

2012

A car bomb explodes near a military complex in the Syrian city of Deir ez-Zor, killing nine people.

2015

The Refugio oil spill deposited 142,800 U.S. gallons (3,400 barrels) of crude oil onto an area in California considered one of the most biologically diverse coastlines of the west coast.

2016

EgyptAir Flight 804 crashes into the Mediterranean Sea while traveling from Paris to Cairo, killing all on board.



2018

The wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle is held at St George's Chapel, Windsor, with an estimated global audience of 1.9 billion.



2019 consumer electronics

its use by law-enforce- We might still decide, to give ourselves over ywhere. But let's not -seeing future without the risks at hand.

risks? Two new reports a researcher who stud- ination at Georgetown



uses artificial intelligence and facial recognition in dense crowd spatial- at the Horizon Robotics exhibit at the Las Vegas Convention Center during

Law, brought the dangers home for me. In one report – written with Laura Moy, executive director of Georgetown Law's Centre on Privacy & Technology – Garvie uncovered municipal contracts indicating that law enforcement agencies in Chicago, Detroit and several other cities are moving quickly, and with little public notice, to install Chinese-style “real time” facial recognition systems.

In Detroit, the researchers discovered that the city signed a \$1 million deal with DataWorks Plus, a facial recognition vendor, for software that allows for continuous screening of hundreds of private and public cameras set up around the city – in gas stations, fast-food restaurants, churches, hotels, clinics, addiction treatment centres, affordable-housing apartments and schools. Faces caught by the cameras can be searched against Michigan's driver's license photo database. Researchers also obtained the Detroit Police Department's rules governing how officers can use the system. The rules are broad, allowing police to scan faces “on live or recorded video” for a wide variety of reasons, including to “investigate and/or corroborate tips and leads.” In a letter to Garvie, James

A ban on facial recognition for law enforcement in San Francisco highlights public concerns about technology which is seeing stunning growth for an array of applications while provoking worries over privacy

E. Craig, Detroit's police chief, disputed any “Orwellian activities,” adding that he took “great umbrage” at the suggestion that the police would “violate the rights of law-abiding citizens.”

I'm less optimistic, and so is Garvie. “Face recognition gives law enforcement a unique ability that they've never had before,” Garvie told me. “That's the ability to conduct biometric surveillance – the ability to see not just what is happening on the ground but who is doing it. This has never been possible before. We've never been able to take mass fingerprint scans of a group of people in secret. We've never been able to do that with DNA. Now we can with face scans.”

That ability alters how we should think about privacy in public spaces. It has chilling implications for speech and assembly protected by the First Amendment; it means that the police can watch who participates in protests against the police and keep tabs on them afterward.

In fact, this is already happening. In 2015, when protests erupted in Baltimore over the death of Freddie Gray while in police custody, the Baltimore County Police Department used facial recognition software to find people in the crowd who had outstanding warrants – arresting them immediately, in the name of public safety.

(Farhad Manjoo is a leading and influential Silicon Valley voice and an opinion writer for The New York Times)

CAPTAINS CORNER

Bahrain's leaders signal preparedness



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

The mounting regional tension is undoubtedly the result of irresponsible policies followed by some countries and as a bloc, the GCC stands prepared for the face-off. This was the message of His Majesty King Hamad as he chaired the joint meeting of the Cabinet and the Supreme Defence Council.

Bahrain is part of the GCC and always expressed commitment to regional peace. Our leaders have always played a powerful role in creating the environment for peace and prosperity but as His Majesty said so clearly, our national and regional priorities for peace must not be taken as an unwillingness to fight for our rights. This means that our Kingdom is prepared morally and militarily to confront terrorism and acts of sabotage and backing of any measures taken to maintain their security and stability.

At the uppermost levels of leadership, Bahrain has sent out the signals that it stands by its brotherly allies of Saudi Arabia and UAE in the fight against terrorism. Bahrain is closely monitoring the situation – as a nation that borders the Arabian Gulf, one of the most important and busiest sea lanes for the global oil industry, we see this as a responsibility to the world.

It is time for the international community to be unambiguous about its support of the countries that are mobilizing against extremism so that the rogue nations know that the world is against disruption of peace.

HM the king said any attempt to incite sedition, division or acts that are inconsistent with the national constants would be firmly addressed, and stressed that Bahrain has the capabilities to confront risks to its security, stability and its people.

Now, it is the turn of citizens to show their loyalty and preparedness for defending the values that we hold most dear. You see, it is not necessary to be in the military to defend your beloved country. As His Majesty said, citizens and civil societies are the backbone of civilization and our first line of defence against extremism. Vigilance against terrorism and unpatriotic acts begins in every home.

(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)

lection has failed to materialise

reinigorating the country's Electoral Commission and making efforts to improve scrutiny of the government of the day in parliament. But disappointment is widespread: at the U-turns on signing up to innocuous UN human rights treaties; over the perception that cost of living issues are not being addressed, a crucial factor in last year's election; and that many of the promises in PH's manifesto have not been implemented.

Dr Mahathir has answered the last point by saying that when the pledges were made, “we didn't expect to win”, which might be typically frank but is hardly the most satisfying of explanations. Those expecting liberal reforms feel particularly let down.

Dr Mahathir and other friends of PH have said that the new ministers are inexperienced and should be given more time. But the home, foreign, finance and economic affairs ministers have all previously held high office while other highly respected ex-cabinet ministers are advisers or members of different PH component parties.

Many agree that the initial period

after PH won last year's election was a huge missed opportunity. It was then, when there was such goodwill towards the new government, that it had the political capital to make some tough decisions, such as changing the positive discrimination policy that favours Malays. They are, overall, a poorer segment of society – which includes many other ethnicities, mainly Chinese, Indian and other indigenous groups – but most economists concur that the decades-long programme has become a crutch that holds back both the economy and Malays themselves. Other reforms could certainly have been enacted, like repealing the draconian Sedition Act, which is so vaguely worded it can be used to arrest anyone for almost anything.

Instead, PH has spent much of its energy on an anti-corruption drive, targeting Najib and his allies. That might have been broadly popular – but it also left them floundering once the United Malays National Organisation, which dominated the previous Barisan Nasional government, teamed up with the Malaysian Islamic Party. The new coalition has

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claimed Islam and the rights of Malays are under threat from the new government, pointing to the large number of ethnic Chinese MPs in the PH coalition. As a result, the current administration, which only won 30 per cent of the Malay vote last year, has realised it must retain and build on that number if it is to win the next

election.

But it also means that the “new Malaysia” that was anticipated is still dominated by the old discourse of race and religion – and on those, the new coalition is hard to beat.

Many said that Dr Mahathir, who has been accused of being authoritarian and a Malay chauvinist in the past, had changed when he came to head the opposition, now the ruling party, before the election. But there are many reasons to conclude he has not changed at all. He thinks he knows best for Malaysia and he thought Najib – his one-time protégé – had to be removed. He might well feel satisfaction at achieving his goal after the former prime minister lost power and is now the subject of criminal charges. But those who hoped for a new Malaysia would be justified in asking if that was all last year's election was really about.

(Sholto Byrnes is a Kuala Lumpur-based commentator and consultant and a corresponding fellow of the Erasmus Forum)



TOP
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TWEETS

01



From securing our borders from enemy to securing citizens from natural calamities, the unbent & unbroken will-power of Indian Army to serve the country minuscules even the highest peaks of Himalayas. I salute our saviours & sons of the soil for their help in Odisha's hour of need.

@dpradhanbjp

02



At start of Senate Watergate hearings, today 1973, Chair Sam Ervin said, “The health, if not the survival, of our social structure and of our form of government requires the most candid and public investigation of all the evidence...The nation and history itself are watching us.”

@BeschlossDC

03



Even as states like Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, Ohio, and Mississippi are hell-bent on overturning Roe v. Wade and outlawing abortion in this country, there are more of us across the country who are ready to defend women's reproductive freedom. We won't go backward.

@KamalaHarris

04



A tale of two presidents: President Trump pardoned an army ranger who killed a member of the Taliban in self-defense. Barack Obama pardoned Chelsea Manning - a transgender who committed espionage against the United States.

@RyanAFournier

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