

1961

Greek general **Konstantinos Dovas** becomes Prime Minister of Greece.



1967

RMS **Queen Elizabeth 2** is launched Clydebank, Scotland.

1979

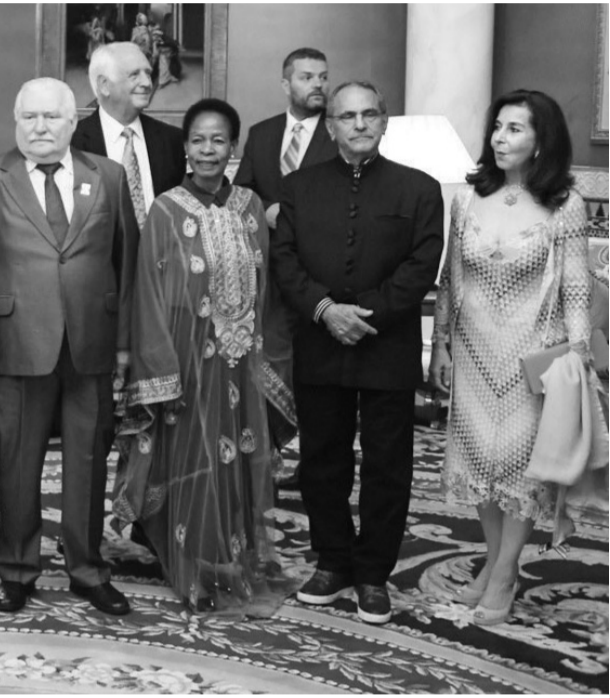
A French-supported coup d'état in the Central African Empire overthrows **Emperor Bokassa**

1990

**South Ossetia** declares its independence from Georgia.

# major eye-opener

... a sovereign wealth fund from oil proceeds in the 1930s



from the Philippines, Catholicism is being overtly practiced unlike in other countries where this would be a major problem. Indians probably constitute the largest expatriate community. So, Hindu temples and Synagogues, for the few remaining Jewish families, exist.

The more recent divide in the Gulf that saw Qatar blockaded by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, UAE and Bahrain remains. The US as the major power that should help on this problem, given its having bases in both Qatar and Bahrain and strong relations with Saudi Arabia, appear to have thrown up its arms as its leadership responsibility in the world is abandoned for tweets on whether there was collusion or not in the 2016 American elections. Maybe some Nobel Peace Laureates could summon up the courage and make facilitation/mediation moves that could address a complex problem of regional dimension that is bigger than little Bahrain.

One of the surprises of my visit was an evening at a private/civil society centre, the Shaikh Ebrahim Bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Centre for Culture and Research. The Centre was particularly interesting, beyond hosting an assembly of the diplomatic community in Manama, in listening to two major world leaders – President José Ramos-Horta and Professor Anna Tibajuka – share their respective experiences. This Centre, led by a visionary lady, Shaikha Mai Bint Mohammad Al Khalifa, houses a centre for high energy physics that is dealing with the issue of “what is our universe made of and why?” This involves exploring the basic particles of our universe and the forces that

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bind them together. This effort, in collaboration with the University of Bahrain, is part of the 25 projects being funded by the Centre from family resources and additional support from the private sector over the last 15 years.

I am a novice in this area, having run away from physics in the secondary school. I was, however, enthused that this exploratory effort into our universe is not left alone to the European Centre for Nuclear Research. Bahrain is showing that we should not only be consumers of products from major research centres of the world but we, in the developing countries like Nigeria and Bahrain, can be activists in making contributions. It was pleasing to listen to plans that are afoot in collaboration with the European Centre.

It is interesting that the Bahrainis probably commenced the idea of setting up a sovereign wealth fund from oil proceeds in the 1930s, when a third of earnings went into external investments, a third for

development of Bahrain and another third for governance. I did not have the opportunity to learn more about the current size of the sovereign wealth fund but thought that Nigeria and Angola could have benefitted if leadership in my part of the world had pursued such visionary approach to the common patrimony, as opposed to being a means for corruptly enriching those who had the luck of receiving the mantle to lead. I now know that Norway did not teach the world on this. Ramos-Horta, who used to think East Timor was second, following the example of Norway, now knows that Bahrain honorably set aside a sovereign wealth fund, a long while before Norway did.

It is not often that individuals so recognised for peace in the world find time to come together to share their experiences in the Arab world. So, it was great for Bahrainis to be exposed to ideas on making the world a better place with respect to peace. I personally hope that the Nobel Laureates would push further on the need for a peaceful Gulf, even if the major powers and the United Nations are currently not doing enough to ensure this. There is no conflict that cannot be subjected to dialogue. Facilitation of such may not appear easy, but formal and informal efforts at facilitation/mediation could help when a positive outcome was not anticipated. It may be difficult to have the immediate resolution or improved management. But striving to help must continue with some vigour.

(Babafemi A Badejo, Ph.D, is former head of Political Affairs at UNAMID, Darfur, Sudan.)

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in the delegation our Nobel Peace importance. This they shared their iences and made on improving the d development in theme was equally during the arrival the state banquet

al Highness (HRH) Prince Khalifa bin a. HRH argued for address root caus-

es of conflicts in order to advance development in the world. He equally stressed the desire of Bahrain for tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

In addition, being in Bahrain, aside from the opportunity to meet and interact with many interesting Bahraini leaders and others from the world at large, was a major eye opener on the positive achievements of the Bahraini leadership in deploying the relatively small oil wealth and material support from Saudi Arabia into development in spite of challenges.

President Lech Walesa found time to attend a Catholic mass, thus confirming religious tolerance in Bahrain. With a large labour population

# e world with his wisdom



When the UN Refugee Agency needed new leadership, Kofi blessed me with his trust in asking me to fill that role – and then provided unwavering support to protect and shelter the most vulnerable of the vulnerable.

Now that I occupy the office Kofi once held, I am continually inspired by his integrity, dynamism and dedication.

To him, indifference was the world's worst poison.

Even after finishing his term as Secretary-General, he never stopped battling on the front-lines of diplomacy.

He helped to ease post-election tensions in Kenya, gave his all to find a political solution to the brutal war in Syria and set out a path for ensuring justice and rights for the Rohingya people of Myanmar.

Kofi straddled many worlds, North and South, East and West. But he found his surest anchor in his African roots and identity.

The great Nelson Mandela, accustomed to being called Madi-

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ba, had his own nickname for Kofi, and called him “my leader”. This was no jest. Kofi was our leader, too.

When I last saw him not long ago at the UN, his bearing was how I will always remember him: calm yet determined, ready to laugh but always filled with the gravity of the work we do.

He is gone now and we will miss him immensely. But I am

sure of this – if we continue to lean in and listen hard, we will still hear the words and wise counsel of Kofi Annan.

“Please carry on,” I hear him saying. “You know what to do: Take care of each other. Take care of our planet. Recognize the humanity in all people. And support the United Nations -- the place where we can all come together to solve problems and build a better future for all”.

Let us continue to heed that voice of grace and reason – that voice of morality and solidarity.

Our world needs it now more than ever.

As we face the headwinds of our troubled and turbulent times, let us always be inspired by the legacy of Kofi Annan -- and guided by the knowledge that he will continue speaking to us, urging us on towards the goals to which he dedicated his life and truly moved our world.

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



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



During every step of this process, I've found every single piece of information from Dr. Christine Blasey Ford eminently credible, sincere and believable. She knew this would have a huge effect on her life and she was incredibly brave to come forward.

@SenFeinstein

02



Animals are one of the greatest gifts this earth offers, and humanity's treatment of them could barely be worse even if the overt goal were to make it as sadistic, torturous and cruel as possible.

@ggreenwald

03



Brett Kavanaugh talking about his high school in 2015: “What happens at Georgetown Prep, stays at Georgetown Prep.” I can't imagine any parent accepting this view. Is this really what America wants in its next Supreme Court Justice?

@SenWarren

04



It's not crazy to think Kavanaugh is innocent, and in an impossible situation because of Feinstein. It's also not crazy to think the accusation is true and disqualifying. Everybody acting like it's 100% obvious one way or the other is a reckless partisan.

@robbysoave

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