 Mine find
- 26 Party thrower
- 28 Prop for Bugs
- 29 Spike of film
- 31 Extract
- 32 Lists of candidates
- 33 Molten rock
- 35 Curbside Pickup
- 38 Notion
- 42 Court

**BEETLE BAILEY** by Mort Walker

**BABY BLUES** by Kirkman & Scott

**YESTERDAY'S ANSWER**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | L | A | P | P | L | A | Z | A |   |
| H | I | O | B | I | O | N | I | C |   |
| O | D | O | R | U | N | T | A | P | E |
| D | O | T | T | O | D | O | T |   |   |
| C | H | A | N | D | T | O | E | N | D |
| L | A | T | T | E | R | I | O |   |   |
| L | A | T | T | E | S | M | I | L | E |
| A | H | A | S | T | O | K | E | S |   |
| M | A | N | T | O | M | A | N |   |   |
| B | A | R | R | E | L | C | R | E | W |
| A | N | I | M | A | L | L | A | C | E |
| A | N | G | E | L | E | L | K | S |   |