

1952

The Governor of Kenya declares a state of emergency and begins arresting hundreds of suspected leaders of the **Mau Mau** Uprising.

1961

The Soviet Union performs the first armed test of a submarine-launched ballistic missile, launching an **R-13** from a Golf-class submarine.

1962

People's Republic of China launches simultaneous offensives in **Ladakh** and across the McMahon Line, igniting the Sino-Indian War.



1968

Former First Lady **Jacqueline Kennedy** marries Greek shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis.

The turning point of Friday's summit forfeits a visionary goal as well as practical benefits in a region with huge potential. The coastline along the Adriatic is an undoubted strategic asset but has not been fully exploited.

along the Adriatic is an undoubted strategic asset but has not been fully exploited. Its people need the gold standard of EU membership to launch a host of ambitious projects.

There are glimmers of what is possible. Exhibit A is the Masdar investment in Serbia. This \$335 million investment in Cibuk 1, a 57-turbine generation unit, has great potential. By coincidence, it was inaugurated last week. As an example of the strategic importance of wind farms in Europe, it is useful to know that the former iron curtain border between Austria and Slovakia has been developed into a giant, highly profitable wind farm.

The demographics in the Balkans are an asset that ageing Europe should see as a resource. A youthful population can compensate for older populations elsewhere in Europe.

Politics triumphed last week over a bigger vision for the region. The bad dynamic is not confined to recent days.

The news cycle is not kind to the Balkans. The area is portrayed as a hotbed of cyber chicanery and is even partly blamed for the alleged interference in the race for the White House in 2016. One advantage of

membership for countries in central and eastern Europe is that the authorities have much more firepower to face down such activity.

The pressures on Bosnia Herzegovina are particularly acute. Its post-war future was under a cloud. Battling the spectre of new forms of Islamist radicalisation there is, say experts in the field, an increasingly uphill task. Meanwhile splits with nationalist factions are becoming ever more bitter, calling into question the settlement that followed the Dayton Accords, which ended the war in 1995.

For Mr Macron, there is a long-standing French foreign policy objective in blocking Balkans accession. A larger and more internally complex EU cannot act swiftly or deal well with its challenges.

Moreover, Mr Macron does not want to give open goals in domestic politics to the far-right politician Marine Le Pen.

At the moment of British withdrawal from the EU, Mr Macron sees an opportunity to assert a French foreign policy vision. Adding the Balkan nations to the voices around the table within the EU is a distraction to his grand plans.

As surely as Brexit, the decision marks the retreat from the ideal that the EU could hold pan-European ambitions in one central hub.

The French leader wants to shape Europe as a geopolitical player in the mould of Parisian foreign policy.

He is succeeding and his ambitions should be taken seriously. France boasts ownership of major diplomatic and strategic initiatives, from climate change to the Sahel to Iran's nuclear deal.

It is reckless to cast off the Balkans so summarily. Europe's rejects could find a common political project that allows them to stand apart from Brussels.

international network. Its latest round of grants last month, totalling about \$500,000, went to 59 projects in Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania and North and South America, bringing the total distributed to date to more than \$19 million.

A new Mohamed bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Fund, established last year, is now preparing a programme that will focus on tackling the global threat to birds of prey posed by electric power lines. Pilot studies in Mongolia have shown power lines kill hundreds of birds a year.

Replicating the EAD pattern of engaging not only at home but overseas, the Emirates Falconers' Club has also become a leading participant in the International Association of Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF), with the club's executive director Majid Al Mansouri currently serving as the IAF's president.

This is just a sample of the international work of our UAE conservation bodies. As I found during this month's conference, it is not surprising that they have a good reputation globally. It is time that their contribution to the country's international standing was more widely known at home.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Let's go for a deal that can heal this country and allows us to believe in ourselves once again as an open, generous, global, outward-looking and free-trading United Kingdom. #GetBrexIt-Done

@BorisJohnson

02



Ever heard of anything 'temporary' lasting 7 decades? Misdeeds of Congress in Kashmir eroded the Sufi tradition of that land. Congress ensured women, SC & ST communities do not get their rights. Kashmiri Pandits suffered. Militancy rose. Our Government changed that!

@narendramodi

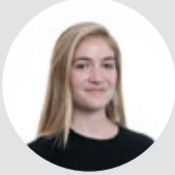
03



Slowly but surely, passion for Kashmir is cooling. That mad bloodlust that accompanied the abrogation of Article 370 is fading. Not that Pakistan has suddenly realised what its priorities should be; far from it. However, there is a realisation that they can do nothing about it.

@majorgauravarya

04



@AOC was torn for months over whether to endorse @BernieSanders, a person close to her told me. That changed when he invited her to Burlington to ask for "strategic guidance" over dinner and breakfast. His heart attack spurred her to publicly endorse.

@eliza_relman

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

Need to stem rising coastal degradation



KOTA SRIRAJ

Bahrain is a nation that has the unique natural advantage of being surrounded by water, which provides a rich source of aquatic ecosystem to a plethora of living organisms and underwater plants. Being an archipelago consisting of the main Bahrain Island and some 30 smaller islands, the name of the nation itself is derived from the Arabic word Al-Bahrayn or "two seas". Evidently water has immense importance for Bahrain around which much of the country's natural habitats revolve. The coastlines of Bahrain are the buffer interaction zones between the sea's and mainland and hence need to be in pristine condition. But off late some of these coastlines are unable to stay unspoiled due to a variety of anthropogenic reasons. This is where Bahrain needs to quickly step in and contain the degradation.

The importance and significance of Bahrain's coastlines cannot be emphasized enough. The coastline and the marine environment of Bahrain are especially important and indispensable for the Bahraini people. In addition to supporting the country's economy as most developments lie along the coastal areas, it supports a range of marine organisms that are important components of a wider ecosystem. While the coastlines have gradually developed into a beehive of activity, sadly the pollution and degradation levels too have soared. Oil related pollution and industrial activities have created a suffocating environment for the marine ecosystems that are in the proximity of the coastlines. The beaches especially are experiencing challenging levels of pollution that need urgent remedial measures.

Whereas laws and regulations do exist in order to protect the environment but they need to be further developed, strengthened and modified as well in order to keep up with the rapidly changing coastal degradation conditions. As the Kingdom ramps up its pollution monitoring and control protocols, it is quite important that interim contingency plans too are crucial in order to prevent, remedy and ameliorate negative impact from disastrous ecological debacles such as oil spills which have a debilitating impact on the fragile coastal ecosystems. Bahrain urgently needs to develop, finalise and implement an integrated coastal zone management plan that is able to factor in the current and future challenges faced by the coastal areas and prepare a calibrated response mechanism.

The marine ecosystems along the coastlines are intensively subjected to human disturbance either by direct physical damage or by deterioration of the water quality resulting from increasing levels of pollution. The main man made impacts in Bahrain are reclamation and dredging, industrial and sewage effluents, hypersaline water discharge from desalination plants, and oil pollution. According to a study done by Zainal et al in 2012 the total cumulative loss of the major maritime habitats, due to dredging in Bahrain, has been roughly 160 square kilometers. In addition to this, as per the findings of a report by the United Nations Development Program roughly 80 per cent of Bahrain's coastline has been subjected to land reclamation (Fuller, 2006), resulting in a loss of a fertile coral reef between Qatar and Bahrain. These conditions are not only deplorable but also cause irreversible damage to the coastal environment. In order to rein in the pollution streak, Bahrain needs to quickly administer some much-needed measures.

Bahrain can protect coastal biodiversity by firstly banning the use of plastics along the beaches and sensitive coastlines. Increasing public awareness and combining the single use plastic ban towards achieving cleaner beaches will eventually translate to healthier coastlines. Secondly, stricter monitoring of emissions by ships especially oil tankers will go a long way in ensuring healthy sea waters and hence better coastline ecology. Many oil tankers empty ballast water into the seas causing instant death to many marine life organisms due to presence of arsenic in the discarded ballast water. The naval patrols must ensure usage of advanced satellite technology to prevent ships in Bahrain waters from undertaking any polluting activity.

In addition to these efforts, Bahrain can also involve organisations appointed by the corporate under the corporate social responsibility initiatives to commission projects to rejuvenate coastlines. These projects can serve the twin purpose of making coastlines healthy and increase public awareness as well. These projects can in turn be publicised at appropriate global forums so that the world is not only able to appreciate the benchmarking activities of Bahrain to save the coastlines but also hold them as global examples for other nations to emulate.

Seas and coastlines are as old as the human civilisations and as such need to be take care of as they are a natural repository of marine biodiversity and ecology and Bahrain is truly a gifted nation to be in possession of such extensive coastlines.

on the global stage

A new Mohamed bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Fund, established last year, is now preparing a programme that will focus on tackling the global threat to birds of prey posed by electric power lines.

was the second such meeting sponsored by the EAD and followed an international conference on houbara conservation last year.

It is not just through the EAD, though, that the UAE's outreach on conservation issues can be seen. The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, which has been operating for more than a decade, has given more than 2,000 grants to research and conservation projects in 170 countries, involving more than 1,340 species or subspecies of a wide range of plants and animals. Many of these projects also receive support from other grant-giving bodies, helping to consolidate the fund's