

Wide Angle

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Climate Change: A Reality Check

In Michael Crichton's book 'State of Fear' that I had read 12 years ago, he portrays a world where Eco-terrorism thrives.

The job of these eco-terrorists is to trigger a series of climate-related disasters - in different parts of the world - with the aim of convincing public that 'global warming' is real.

And, worldwide, these massive man-made catastrophes help increase state and private funding towards environment protection organizations; just what the scamsters are greedy for. Their organizations are all mere fronts for other nefarious activities.

So, long before US President Donald Trump and his ilk withdrew from the 2016 Paris Climate Change accord, Michael Crichton, the author, was one of those cynics who opposed climate change.

For a few days after I'd finished reading his book, I stayed disturbed.

Firstly, because it seemed to debunk all the work that was being done to combat the global warming problem, and secondly because one of my favourite writers - who wrote books as varied as, The Andromeda Strain (1969), Congo (1980), Jurassic Park (1990), Rising Sun (1992), Disclosure (1994) and The Lost World (1995) - I thought, would have had more sense than to quote only one sided data in an attempt to discredit climate change activists.

Scientists, journalists and politicians then, who included Jeffrey Masters, Peter Doran, Michael Crowley and Al Gore, have all criticised Michael Crichton's 'State of Fear' which relies excessively, and sometimes illogically, only on a prejudiced arguments.

This week, I was reminded of that controversial book, when I heard on BBC Radio that French President Emmanuel Macron has asked for more funding for the Paris Climate Change deal, because of the cuts that came out following US withdrawal.

A few months ago, in June 2017, while asking countries to commit to the deal, and to the funding of Climate Change activities, the French President had said, "To all scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, responsible citizens who were disappointed by the decision of the president of the United States, I want to say that they will find in France a second homeland".

And now, a Mashable.com article (13 December) says this: "In the name of furthering climate research (and trolling Donald Trump), French President Emmanuel Macron awarded "Make Our Planet Great Again" grants to 18 climate scientists, 13 of whom are from the United States".

France's wooing of US scientists and intelligentsia, and others, ahead of Tuesday's 'One Planet Summit' held in Paris shows France's seriousness as an emerging leader in 'Climate change' movement.

During the summit, the World Bank had said it would stop financing oil and gas exploration and extraction (upstream) from 2019.

While this would be a major blow for oil exporting countries it is absolutely essential if we must collectively aim for a green planet.

Is it not shocking to read in the latest TIME magazine article 'The Big Melt', that "From 1960 to 2017, the Alpine snow season shortened by 38 days—starting an average of 12 days later and ending 26 days earlier than normal" (TIME, 10 Dec 2017)?

Is it not horrifying to read in the same article that "Last December was the driest (in Alps) in 150 years of record keeping".

Is it not sad that artificial snow is being used to attract tourists in a skiing resort?

Climate change is real. We have messed up. And, we messed up big.

And that is why big steps have to be taken. And big commitments have to be made. And kept.

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

CBB raises interest rates

Representative picture

Manama

The Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) yesterday announced raising its key policy interest rate, effective immediately.

The action follows the interest rate hike announced by the US Federal Reserve. The Fed's hike, which is also the third this year, raised the US benchmark-lending rate by "a quarter percentage point to a target range of 1.25 per cent to 1.50pc".

Bahrain's central bank said it is raising its key policy interest rate on the one-week

deposit facility from 1.50 per cent to 1.75pc. Overnight deposit rate will be now 1.50pc instead of 1.25pc. One-month deposit rate was adjusted from 2.15pc to 2.40pc, while lending rate was raised from 3.25pc to 3.50pc.

Central Banks of Saudi Arabia and UAE had also announced similar measures following the Fed's decision to hike rates.

Saudi said it is raising its reverse repo rate by 25 basis points to 1.50pc, while Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA) said it would keep

the repo rate unchanged at 200 basis points or 2pc.

Reverse repo is the rate at which banks deposit money at the Central Bank, while repo is the rate at which banks lend money.

The Central Bank of UAE announced a 25 basis point hike in interest rates. Its repo rate is now 1.75pc.

Earlier announcing the rate hike, Fed Chair Janet Yellen said, "At the moment the U.S. economy is performing well. The growth that we're seeing, it's not based on, for example, an unsustainable

buildup of debt ... The global economy is doing well, we're in a synchronized expansion."

In its justification for Wednesday's rate increase, which was widely expected by financial markets, the Fed's policy-setting committee cited "solid" economic growth and job gains.

The Fed now sees gross domestic product growing 2.5pc in 2018, up from the 2.1pc forecast in September. The pace of growth is expected to cool to 2.1pc in 2019, slightly higher than the prior forecast of 2.0pc. (Agencies)

Missing Pets



RATTLEHEAD - Male Persian, 8.5 yrs, neutered, wearing red collar w old number, stolen from Durrat-taken to Sanad-then ran away-lady called to pick up-but stolen again while owner in Saudi for 5 months, Sanad/Durrat, 2016. **33426586**



EMMA - Female, 3 yrs, long hair w ginger/tortoise shell markings, spayed, wearing red collar bell - no ID tag, super friendly and would wander into your home to make friends, Saar (compound next to Hala Gardens), 7/12/17. **36644560 or 36644246**



FLATFACE - Female Persian, long hair, 4 yrs, spayed, microchipped, wearing red collar w name 'Basil' on it - with number **39997100**, normally can't jump very high - but managed to get over fence, Janabiya (near Life-Fit Gym), 11/17/17. **66675000**



SRAB - Female, 4-5 yrs, just disappeared, not wearing collar or ID tag, Arad (block 244 near National Bank of Bahrain Health Center), 30/11/17. **36777115**



PEPPER - Male Maine Coon, 3 yrs, neutered, not wearing collar or ID tag, normally stays close to home, A'ali (close to A'ali Views Compound), 7/12/17. **39748312 or 33327927**



MACY - Female long-haired, silver/grey, 6 yrs, spayed, not wearing collar or ID tag, chased off compound by stray cat, from Hamala Hills area - but likely stolen and in any area, REWARD for safe return, 26/11/17. Whatsapp **34515853/34200869/38023260**