

2005

A massive power blackout hits the Indonesian island of Java, affecting almost 100 million people, one of the largest and most widespread power outages in history.

2008

President of Pakistan **Pervez Musharraf** resigns under threat of impeachment.



2008

War of Afghanistan: Uzbini Valley ambush occurs.

2017

The first terrorist attack ever sentenced as a crime in Finland kills two and injures eight.



**Sunni-Shia relations in Tal Afar have improved somewhat since 2017, say residents, but that doesn't take into account the opinions of those who have chosen not to return.**

public opinion, as happened in 2015, when the Yazidi leader Baba Sheikh instructed families to welcome back the female Yazidis whom ISIS had traded as sex slaves.

Outsiders dealing with the issue may face accusations of western-centric thinking and attempting to interfere in Iraq's social structures. But a rape survivor's rights are universal rights, not exclusively western rights.

Sunni-Shia relations in Tal Afar have improved somewhat since 2017, say residents, but that doesn't take into account the opinions of those who have chosen not to return, or cannot.

More than 31,000 people from Nineveh remain displaced in Karbala and Najaf, Shia-majority areas in southern Iraq, according to figures from the International Organisation for Migration.

Former residents wanted over ISIS links haven't been allowed back, according to a city official. In a country where judicial

standards fall well below par, their fates aren't necessarily going to be decided fairly.

An element of distrust between communities will inevitably remain, particularly if residents feel forgotten by authorities in Baghdad.

Sunnis will likely not be allowed to forget the role of Iran-backed Shia paramilitaries from the Popular Mobilisation Forces, who worked alongside the Iraqi army to retake Tal Afar. They are now among the myriad security forces manning checkpoints and carrying out security operations on the city's periphery.

Another knot is Yazidis' perceptions of Tal Afar. Women and girls were held in the city as ISIS traded them as sex slaves while others were kept there long-term.

It is inevitable that their perceptions of the place will remain tainted. Tal Afar elders are involved in reconciliation efforts between Sunni Arab tribes and Yazidis across Nineveh province.

The Yazidis want the tribes to hand over names of all their members who joined ISIS. Even if this happens, the name Tal Afar will inevitably remain branded in some people's minds as synonymous with ISIS. "I'd never pass by Tal Afar because its people have destroyed us, taking our women and children," said one Yazidi survivor I spoke to in Nineveh.

Of course, many of Tal Afar's residents – both Sunni and Shia – suffered enormously under ISIS too. But perceptions and feelings aren't logical. That is one of the hardest things.

# Needs to heal once again



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republican form of government that defined the US has morphed into something more aggressive and populist.

By appealing to voters who feel alienated from Washington life, Mr Trump has exposed a frightening side of America: one that is racist, polarised and, as we saw in El Paso and Dayton, sometimes violent. He has repeatedly shown a disdain for nearly all the pillars of democracy: freedom of press; human rights; the rule of law.

According to a report from the Alliance for Justice advocacy group in the US, Mr Trump's attacks on the justice system are systematic. It states he expects undying loyalty from those in law enforcement but has simultaneously tried to undermine pro-

ceedings and flouted constitutional rights.

This is the tip of the iceberg. Mr Trump denies climate change, which will have lasting effects on generations to come. He is friendly to rogue governments. He has torn up treaties, not necessarily because he does not believe in them but because they were instigated by his predecessor, Barack Obama.

There are growing calls for his impeachment but it is a fantasy to think Mr Trump and his family members – whom he has installed as his closest advisers, with security clearances, despite the fact they have no credentials for the job – will leave the White House, board a helicopter and return to Mar-a-Lago forever.

Nixon was once seen as the epitome of corruption and misuse of power. Forty-five years on, the shootings in Texas and Ohio, a bitter war of words and accusations of racism in Congress, and allegations of outside interference in elections are once again indicative of a divided nation.

Yet despite the pain of 1974, some good emerged from the wreckage: reckoning, responsibility, new laws and regulations. Trust, eventually, was restored. Forty five years after Nixon, we need that healing again.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

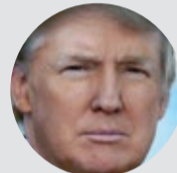
01



Called on His Majesty the King of Bhutan. We discussed ways to further deepen partnership between India and Bhutan.

@narendramodi

02



Major consideration is being given to naming ANTIFA an "ORGANIZATION OF TERROR." Portland is being watched very closely. Hopefully the Mayor will be able to properly do his job!

@realDonaldTrump

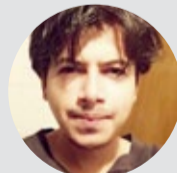
03



I am personally touched to see that Shri @narendramodi is acknowledging and responding to all the students, teachers and villagers greeting him on his way to Thimphu. This reinforces the fact that he is very down-to-earth and real. His affection for children are clear and visible.

@PMBhutan

04



UNSC meeting on Kashmir: China-Pakistan attempt to censure India at UN Security Council (UNSC) fails. Russia came out in support of India and stated that India has taken the Kashmir decision as it is an internal matter. France and US also backed India at the consultation.

@AskAnshul

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

## Are employment fairs really 'fair'?



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

It is a scenario that well-meaning labour officials are familiar with – and also job-seekers.

Faced with a slowdown in the jobs market, labour authorities organise job fairs at which companies are invited to a speed networking session with qualified but unemployed people and encouraged to recruit from amongst them to fill vacancies.

A large number of available jobs are announced – in the hundreds, if the marketing and publicity is to be believed – and the job-seekers throng to the fair, clutching their CVs and certificates, hope in their eyes and a prayer in their hearts.

Much marketing efforts are invested in the exhibition before and after the event.

Yes indeed, we are thankful to the Ministry of Labor and Social affairs for holding job fairs from time to time. But what is the reality? A graduate told me that since graduating four years ago she is still looking for a job, to no avail, although she has added to her qualifications with several short training courses and is well-qualified for the advertised jobs.

She told me that she is always greeted effusively by the HR management at these fairs, who interview her keenly and promise to call her for the next and final round. Alas, that call never comes. There are many young people like this girl, who are on that treadmill of unmet promises.

Don't get me wrong. The job fairs are important for recruitment and for giving job-seekers a chance to meet potential employers. Tamkeen, which underwrites Bahraini employment by offering salary subsidies to employers and training for job-seekers, makes the recruitment of Bahrainis an easy and necessary step in the growth of business.

Was it because none of the job-seekers had qualifications to match their needs? Or because the new recruit was their Managing Director's nephew or niece? We must get private firms to fill out assessment forms so that the ministry can streamline the jobs fairs and make sure that the quality of job-seekers and the quality of jobs are such that they represent growth for the youth of our country and progress for Bahrain.

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(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)