

1835

HMS Beagle with Charles Darwin on board reaches the Galapagos Islands

1916

First use of tanks in warfare, "Little Willies" at Battle of Flers-Courcelette, part of the Battle of the Somme

1928

Scottish bacteriologist Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin while studying influenza



George Soros' Quantum Fund begins selling large amounts of pound sterling, labelled "the man who broke the Bank of England" when pound crashes out of the ERM next day

1992

# Case in Putian double as Delta spreads



Residents register to take nucleic acid tests at a testing site in Quanzhou

case in Putian, Xiamen authorities said late on Monday. Known for its mild weather

and a laid-back lifestyle, Xiamen is a popular tourist destination domestically.

The Xiamen Gaoqi International Airport is also a key transportation hub linking the Yangtze and Pearl River Delta. About 60% of flights to and from Xiamen were cancelled on Tuesday, according to aviation data provider Vari-flight.

Both Putian and Xiamen began city-wide testing for the coronavirus yesterday. The cities, however, are yet to announce tough city-wide lockdowns as seen in early 2020 in China.

Three new cases of community transmission were also reported in nearby Quanzhou city, versus six infections a day earlier. Vari-flight data showed 70% of Quanzhou's flights were cancelled.

"One wave after another," said a bank manager in Xiamen. "It feels like the new normal now."

# their deputy prime Mullah Baradar, is dead



Deputy leader and negotiator, and other officials at a conference in Moscow, Russia

named deputy prime minister last week, issued a voice message rejecting claims he had been killed or injured in a clash.

"He says it is lies and totally baseless," Shaheen said in a message on Twitter.

The Taliban also released video footage purportedly showing Baradar at meetings in the south-

ern city of Kandahar.

The denials follow days of rumours that supporters of Baradar had clashed with those of Sirajuddin Haqqani, head of the Haqqani network that is based near the border with Pakistan and was blamed for some of the worst suicide attacks of the war.

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Speculation over Taliban leaders has been fed by the circumstances surrounding the death of the movement's founder, Mullah Omar, which was only made public in 2015 two years after it happened, setting off bitter recriminations among the leadership.

The rumours follow speculation over possible rivalries between military commanders like Haqqani and leaders from the political office in Doha like Baradar, who led diplomatic efforts to reach a settlement with the United States.

The Taliban have repeatedly denied the speculation over internal divisions.

Baradar, once seen as the likely head of a Taliban government, had not been seen in public for some time and was not part of the ministerial delegation which met Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani in Kabul on Sunday.

The movement's supreme leader, Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada, has also not been seen in public since the Taliban seized Kabul on Aug. 15, although he issued a public statement when the new government was formed last week.

# Hot as UK says COVID vaccines have saved lives



Professor Wei Jianping speaking at a press conference

commendation of a third dose six months after a second shot, paves the way for a broad revaccination programme in Britain, which has

one of the world's highest death tolls from COVID-19.

It comes ahead of an announcement by the government on its strategy for taming infections this winter, with Prime Minister Boris Johnson and other officials warning that the battle against the virus was not over.

"Our latest estimates are that since we began deploying these vaccines, they've probably averted in the region of 24 million cases of COVID in the UK and 112,000 deaths - so incredibly successful to date and remains so," England's Deputy Chief Medical Officer Jonathan Van-Tam told reporters. "We're not past the pandemic. We know this winter could quite possibly be bumpy at times."

The government has already indicated it would scrap plans for vaccine passports to be required

to get into nightclubs, end some of its emergency COVID powers and use lockdowns only as a last resort.

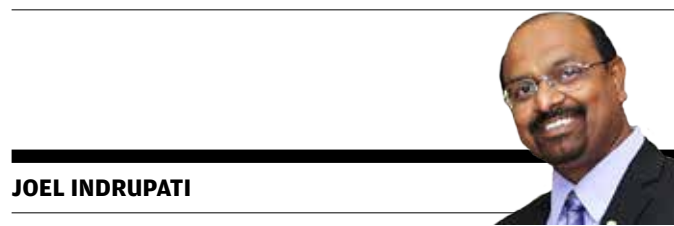
Instead, Johnson will lean on vaccines and testing to try and contain COVID-19 heading into autumn and winter.

"The pandemic is far from over, but thanks to our phenomenal vaccine programme, new treatments and testing we are able to live with the virus without significant restrictions on our freedoms," Johnson said in a statement.

Britain has officially recorded 134,000 COVID-19 deaths, and more than 7 million cases. So far 44 million people have had two vaccine doses, 81 percent of those aged over 16. On Monday, the government said those aged 12 to 15 would also be offered shots.

## WIDE ANGLE

### Comic Books – Do they promote stereotyping?



JOEL INDRUPATI

The news that comic books of Tintin, Asterix and Lucky Luke were burnt, along with many others, in Canada is both, shocking and upsetting.

These comic books were the Netflix of my school days. I had grown up with all those characters, and their friends and families, and I still feel I know most of them personally. And, that's why it saddens me that, these days, some new-age activists think it is okay to burn those books.

It was a symbolic burning, by a council of schools in Ontario, to show disapproval, for the way indigenous people were negatively portrayed in them. But I find it completely unnecessary and absolutely irrelevant.

The Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau addressed this controversy saying, "On a personal level, I would never agree to the burning of books."

But, strangely, at a government level, he allowed it. He allowed this ridiculous burning of books in this 21st century! A practice we thought was long relegated to medieval history.

In the 1953 dystopian novel 'Fahrenheit 451' we have seen books being burnt by an authoritarian regime, in order to thwart independent opinion. Book-burning has always been a direct assault on the minds of free-thinking men.

In fact, this novel's writer Ray Bradbury titled it so because it is exactly at this temperature that paper catches fire, and burns.

Now, while I agree that, in books, certain communities may be negatively portrayed, based on the writers' knowledge – or the lack of it – and also on the writers' prejudices, we must also understand that often it is only a perspective. Sometimes it is in fact the perspective of the writer's characters; and not even that of the writer.

For instance, the cowboy Lucky Luke fights some seemingly lazy, brutal Indians - the Native Americans of the Apache. Does that mean we become disrespectful of the Apache, and generalize them as only lazy and only savage?

It is for us to apply our own knowledge and wisdom to discern the truth. And our discernment skill can only increase when we are exposed to a range of differing perspectives.

In Asterix comics, there is strong caricaturing of the Gaulish people, Goths, Arabs, Egyptians, Romans, and even Indians. But it actually opens up our minds to the reality of our differences; so that we can accept and embrace our differences.

Agreed, that when writing 'Tintin in Congo', the Belgian writer Hergé, had not yet matured into a good cartoonist and storyteller. In fact, he had even later apologized for the way he had characterized African people, with some racist slurs, in his second book.

But, over time, his stories matured, and there is a beautiful intermingling of cultures, and a great appreciation for differences in his latter books.

For instance, I was fascinated by Tintin's friendship with a Chinese boy named Chang in 'The Blue Lotus' and in 'Tintin in Tibet'. Similarly, in 'Prisoners of the Sun', Zorrino, an indigenous Peruvian boy who makes a living by selling oranges, becomes a good friend of Tintin.

The boy Abdulla is seen as a spoilt brat of a wealthy Emir, from an Arabian country. This boy appears in "The Land of Black Gold" and "The Red Sea Sharks", and despite his pranks endears himself to Tintin's companion Capt. Haddock.

Some stereotyping is often visible to us, but we should accept it as poetic licence given to writers. We should not be blind to truth, by accepting silly stereotypes.

Burning these books on the pretext of stereotyping, I think, is just like banning 'Tom and Jerry' cartoon animations, for violence.

Both are merely exaggerations with intent to entertain and educate.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Afghan women & girls want to ensure that the gains they have made are not lost, doors are not closed & hope is not extinguished. Safeguarding their rights - including access to education & other essential services - is central to the future of the country & every Afghan.

@antonioguterres

02



Today, @UN Secretary-General @antonioguterres announced @SimaBahous of Jordan as Executive Director of UN Women. She is a champion for women and girls, gender equality and youth empowerment. Join us in wishing her a warm welcome.

@UN\_Women

03



We can vaccinate 40% of people in every country by the end of 2021. SyringeEarth globe asia-australia. If we work together. @WorldBank, @IMFNews, @wto & @WHO are joining forces to accelerate access to #COVID19 vaccines for developing countries.

@WorldBank

04



We are facing challenges on #taxation in an increasingly #digitaleconomy, particularly in #Asia, where #digitalization is on the rise.

@IMFNews

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