

**Iraq disarmament crisis:** Iraq agrees to the terms of the UN Security Council Resolution 1441.

**Mario Monti** accepted to become the 54th Prime Minister of Italy with the ouster of Silvio Berlusconi, who failed to tackle Italy's debt crisis.



A total **solar eclipse** occurred in parts of Australia and the South Pacific

**WT1190F**, a temporary satellite of Earth, impacts just southeast of Sri Lanka.

# Policy will never achieve peace



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Muscat during the latter's unannounced visit

for a withdrawal from Arab lands illegally occupied since 1967, as successive UN resolutions have consistently demanded. Meanwhile, secretive bilateral understandings between Netanyahu and Oman's leadership, enjoying neither popular legitimacy nor the principals of international justice, are a recipe for the continuation of the tense and unjust status quo.

The Arab Peace Initiative made moderate Israelis sit up and listen because it represented the possibility of Israel commencing relations with 20 of its neighbours, including some of the wealthiest and resource-rich nations in the world. On the contrary, it is difficult to imagine Israeli businessmen licking their lips and jumping on the first plane to Muscat, which offers miniscule commercial opportunities and without a single ordinary Omani wanting anything to do with the emissaries of an apartheid state whose political model is based on oppression of fellow Arabs.

Such outreach, which bypasses the Palestinians, may win cheap political points with Washing-

**Historic agreements signed between Israel and the states of Egypt and Jordan never led to a thawing of relations, bilateral trade, mutual trust or an end to popular hostilities.**

ton, but these efforts won't move the Arab world a millimeter forwards or backwards. Nearly 40 years after Camp David, could you visit Cairo and find a single Egyptian who believes they are at peace with Israel?

It is difficult to conceive of any peace with a state led by inflexible hardliners like Netanyahu, Avigdor Lieberman and Naftali Bennett, yet we have a duty to keep trying. If Israel's current leaders had been serious about peace, we would long since have

seen engagement with the entire Arab nation based on the principles of the Arab Peace Initiative. Instead, Netanyahu tries to neutralise Arab states one by one through a policy of divide and conquer.

If Israel aspires to being a true democracy, then it must end the occupation, end the oppression of non-Jews, release the children and freedom fighters, and abandon the daily killings and cumulative theft of Palestinian land. Peace only comes through give and take, while addressing historic injustices.

As soon as Israel decides to seriously pursue peace on this basis, it will find itself not trying to coax individual rulers into secret and unpopular deals, but brokering a genuine peace with the entire Arab nation while offering a comprehensive, compassionate and lasting solution to the Palestinian tragedy.

(Baria Alamuddin is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK. She is editor of the Media Services Syndicate and has interviewed numerous heads of state.)

## an flees

### ments tied to gangs

to the fabric of American society. Like the great majority of those masses, today's Central Americans seek merely to live in safety, to work hard and to provide for their families. They are not criminals, as Trump would have it. They are the victims of criminal enterprises that only pretend to govern.

If Trump, nevertheless, insists on stemming the flow of refugees, he must at least show America's compassion for them and insist that their home countries adopt reforms that produce honest and law-abiding governments. He should support the efforts of the anti-impunity commission for Guatemala. And he should answer the call of citizens of Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua who have sought to expand the commission to a regional United Nations Commission Against Impunity.

The Honduran caravan is a call for help in ending violence and impunity, and replacing it with the rule of law. Those are the commission's goals for Guatemala. Trump and Congress must strengthen those efforts and help them become a regional campaign to rein in rule by criminal cliques and murderous gangs that make daily life intolerable for the average citizen.

Ensuring fair elections is also needed, of course. But elections are meaningless without rule of law.

(Victoria Sanford is a professor of anthropology and the director of the Centre for Human Rights and Peace Studies at Lehman College.)

## To be or not to be

ANAND NAIR

Engineering is a beautiful profession. It has helped create wonders in the world. Whenever, I think of any engineering marvel, it's Konkan Railway (India) that comes to my mind. At least once in our lifetime, we should travel through this magnificent route; an engineering marvel.

But engineering as a profession has been hit by many factors. In the global report commissioned by the Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering revealed that 20 per cent of students in the UK, 30pc students in US and almost 80pc students in India wish to opt for Engineering stream after graduating from senior secondary school and 30pc out of the 80pc students who wish to take up engineering as their profession; do not pursue it fully.

It is said that in India, an engineer is born before he/she takes birth! The attribute towards this profession is the inclination of the parents to make his son/daughter an engineer. Majority of the students who opt for the science stream do so with the sole purpose of pursuing engineering.

A student who opted for his graduation in Physics after his Grade 12th examination says, "People around, look at me as if I have committed a grave crime! They just cannot digest the fact that I did not join engineering in spite of scoring good marks." Few on condition of anonymity have even confessed that they took up engineering due to parental pressure. Their parents feel pressurised by the relatives and people around if their ward is not an engineer. Engineering has therefore become the profession



Konkan Railway is undoubtedly an engineering marvel.

of compulsion.

A recent engineering graduate who got campus selection into a multinational company adds, "Engineering is purely logical. It is not everyone's cup of tea unless one has the flair for it." To add to this the pride attached in saying that my son/daughter is an engineer adds significance. A worried mother said that her son does not prefer to pursue a career in engineering but she had no choice but to enroll him for the same as his father feels that engineering is the only profession that will help anyone survive in the market. She feels pity for her son who has not been able to make a choice.

Studies reveal that engineering colleges in India are mushrooming all over. Almost 1.5 million engineers join the workforce market every year. It is estimated that around 20 to 36pc of the engineers graduating in India are unemployed. Out of the employed engineers almost 18 to 20pc are underemployed. These engineers end up taking jobs or in sectors which are not connected with their basic learning at all. The supply of engineers

**Engineers out of choice rule the world and engineers out of compulsion are ruled by the world! That's the only difference!!!**

is more than the demand. The market economies suggest that companies are not able to create the necessary jobs for engineers. The entry-level salaries are sometimes far low too! The salaries offered by leading companies reveal that many of them are still offering the salaries that were offered as the base salary 10 years back!

Employability skills must be acquired in the process of studies. Some of the best engineers with excellent brains are not in a position to express their ideas.

Communication, presentation and language skill development is a key requirement along the process. It is equally important for engineers to acquire these soft skills so that the employability factors are high.

Indians study for employment and end up seeking jobs. But our entrepreneurial skills are amazing too. Colleges should be able to create the necessary skills and aptitude required for startups. Engineering educational institutions can tie up with banks and financial institutions for start-up training including financial training and support. The ability to make an engineer an entrepreneur is still lacking in the Indian system. The latest process is to complete engineering and then go for MBA (Masters in Business Administration) and then still land up taking up odd jobs available in the market.

Engineers out of choice rule the world and engineers out of compulsion are ruled by the world! That's the only difference!!!

(Anand Nair is the Vice-Principal of The Indian School Bahrain)



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Jack Dorsey, the Co Founder & CEO of Twitter dropped in to chat this morning. Twitter has grown into the most dominant "conversations" platform globally. Jack explained some of the steps being taken to keep those conversations healthy & to tackle the menace of fake news. @jack

@RahulGandhi

02



(Baria Alamuddin is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK. She is editor of the Media Services Syndicate and has interviewed numerous heads of state.)

Shame on #Fake-Newsweek for helping @JZarif spread lies. The truth is: the U.S. does not, and never did, sanction food and medicine. They are exempt from sanctions, as are financial transactions related to humanitarian needs.

@SecPompeo

03



New: House Democrats, who will be armed with subpoena power when they take over the majority next year, plan to probe Trump's involvement in the hush money payments arranged by Michael Cohen during the 2016 campaign.

@rebeccaballhaus

04



America's divisive politics and the sheer math of cutting heat-trapping emissions indicate the world's prospect of substantively tackling climate change is getting out of reach.

@AmyAHarder

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