

2012

**Felix Baumgartner** successfully jumps to Earth from a balloon in the stratosphere.



2014

**The Serbia vs. Albania UEFA** qualifying match is canceled after 42 minutes due to several incidents on and off the pitch. Albania is eventually awarded a win.

2015

A **suicide bomb attack** in Pakistan kills at least seven people and injures 13 others.

2017

A massive truck bombing in **Somalia** kills 358 people and injures more than 400 others.



**US President Donald Trump is under fire for appearing to green light the operation and for abandoning the Kurds despite issuing threats to Turkey.**

calate before the situation became irreparable.

US President Donald Trump is under fire for appearing to green light the operation and for abandoning the Kurds. Even he has issued threats to Turkey. The president tweeted that he could deploy the military against his Nato ally, destroy its economy with sanctions or mediate between the Turks and Kurds. US treasury officials were ordered to draw up punishing sanctions but these will not be implemented until the White House says so.

The conflagration comes just weeks after Turkey turned to Russia to provide the S-400 air defence system. With its coastline on the Black Sea, Turkey is also on the frontline of the competition between powers on the fringes of Europe.

It is another flashpoint where there has been a clunking blow to

the cohesion of the alliance.

Nato constantly faces questions over its raison d'être. A member of Nato's parliamentary assembly recently recounted the difficulty of explaining to schoolchildren just what Nato is and how it safeguards their future. Explaining the relationship with Turkey certainly cannot be condensed into simple terms.

It is undeniable that the Turkish campaign brings Nato into a new relationship with the Middle East.

For decades, the alliance has held the region at arm's length from its inner circle. It has been willing to offer dialogue, training initiatives and conferences but these remain limited tangible interactions. The post-9/11 involvement of Nato in Afghanistan has turned out to be a self-contained operation, in part because the US always chose to lead by itself there rather than working primarily through alliance structures.

A policy of cautious engagement with the Middle East was made possible by Turkey acting as both a member of the alliance and a buffer. Now the western alliance has an open dispute inside the borders of an Arab state. There is a difference with the earlier examples of Iraq and Libya. Turkey regards it as a matter of domestic security and appears ready to incur international penalties to pursue its goals.

The Europeans are set on a track to deter Turkey. Much of Washington is gearing up for battle too. Once again, the very purpose of Nato is on the line as the venerable institution turns 70.

comes. hit at the Europeans' greatest vulnerability.

The US Pentagon has also conceded that Turkey has put it in a "tough situation" with its actions. Mark Esper, the defence secretary, told a briefing last week that the US opposes and was "greatly disappointed" by the Turkish action. He said Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan needed to de-

## and the wounded still haunt me



**I think my son saved me, though. He is now five months old. As I rock him back to sleep, enveloped by night, I can almost feel the cynicism melting away, the emotional armour unraveling with every smile he proffers.**

only bad dreams. I feel extremely self-conscious, even guilty, about sharing my nightmares and writing these words. It is a luxury, a privilege, to be removed far enough from tragedy to be able to reflect.

Often I was asked, after a particularly awful story, how I was taking care of myself. I would brush off the questions with a joke but I struggled with crippling anxiety and burnout. Perhaps depression as well - I don't know because I never bothered to go to a therapist or to get diagnosed. Partly, I didn't see it as a major problem. I was high-functioning and this came with the territory of the work I did. What kind of journalist complains about his mental health when people are dying from sieges and barrel bombs, when paramedics are killed doing their duty, when children are suffocating to death by poison gas, and people risk their lives in choppy Mediterranean waters to

escape certain death and totalitarian states?

But I realised I needed help when the stories stopped coming to me.

The biggest culture shock I had when we moved to Canada was the fact that the last eight years there had been relatively normal for citizens, compared to the lives of those in the Middle East. The mundanity of the problems I now faced from day to day struck me as almost frivolous, a betrayal even, of the people whose stories I had helped tell.

I could no longer empathise with other forms of suffering. I felt I no longer knew how to tell other stories, stories of different kinds of heroism, of the struggle to lead dignified lives, to put food on the table, to raise children and turn them into decent adults, to fight against systemic injustice and discrimination, to combat environmental devastation.

I knew I needed help, that something was broken, when I realised that I could no longer tell stories. Or, perhaps, that I no longer wanted to.

I never did ask for help, because we always muddle through these things, never quite putting them back together.

I think my son saved me, though. He is now five months old. As I rock him back to sleep, enveloped by night, I can almost feel the cynicism melting away, the emotional armour unraveling with every smile he proffers. My mind is slowly rousing from slumber. Maybe it's time to tell a new story.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Very smart not to be involved in the intense fighting along the Turkish Border, for a change. Those that mistakenly got us into the Middle East Wars are still pushing to fight. They have no idea what a bad decision they have made. Why are they not asking for a Declaration of War?

@realDonaldTrump

02



Around 100 wives and children of #ISIS family members have escaped from a Kurdish-run camp in Ain Issa amid the chaos of Turkish offensive, according to @syriahr. Kurds warn the West that resurgent jihadists "will come knocking on your doors" if Turkey's attack is not stopped.

@rafsanchez

03



Well done @IamSanjuSamson on a double hundred in a domestic one-day game!!! This man is bursting at seams with talent and talent must meet opportunity very soon @BCCI @StarSportSIndia #VijayHazareTrophy #VijayHazare

@GautamGambhir

04



Since yesterday, many of you have been asking - what is it that I was carrying in my hands when I went plogging at a beach in Mamallapuram. It is an acupressure roller that I often use. I have found it to be very helpful.

@narendramodi

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

## First step in personal data protection



SRIKANT RANGANATHAN

The appointment of the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments to monitor and regulate compliance with Bahrain's Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL) finally puts to bed the suspense on who would take on the role of regulatory watchdog for this law, which came into effect on 1 August, 2019.

The move to introduce a strong privacy and monitoring framework will significantly strengthen Bahrain's efforts to be at the forefront of digital adoption and growth through initiatives like its cloud first policy, the open banking framework, the digital sandbox and eKYC (and many others). A stable, secure and reliable data privacy platform will give people sharing their information more comfort.

The law provides residents and entities in Bahrain with a means and mechanism to ensure the privacy of the data they share with various service providers. Some direct outcomes of the law include restrictions on direct marketing activities, sharing of information and the retention of information beyond acceptable timelines. Providing a framework that clearly defines scenarios, where use of personal data will be considered an invasion of privacy, the PDPL creates

**The appointment of the PDPA is only a first step in the ongoing campaign for data protection.**



a mechanism for data owners to express their displeasure at how their data is being processed and - where their concerns are inadequately addressed - to report data managers to the data protection authority. Any entity or person that acquires and processes data - either directly or through a network - now will be held accountable for how that data is processed.

Compliance with the law means entities and people need to define, implement and monitor technical and organisational controls to protect the personal (and sensitive) data that they manage. A closer analysis of the law suggests that organisations in Bahrain should already have implemented these controls and be protecting the data they hold. In fact, rather than increasing controls, the law clarifies responsibilities, protecting data owners. In the future, it should be easier and quicker to assign responsibility and accountability for privacy violations. Interestingly, in Europe, organisations have been able to prove that they had implemented privacy controls required by the GDPR and so were not liable even where data leaks or privacy violations occurred.

The appointment of the PDPA is only a first step in the ongoing campaign for data protection. While it is right to look to the authority to provide oversight, adoption of the spirit of the law by all stakeholders should usher in an era of better transparency, trust and sharing all round.

(Srikanth Ranganathan is a senior director at Keypoint where he leads the IT consulting function.)