

2008

Australian Prime Minister **Kevin Rudd** makes a historic apology to the Indigenous Australians and the Stolen Generations.



2010

A bomb explodes in the city of Pune, **Maharashtra**, India, killing 17 and injuring 60 more.

2012

The European Space Agency (ESA) conducted the first launch of the European Vega rocket from Europe's spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana.

2017

Kim Jong-nam, brother of North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un, is assassinated at Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

not left in peace

Mr Al Assad repeatedly used chemical weapons throughout the course of the war. More than a thousand civilians have been killed or injured due to the repeated use of sarin and chlorine.

that are so inaccurate that their use may be a de facto war crime. They were so inaccurate that the regime's helicopters often tossed them far behind enemy lines, lest their own soldiers get caught in the bombardment. Thus, the bombing of civilian infrastructure became routine.

Tens of thousands of civilians remain arbitrarily detained in government custody, and most of them have been tortured. There is no recourse for their families, and hardly anyone even talks about them.

Half of Syria's population has been displaced, millions abroad and millions at home. Their flight was met with rising walls and populist politicians demanding they go home. Refugees are not welcome. Conventions governing how they ought to be treated and enshrining the principles of asylum in the face of tyranny have been flouted and tossed in service of nativism and xenophobia.

Syria's indelible legacy is the fact that nothing is sacrosanct. The norms of war have to be enforced for them to exist. Customary international law is only that for as long as it is a custom that is observed, rather than challenged, by the community of nations.

After nine years of international silence and inaction, it is the savagery of bombing hospitals and schools that has become customary.

consequences for it, and continued to bomb hospitals under the pretext of a law it passed in 2012 declaring all medical facilities in opposition areas as de facto military targets.

The regime repeatedly used starvation sieges as a weapon of war to force the surrender of rebel-held towns and districts, in tight blockades that forced civilians to eat grass to survive and led to the deaths of children from malnutrition. Rather than pay any consequence, these tactics were repeatedly used and helped the regime to reclaim territory it had lost and win the war.

More than a half a million people have died. Thousands of them were killed by barrel bombs, containers filled with TNT and shrapnel

Impact on the world?

At this point in the presidential campaign, it is clear that foreign policy will continue to feature in the Democratic primaries and that it will subtly influence the selection of Mr Trump's eventual opponent.

because there is no evidence yet of imminent threat ... Look what happened, Mr Trump's America First policies made America alone".

And Mr Sanders declared: "You cannot go around saying, 'You're a bad guy, we're going to assassinate you'...if that happens, you're opening the door to international anarchy ... every government in the world will then be subjected to attacks and assassination."

The candidates expressed scepticism about continuing US military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, and how America could lay down the role of world policeman. Mr Biden suggested it was by having "allies who will join us in dealing with failed states and terrorism".

In sharp contradiction to recent US policy in Syria, many of the candidates emphasised the need for America to keep its word rather than renege on its commitments to the Kurds. Making a jibe at what he called Mr Trump's "17th-century approach" to national security strategy, Mr Buttigieg said it was no more than a "big wall and a moat full of alligators" at a time that America and the world is "facing fundamentally different challenges from asymmetric warfare to cyber security threats".

At this point in the presidential campaign, it is clear that foreign policy will continue to feature in the Democratic primaries and that it will subtly influence the selection of Mr Trump's eventual opponent. And while voter turnout may determine the results of the general election, were any Democrat to win, it would mean a substantial shift in US foreign policy.

of alliances and a rethink when it comes to the overseas deployment of US military personnel, as well as a nuanced approach to their withdrawal.

Three of the leading candidates – Pete Buttigieg, former mayor of South Bend, Indiana; former vice-president Joe Biden and senator Bernie Sanders – argued against the fatal US strike in December on Qassem Suleimani of Iran's elite Quds Force.

Mr Buttigieg, who emerged from the Iowa caucuses as joint winner along with Mr Sanders, said he believed Suleimani's actions had led to the killing of hundreds of Americans but he would have wanted to see more evidence of an imminent threat before ordering such an attack. "If we learned nothing else about the Iraq war, taking out a bad guy is not a good idea if you don't know what you're doing," said the 38-year-old Afghan war veteran.

Mr Biden agreed that as president he "wouldn't have ordered the strike



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



No child should ever be forced to bear arms. On this International Day Against the Use of Child Soldiers, we recommit to building a future where children are not used as weapons of war. #ChildrenNotSoldiers

@JustinTrudeau

02



The real political danger seems to be the media and people with huge social media influence frantically screaming the world is on fire and only their loyal followers can stop it. The left seems far more influenced by panic propaganda and willing to act violently in real life.

@chadfelixg

03



If this is true that's India's potential rate of growth is below 7%, there are major structural impediments to achieving higher growth, and loose fiscal and monetary policy will not suffice. Need more structural reforms else India is doomed to underachieve.

@rupasubramanya

04



Retweet this good news! The number of confirmed cases reported daily in provinces other than Hubei dropped consecutively for 8 days from 890 on Feb 3 to 377 on Feb 11, a drop of 57%, indicating that our prevention & control measures are working. The turning point will come soon!

@zlj517

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Bahrain must guard against climate driven pandemics



KOTA SRIRAJ

Virulent viruses of modern times are hard to suppress, difficult to diagnose and take a long time to get an antidote for. These difficulties mean that these viruses have a very robust incubation period and thanks to this have free initial run which claims huge number of lives, this condition is made even worse with the human beings travelling far and wide and becoming unwitting carriers of the viruses. The ongoing corona virus for instance is an apt example where a geographic location-based virus has transcended borders and became a global pandemic and created enormous psychosis in its path.

The corona virus has so far led to death of 1000 people with an unfortunate record of 108 peoples succumbing to the disease in a single day on 10th February alone. Additionally, the virus, according to the National Health Commission is also known to have infected 42,638 people since its outbreak. The correlation between climate change and resultant temperature spikes are increasingly providing an ideal environment for the pathogens to multiply and leap across host environments and wreak havoc. The fact of the matter is that climate change itself has got very little to do with the birth of the virus but has a lot to do with how the virus or the epidemic expands and spreads in a very short period of time.

The traditionally high temperature zones on the planet, which includes Bahrain have the advantage of providing inhospitable high intensity temperature environment for various disease-causing viruses. But off late these epidemics are surprisingly able to survive even the high temperature

zones which means that the natural temperature barrier available with Bahrain may not be a good enough defense system anymore. The main problem is the creation of an enabling environment through sustained high temperatures which make it possible for hitherto unknown strains of viruses to jump from the animal species to human race. This gives very little time to the scientific research and medical community to come up with an effective antidote before the casualties start reaching double digits.

China unfortunately is not new to these kinds of viruses. Be it the SARs virus in 2002 that started in China and spread throughout the world within months or the present strain of corona virus, the indications and characteristics are the same. Given the reoccurrence it is puzzling how China keeps becoming the epicenter of these devastating diseases, clearly some very important lessons are being missed here. As far back as 1992, the National Academy of Sciences in its report predicted that climate change will impact humans in many ways and viruses will be one of them. This was echoed many

years later in the Journal of the American Medical Association which sounded the alarm that the rampant climate change will herald the spread of virulent viruses and irrepressible diseases. This is happening now.

Given these conditions it is critical for Bahrain to have an action agenda pertaining to climate change triggered epidemics. As a part of this a multi-agency effort must be undertaken to prepare a comprehensive protocol that is able to fix the parameters on the basis of which virus vulnerability is assessed and its precipitators are identified. One of the critical aspects here is that the viral load from human's especially those visiting from outside must be clearly be defined. Apart from this Bahrain must also check the status of the ambient temperatures and define at what level the possibilities are the highest for the spread of those viruses that thrive on certain temperatures.

There is also an urgent need to closely inspect the various strains of viruses that are active in the animal species especially those which are consumed such as chicken, other fowl and livestock. These viruses stand the highest chance of moving on to human body through diet. As a part of its climate change epidemic prevention initiative Bahrain can also sensitize its citizens and make awareness a tool for prevention of virus spread. This awareness campaign can assume a multi-pronged approach wherein the people are educated on the demerits of rising temperatures and are also inculcated with the necessary knowledge to choose the best possible diet that does not carry the virus.

The epidemics such as corona virus are as real and life threatening as climate change and nations and people must have a mitigation strategy for both. Bahrain must insulate itself against these climate change driven pandemics so that these diseases are halted in their tracks.

