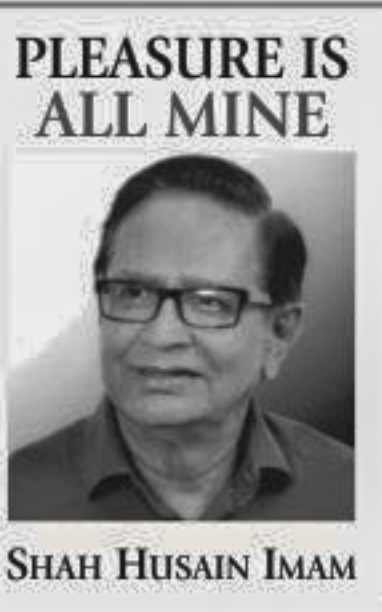


Take a pick on check and balance, Mr. Trump!



SHAH HUSAIN IMAM

PLEASURE IS ALL MINE
 NOTHING seems to be going right for the Trump presidency ever since its inaugural on January, 20. "Peaceful transfer of power" was mechanical; street protests watering down the solemnity of the occasion. And, what made a mockery of the show was an attempted fabrication of the crowd size in and around the vast inauguration concourse. Then the Oval Office overnight turned into a super CEO apparatus, dishing out a record number of executive orders, including that on a travel ban on listed Muslim countries, which drew instant ire. Such a discriminatory approach to travel solely based on religious grounds has upset the time-tested dynamic of evenhanded, humanitarian and compassionate acceptance of migrating refugees by host countries. The negative implications of quick-fire appeasement to far-right constituencies got the better of a rational judgment on the part of Trump, who hurried through clamping the ban. But this was entirely unnecessary given the existence of a supportive Congress for the

Republican administration available for consultation whenever needed. Actually, questions have been asked by the appeals court dealing with the ban to the government attorney as to why prior consultation wasn't made with an appropriate authority to seek legal advice or indeed with the relevant committee of the Congress. For, this is an issue having racial and religious ramifications. In particular, why was sufficient notice of temporary suspension on migration not served on the receiving end? The government side admitted to a mistake on that count. The defense attorney and the appeal court judge made a forceful point of demanding evidence on terrorism having been enacted by citizens of countries placed under the suspension order. The good thing about the matter is that the order has been stayed until the process of adjudication ends. Whatever may be the verdict of the appeals court, it is destined to go to the Supreme Court. Where there should have been nine judges, with the death of one, there are eight judges in the SC. Four of them were Democratic appointees while the other four are Republican. Thus the SC verdict is going to be split in the middle. There must be a way out of the crisis.

In such a problematic context, President Trump conceded the point that there may be a subsequent president who will change it—chinks of self-doubt perhaps showing through the invincibility façade. Trump at times can be refreshingly self-analytical; he confesses to feeling "surreal", getting three to four hours of sleep at night. As a matter of fact, the sooner the president realises the importance and efficacy of the check and balance system provided by the executive, legislative and judicial organs of the state, the better it will be for American democracy. The US president accuses Europe of a nudge-nudge and wink-wink approach to underplaying terrorist attacks. Most news agencies wedded to freedom of the press has called such accusation "absolute rubbish". Trump's admiration for Putin is taking on a US-effacing overtone. Bill O' Reilly in a recent interview with the US president asked him how does he deal with Putin who is a "killer", referring to his allegedly ruthless treatment of dissidents. To this, Trump's reply was, "There are a lot of killers and our country is not so innocent." Russian spokesman Dmitry Peskov wanted an apology from the Fox News anchor who had called Putin a killer. To share a joke, a 73-year-old lady said in Britain that Putin might have been alleged to

be "a killer", but Trump is "a home wrecker because my husband voted for him, and I divorced him." Controversy also surrounds the US president's state visit to UK at the Queen's invitation delivered by Theresa May to Trump during her recent visit to the US. The House of Commons speaker John Bercow, has, meanwhile, said that Donald Trump was not welcome to address the House of Commons. Constitutionally, the speaker is capable of denying the US president an opportunity to speak to the Parliament. Whether he will do it is another matter though, given the British diplomatic finesse. From the US' president's side, however, it has referred to the visits to Britain of Chinese Prime Minister Xi Jinping, Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe as well as Emirs of Qatar and Kuwait. The US president better have his feet on the ground instead of being obsessed with undeliverable pledges. His populist misadventure has made him unpopular, to put it politely. The EU president, Tusk speaks of two threats to the world at the moment: One presented by ISIS and the other by Donald Trump. The bracketing is rather jarring, to say the least.

The writer is contributor of The Daily Star.

Oh Summer Whine!



NAVEED MAHBUB

HUMOROUSLY YOURS
 I get a call to do a comedy show at an event. I am asked, "Do we have to pay you?" I answer, "No, in fact I will pay you. Presume that's the arrangement you also have with the caterer at your event." Or, that you got the idea from Trump's notion of Mexico paying for the wall. Hard as it may be, but let's look at the rest of the world besides America and the daily Trumpdates - Trump's noisy updates. It almost seems that the noise of the world pales into insignificance, though all that noise in the rest of the world is also somehow related to Donald Trump. We got our own noise too, literally. The noise that helps us keep track of time without having to use a clock. You know it's 2:00 am when the truck pulls over and the bricks are unloaded onto the freshly made sidewalks that the City Corporation built for us to walk on. Dhaka is becoming like New York City - a city that never sleeps with its 24/7 construction work. From a plane the city DOES look like a big gaping mouth - smelly and with lots of cavities where the milk teeth (independent houses) have fallen off and the permanent, multi-storied teeth are sprouting up. Oh, and the face is clean shaved (not many trees) and needs a LOT of moisturiser (landfills galore). Coming back to the nocturnal bricks. They are unloaded with our characteristic yelling. Just realised we are a nation suffering from a collective case of voice immolation. Ever wonder why the chief guest always answers the call with a booming "Hello! Hello!! I'm in a meeting now, call me later" while being buried behind the US-Mexico wall of flowers, as the thank you note is being read out by a squeamish host? I know why we have no concept of speaking softly, we originate from the countryside where there is the huge paddy field in between two acquaintances passing each other as they greet through yells to ensure being heard. 6:30 am. No need for an alarm clock to wake me up as the grinding concrete mixers start churning. The wake-up call - the city's version of the rooster at dawn. Maybe Trump can use this as Chinese torture in lieu of water boarding. Thank heavens for global warming and a short lived winter. We can now turn on the fans and ACs, welcome back load shedding and the sounds of generators to drown out (water board) the whining of the omnipresent (and omnipotent) construction equipment. And who better to welcome in *Pohela Falgun*, the day of the orange, by none other than the orange man, Donald Trump himself? Oh well, as the world whines at the summer tempests of Trump, things are starting to heat up here too. We have a new Election Commission with future elections - 100 percent Putin-proof...

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

PROJECT SYNDICATE

Africa's decade of industrialisation



LI YONG

IN today's interdependent global economy, Africa remains a weak link. If the world is to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, thereby completing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it must help Africa accelerate its development by promoting rapid and responsible industrialisation. Africa is by no means destined to lag behind the rest of the world economy. On the contrary, it could easily become a global economic powerhouse - and within the next decade. But, to fulfill its economic potential, Africa must industrialize. The importance of this has been stressed repeatedly at recent international forums, including last August's Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI), and the G20 summit in Hangzhou, China, the following month. For the first time, the G20 placed industrialisation in Africa - and all of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) - on its agenda. The African Union's Agenda 2063 also supports this drive. The recent UN General Assembly resolution declaring 2016-2025 the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa is yet another push in this direction. The organisation that I represent, the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), has been tasked with operationalising and leading the implementation of the concomitant program, including mobilising the needed resources. All of these declarations and commitments are an important first step. But they will mean little unless they are translated into concrete and effective action that advances African industrialisation, creates jobs, and fosters inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development. The question is how. The short answer is money and action. We must challenge the international community and development partners to back their words with real financial commitments. And we must build partnerships to operationalise programmes that will enable Africa to become the world's next main engine of economic growth. Such programmes must recognise and tackle the acute challenges the continent faces. The economic growth experienced in recent decades has not been structurally driven, sustainable, or fully inclusive. Indeed, growth rates vary widely across the continent, and not all Africans are benefiting.



Manufacturing may be the key to unlocking Africa's industrialisation potential. PHOTO: CONSTRUCTIONREVIEW

Though the middle class in Africa has expanded markedly in recent years, generating a consumer boom and boosting domestic investment, many people still struggle to make a living. Unemployment rates are high, especially for young people and women - a reality that drives many Africans to head north. To keep them home, Africa's economies must move beyond producing raw materials to build dynamic and competitive manufacturing sectors with higher value added. Here, Africa must draw on the opportunities presented by participation in global and regional value chains. New and innovative industrial-development strategies, as well as carefully tailored measures to attract foreign direct investment, must be introduced. Of course, to develop such strategies and participate effectively in industrial value chains, Africans need knowledge. Investment in education and skills training is imperative to facilitate successful and lasting industrialisation. By understanding and drawing on proven innovations from around the world, Africa could leapfrog more developed countries technologically, building the capacity to produce more sophisticated, higher-value goods. Knowledge of other countries' experiences will also help Africa to avoid the pitfalls of unbridled industrialisation - particularly

environmental damage. Africa must ensure that its industrial-development strategy includes effective environmental safeguards. Africa is well placed to industrialise. Beyond its massive natural-resource endowments, the continent has a favourable demographic profile (its rapidly growing population means that it will soon have the world's largest workforce) and high urbanisation rates. It also benefits from a highly educated diaspora. But industrialisation is never automatic. Governments must step up to address market failures, while planning, implementing, and enforcing industrial policies that address the shortcomings of previous ineffective versions. They must then institutionalise these new policies in national and regional development strategies. To succeed, governments will need adequate capacity, competence, and legitimacy to mobilise and interact with all stakeholders, thereby creating an attractive investment climate. The necessary reforms will open the way for public-private partnerships, which can provide investment for infrastructure development and maintenance. They will also facilitate cooperation with international organisations and development finance institutions, which can provide additional funds, while helping countries to upgrade their productive capacity.

A recent report, prepared for the Hangzhou G20 Summit, features a number of recommendations for Africa. It suggests support for agriculture and agribusiness development and linking them with other sectors, as well as measures to boost resilience to price shocks. Furthermore, the report emphasises the need to deepen, broaden, and update the local knowledge base, invest in energy- and material-resource efficiency, and promote green technologies and industries. Other recommendations relate to trade and regional integration, leveraging domestic and external finance, and promoting what it calls the "New Industrial Revolution." My numerous meetings with African leaders and visits to dozens of countries across the continent have convinced me that Africa is committed to industrialisation. In fact, the process is already underway in many countries, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda, and Senegal. By offering our commitment and support, we can enable these countries to realise inclusive and sustainable development for the benefit of everyone.

The writer is Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2017. www.project-syndicate.org (Exclusive to The Daily Star)

QUOTABLE Quote



LUDWIG VON MISES
 AUSTRIAN SCHOOL ECONOMIST
 Human civilisation is not something achieved against nature; it is rather the outcome of the working of the innate qualities of man.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Monks' hoods
 - 6 Squander
 - 11 Labour group
 - 12 Island greeting
 - 13 Colourful insects
 - 15 Fire remnant
 - 16 Have lunch
 - 17 Confederate general
 - 18 Laundromat sight
 - 20 Office notes
 - 23 Stunned
 - 27 Whole range
 - 28 Opera star
 - 29 Like some athletes' ankles
 - 31 Referred to
 - 32 Blasting stuff
 - 34 Money machine
 - 37 By way of
 - 38 Seventeenth Greek letter
 - 41 Long-bodied insects
 - 44 Cruller's kin
 - 45 Kind of pool
 - 46 Flower parts
 - 47 Take care of
- DOWN**
- 1 Havana's land
 - 2 Burden
 - 3 Accompanying
 - 4 Whole bunch
 - 5 Looks of scorn
 - 6 Floated on the breeze
 - 7 Everything
 - 8 Potting need
 - 9 "Of-I Sing"
 - 10 Move slowly
 - 14 Bright beam
 - 18 Eggs buy
 - 19 Ham's device
 - 20 Small rug
 - 21 Seventh Greek letter
 - 22 Janitor's tool
 - 24 Skin woe
 - 25 Adam's madam
 - 26 Pop
 - 30 Golf course chunks
 - 31 Arts' partner
 - 33 Malleable metal
 - 34 Tolls
 - 35 Easy gait
 - 36 Lion feature
 - 38 Take the bus
 - 39 Miami team
 - 40 Norway capital
 - 42 Stick in a pack
 - 43 Tell tales

BEETLE BAILEY



YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

SPED LADS
 CARTE ICIER
 ALOHA PENCE
 MUTANT DAD
 ETON EDWINS
 LEN ANOINT
 SLANT
 ASKANT OWL
 TRUANT ARIA
 ARM SAVANT
 CAMPS RANGER
 KNEEL TIGER
 TRAY SLED

BABY BLUES



by Kirkman & Scott

