

1981

Gulf of Sidra Incident: United States fighters intercept and shoot down two Libyan **Sukhoi Su-22** fighter jets over the Gulf of Sidra.

1987

Hungerford massacre: In the United Kingdom, **Michael Ryan** kills sixteen people with a semi-automatic rifle and then commits suicide.

1989

Polish president **Wojciech Jaruzelski** nominates Solidarity activist Tadeusz Mazowiecki to be the first non-communist prime minister in 42 years.



1989

Several hundred East Germans cross the frontier between Hungary and Austria during the Pan-European Picnic, part of the events that began the process of the Fall of the **Berlin Wall**.



Within Ireland, both north and south of the border, a new debate is kicking off on what unification of the island free of British rule would look like.

That “beautiful era” was eclipsed by the rise of nationalist and imperial antagonism from the next generation of that small group of leaders.

Mr Trump has from the outset of his presidency spurned the climate change consensus. A series of trade disputes and escalating tariff war with China has shredded progress towards liberalisation. The US president has said trade wars are easy for the US to win. He also holds the opinion that tariff revenues represent a fiscal bonanza for the US.

The G7 meetings represents a second phase for the Trump administration’s foreign policy. Reports suggest Mr Trump plans to meet Boris Johnson, the new British prime minister, before other Europeans.

That would be a pointed endorsement of London’s push to leave the EU without an agreed exit plan – a disruptive breach

that would set Britain firmly on a course away from Europe. Next to America First, a no-deal Brexit would be the greatest nationalist assertion seen among the G7 members in its history.

Meanwhile, also around the table will be Giuseppe Conte, the Italian prime minister, who could lose his job this week after the nationalist Lega party demanded a general election and pushed for a no-confidence vote.

The White House has a Brexit project. It is offering fast trade deals to offset the UK loss of access to European markets. It claims these can be piecemeal, something that is against WTO rules. At the very least, the G7 pretence of acting as the guardian of global rules rings hollow.

At this level, every action has a reaction or a cascade of consequences. Britain leaving the EU is igniting nationalist passions within its own borders. The case for a Scottish referendum on independence is growing.

Within Ireland, both north and south of the border, a new debate is kicking off on what unification of the island free of British rule would look like.

Meanwhile the markets place no store in a communique from Biarritz. Officials fear there will be no communique issued at all – another first. Nor has there been any serious momentum behind diplomatic peace-brokering initiatives proposed for this year’s G7.

Economic problems are hostage to a rapidly entrenching new political landscape.

only emboldened Israel



In forging ties with central and eastern European countries, Mr Netanyahu has exacerbated a long-standing problem for EU foreign policy.

and arguably never will – at least not in the same format.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration has been openly and unashamedly taking steps to help formalise the de facto single state that has long existed on the ground, in concert with an Israeli government which – regardless of next month’s election results – opposes Palestinian statehood.

With the collapse of the peace process and two-state framework itself, EU policy looks ever more outdated, leaving Brussels complicit in the colonial horror show taking place on a daily basis.

In recent times, the EU has been reduced to the role of mediator between Israeli and PA officials simply to “keep the PA from financial collapse”. As experts have noted: “It appears that, for the White House, Europe’s only acceptable role in Israel-Palestine is that of a funder.”

Will this be a role that the EU

meekly accepts? Even taking into account the union’s internal dynamics and member-states’ woes, Brussels has plenty of significant, timely options to make a difference. At a bare minimum, that must include a refusal to go along with the Trump administration’s plan, and ideally should involve open opposition.

Earlier this year, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini was able to release a statement on behalf of all 28 union states in response to US recognition of Israel’s illegal annexation of the occupied Golan Heights. It is possible that were the US and Israel to act to advance annexation of West Bank territory, the EU would be galvanised into a similarly united stand.

But what is urgently needed, above all, is action not words – and the paramount question is whether policymakers and bureaucrats will break the habit of years of what passes for engagement and in particular, impose a price for Israel’s violations of international law.

Naivety, domestic political pressure and in some cases, an overtly anti-Palestinian agenda, have all shaped the EU’s carrot-and-no-stick approach.

Israel – and many European governments and private actors – have greatly benefited from economic, academic and military co-operation agreements with the EU, while experiencing little to nothing in the way of concrete pressure in response to occupation. It can no longer be business as usual.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



There is a third world in each part of first world. There is a first world in each part of third world. There are first, second and third world in all continents--Asia, Africa, Europe, America, Australia.

@taslimanasreen

02



Addressed @BJP4Telangana state office bearers and election clusters meeting at Hyderabad. Our cadre in Telangana is going to expose the failures and anti-people policies of the TRS government and popularise the good governance of the Modi government.

@JPNadda

03



The endlessly interesting thing about living in the vicinity of people impelled by Narcissistic Personality Disorder is that years after you think you know every evil thing they’re capable of, you can still be surprised by some new evil thing

@davidfrum

04



Thank you Bhutan! It was a memorable visit. The affection I have received from the people of this wonderful nation can never be forgotten. There were many programmes which I had the honour of taking part in. The outcomes of the visit will enhance bilateral ties.

@narendramodi

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

Kingdom as a hub for Artificial Intelligence



JASSIM HAJI

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a transformative technology that holds promise for tremendous societal and economic benefit. AI has the potential to revolutionise how we live, work, learn, discover, and communicate. AI research can further our national priorities, including increased economic prosperity, improved educational opportunities and quality of life, and enhanced national security.

The Kingdom of Bahrain graduates hundreds of technology and computer science students every year with much world class ‘Graduation projects’ which can be bases for mega projects in the region. These students are potential entrepreneurs and inventors of future Artificial Intelligence initiatives, not only for Bahrain but for the region. Therefore, it is imperative to establish Bahrain as a regional centre for Artificial Intelligence Research and Development, and instead of multinational companies developing AI programs in South Asia, Latin America or Eastern Europe to export them to GCC, they would enhance such technologies in Bahrain with many benefits to GCC and the kingdom.

The Innovation Centres for Artificial Intelligence should be a national initiative focused on joint technology development between academia, industry and government in the area of artificial intelligence. Bahrain has the talent, the world-class research and the long-standing tradition in AI education to be one of the world’s top ranked countries in terms of

innovation power. AI R and D brings these positive forces together in a unique national initiative.

The Innovation Centres for Artificial Intelligence should be a national initiative focused on joint technology development between academia, industry and government.



AI R and D centre innovation strategy is organised around industry labs, these are multi-year strategic collaborations with a focus on technology and talent development. AI R and D centre will create innovative AI-applications, distribute AI-knowledge for companies and organisations in the form of technology products and tools, train corporate employees through dedicated courses, and simultaneously maintain

a connection with other world-level science centres. It will also facilitate commercialisation by enhancing start-up and spin-outs.

We can already see the potential for artificial intelligence (AI) in international development: the seemingly endless possibilities to enhance productivity and innovation across healthcare, agriculture, education, transportation, and governance.

Given the opportunities and potential consequences of new automation and mechanisation techniques and advanced analysis through machine learning and neural networks, many American and European innovations centres are investing in applied research across a number of domains to advance the public good with the use of artificial intelligence for development.

These centres can also be found in Canada, Netherlands, India, Thailand plus a great potential for Bahrain in the Middle-East.

Such a strategic initiative would complement great efforts by the Economic Development Board (EDB) and Bahrain Polytechnic in supporting Artificial Intelligence initiatives and investments in the kingdom.

(Jassim Haji is a technological expert and the President of Artificial Intelligence Society Bahrain.)