

1877

**Alexander Graham Bell** installs the world's first commercial telephone service in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.



1893

**Lizzie Borden** is acquitted of the murders of her father and stepmother.

1895

**The Kiel Canal**, crossing the base of the Jutland peninsula and the busiest artificial waterway in the world, is officially opened.

1900

**Boxer Rebellion:** The Imperial Chinese Army begins a 55-day siege of the Legation Quarter in Beijing, China.

# Partnership of Sheikh Hasina

economic development and social progress



for road and rail transportation, called the 'Silk Road Economic Belt', whereas 'road' refers to the sea routes or the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

To support the BRI, Beijing has injected massive amounts of capital into Chinese public financial institutions, such as the Chinese Development Bank (CDB) and the Export-Import Bank of China (EXIM). These banks enjoy very low borrowing costs as their bonds are treated like Chinese government debt with very low interest rates and they have access to lending from the People's Bank of China's (PBOC), allowing them to lend cheaply to Chinese companies working on BRI projects.

This easy financing enables China's state-owned enterprises (SOEs) to offer highly competitive bids for projects against foreign companies that might be more financially constrained. For instance, in 2015 Japanese construction companies lost out to their Chinese counterparts in a bid to build a high-speed rail project in Indonesia.

That means Bangladesh will be able to undertake massive infrastructural development project by availing the special benefit of getting a much softer loan in comparing to the World Bank, Asian Development Bank etc.

Critics and opponents of BRI say dependence of Chinese funding for implementing massive infrastructural projects might help Beijing in significantly gaining political and other gains. Others say it would actually place China into a much stronger position.

But, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is not willing to buy such arguments for just one particular reason – to her, Bangladesh is the priority and for the best interest of her country, Sheikh Hasina will always do the right thing defying all criticism or opposition.

As Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina remains committed in the BRI initiatives, it is the responsibility of China not only to help the Bangladeshi counterpart in smoothly implementing the infrastructural projects but also encourage Chinese investors and entrepreneurs in giving priority to Bangladesh while either relocating their industrial projects from China or making investments in newer projects. Chinese readymade garment manufacturers already have found Bangladesh as the most suitable country for relocation or newer investment, which is helping Bangladesh's export of textile products increase significantly. Similarly, China should consider investment in hi-tech industries in Bangladesh. There should also be scope for the Bangladeshi exporters and importers in much smoothly transacting business deals. Bangladesh definitely expects wholehearted cooperation and support from the Chinese leadership, especially President Xi Jinping.

After Chinese President Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already emerged as the important politician and statesman. Moreover, she also is gradually becoming a prominent voice in the Muslim world. Diplomatic analysts say, Sheikh Hasina now needs to reshuffle the decade-old policy of Bangladesh and open the window of economic, agricultural, technological and defence co-operation with the Western world. It is also high-time for the Bangladeshi Prime Minister to further strengthen relations with President Donald Trump as well as the European nations. This will place Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's image into a newer height.

(Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury is the editor of Blitz. Follow him on Twitter @Salah\_Shoaib)

## Cultural exchange

that we are excited to share with our Bahraini friends.

In July, we will welcome the Missoula Children's Theatre back to Bahrain to participate in the BACA Summer Festival for the third time. The theatre group will be bringing the classic story Rapunzel to Bahrain, which should delight audiences young and old. With substantial support from BACA, children in Bahrain will have an opportunity to shine on stage in this classic fairy tale that children around the world know and love.

At the same time, Americans are eager to learn more about Bahraini culture. Indeed, our colleagues at Bahrain's Embassy in Washington, DC maintain an active calendar of cultural of-

**Cultural exchanges expose participants and spectators to the more human side of diplomacy and international relations.**

ferings aimed at the American public. During Ramadan, the Embassy hosted the INTRAFaith Iftar, introducing Americans to

important aspects of Bahrain's rich and dynamic culture.

Cultural exchanges expose participants and spectators to the more human side of diplomacy and international relations. Fundamentally, however, the success of relationships and partnerships depend on the people who enter into them. In the case of the US-Bahrain relationship, both peoples embrace these opportunities to learn about each other and thereby strengthen yet further our long-standing friendship. We look forward to building on this history through exploring opportunities for cultural exchange throughout the year.

(Justin Siberell is the us Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain.)

## Let's explore latest technologies to attain SDGs



ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

New technologies offer monumental opportunities to turbocharge the work of the United Nations for peace, sustainable development and human rights. Scientific progress is helping to cure deadly diseases, feed growing populations, drive economic growth and connect businesses, communities, families and friends across the world like never before. Rapidly developing fields such as artificial intelligence, blockchain and biotechnology hold great potential to improve well-being and generate innovative solutions for global challenges.

The pace of change is remarkable. New technologies are leaping from the lab to global use at an unprecedented pace. More than 90 per cent of all the data that exists today was produced in the last two years.

As a tech leader said to me recently, even though the field already advances at lightning speed, future developments will never again be as slow as they are today.

We must make full use of these life-saving and life-enhancing capacities. As the world strives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals -- the internationally agreed blueprint for building a better world for all -- digital technologies can be especially helpful in those areas where the world is most lagging behind. We must pursue

inclusive approaches that bring together all stakeholders. And we must take serious steps to promote the meaningful participation of women and to train young girls in science, technology, engineering and math.

While many of us struggle to recall how we lived without the Internet, a gaping digital divide remains. For more than half the world's population, access is expensive, slow or simply nonexistent. This divide is exacerbating inequalities in other key areas such as education, health and wealth. Digital opportunities must reach all, for the benefit of all.

We must also recognise the threats posed by new technologies. Weapons systems that can identify and kill on their own are closer to becoming a reality – a morally repugnant development. Social media is being used to spread hatred and lies. Technology is being exploited by terrorists, and organised criminal networks lurk on the dark web, profiting from encryption and near-anonymous cryptocurrency

payments to traffic in people and illegal drugs. While innovation continues to open up new fields of employment, many workers fear their jobs will fall victim to automation, underscoring the need for large-scale re-training, expanded social protection schemes and education from the earliest grades that emphasises lifelong learning.

We can and must do more to ensure that digital technologies are a force for good. That is why I established a High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, which has just issued its report (<https://digitalcooperation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/DigitalCooperation-report-for-web.pdf>).

Led by Melinda Gates of the Gates Foundation and Jack Ma of Alibaba, the panel brought together diverse experts who consulted globally, debated vigorously and examined a wide spectrum of challenges, and put forward detailed recommendations for eliciting the best of new technologies.

The panel has recommended ways to close the digital divide, increase cooperation, and better govern digital technology development through open, agile, and multi-stakeholder models. Classical forms of governance do not apply. Technology moves so fast that by the time decision makers gather to prepare, discuss, approve, ratify and implement a convention or new agreement, the landscape has changed entirely. Analogue policymaking won't work in a digital world.

I welcome the High-Level Panel's recognition of the United Nations as a uniquely legitimate and dynamic platform where Governments, civil society, academia, the scientific community and the tech industry itself can come together to discuss the way forward.

That conversation cannot wait. The age of digital interdependence deepens with each livestream, on-line transaction and path-breaking platform. As with other quintessential global phenomena – trade, communications, climate change and human mobility – international cooperation can be the difference between progress and chaos. We need to move now to build trust, stay ahead of emerging issues and shape a peaceful, prosperous and positive digital future for all.

(António Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations.)



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



My grandpa's entire family was murdered in the Holocaust. I'm 100% comfortable with @AOC and anyone else referring to the current situation as concentration camps. The Holocaust didn't come out of nowhere—it was a slow build, like now. People who understand history know this.

@MarisaKabas

02



Sanskrit is not just a human language but emulates the mantric sounds of the cosmic mind that govern all natural processes in the universe. Sanskrit is the language of Veda and Yoga and facilitates the unfolding of higher awareness.

@ahidrawleyved

03



When we look at Auschwitz we see the end of the process. It's important to remember that the Holocaust actually did not start from gas chambers. This hatred gradually developed from words, stereotypes & prejudice through legal exclusion, dehumanisation & escalating violence.

@AuschwitzMuseum

04



If Boris Johnson does make it to 10 Downing Street, he will become the first UK Prime Minister of part-Turkish descent. Lord Liverpool from the 19th century remains the only UK PM of part-Indian descent. Fascinating how long multiculturalism and multiethnicity have been around.

@MalikAshok

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