

1789

Thomas Jefferson becomes the first head of the U.S. Department of Foreign Affairs.

1812

A British army under the Duke of Wellington defeats the French at **Salamanca**, Spain.

1894

The **first automobile race** takes place between Paris and Rouen, France.



1943

Palermo, Sicily surrenders to General **George S. Patton's** Seventh Army.

Conflict run deep

it relies heavily on native proxies such as Raisani for counterinsurgency operations. Raisani seemed more likely to be attacked by Baloch militants, who killed his teenage son in 2011. In a rare move, Lt Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, the army chief of Pakistan, travelled to Balochistan and attended Raisani's funeral.

The conflict became more complex after the Sept. 11 attacks, as the United States got embroiled in the war on terror; Arab, Central Asian and Taliban militants spilled out of Afghanistan finding sanctuary; and the Chinese started building the massive Gwadar Port on Balochistan's Arabian Sea shore.

Gwadar port is the flagship project in the \$50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which is a part of China's "Belt and Road" initiative. But the Chinese presence and investment have not improved the economic conditions of the Baloch people, who have come to see the Chinese as the new colonizers. Baloch militants have attacked Chinese engineers, and about 10 people have been killed.

After September 11, Pakistan utilised the resources Washington had provided it to fight al-Qaida and the Taliban to crush Baloch separatists. Since

The Pakistani army has few Baloch soldiers and officers, so it relies heavily on native proxies such as Raisani for counterinsurgency operations. Raisani seemed more likely to be attacked by Baloch militants, who killed his teenage son in 2011.

2004, Pakistan has disappeared, tortured and assassinated thousands of young Baloch students, activists and rebels, as the Americans weren't concerned about Baloch aspirations and needed the military.

The separatist sentiment intensified after the military killed Nawab Akbar Bugti, a prominent Baloch leader. Pakistan's security establishment responded by using Islamist militant groups such as the Taliban, the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and the Lashkar-e-Taiba to promote radical Islam in the region to balance and isolate the Baloch separatists. But the strategy of using radical Islamist groups and mil-

itants boomeranged as the Islamist militants began attacking the Pakistani state after gaining some strength.

In recent years, Pakistani authorities retaliated by killing some leaders of the extremist groups, which has only given rise to a more militant cadre of jihadis. Raisani's assassination by the Islamic State seems to be a part of the ongoing battle between the military and jihadists loyal to the Islamic State.

Islamabad blames India and Afghanistan for supporting Baloch separatists while continuing to allow Taliban leaders to find sanctuary in the province and form new alliances with various jihadi groups.

The new jihadis seek to undermine the Pakistani state while the generals still seem to be deluded that they can use and control these groups. Islamabad needs to dismantle these networks and deal with the legitimate demands of the residents of Balochistan for control of their resources, reduce the coercive military presence, stop the rights violations and move toward equal citizenship for the people of Balochistan.

(Malik Siraj Akbar is a journalist from Balochistan based in Washington.)

How news bits? however is quite nice

Ignorance is bliss, but untenable. Temporary distraction, however, is quite nice.

Even the host nation Russia got in on the fun. On a geopolitical scale, the nation's government has a lot to answer for. Still, for those who, like me, are exhausted by "Russia" appearing in headlines and Facebook fights every day, it has been endearing to see TV stations around the world praising the Russians for their strong defense capabilities and inexhaustible aggression in the context of athletics.

For four glorious weeks, the World Cup has also stood guard against the more hollow daily news bits that are, typically, inconsequential but usually invade my news feed and my thought.

The speculative master theories on the Mueller probe; the latest nonsensical tweets from President Trump; Papa John's racist comments on a conference call. The part of my brain dedicated to getting worked up by these trending-for-a-day controversies has taken a much-needed breather.

In a time of threatened democracy, staying vigilant and remaining an engaged citizen is an essential duty. It's also terribly exhausting. In its small

A watershed moment in American politics, but I missed the empty buildup and hours of conjecture because I was too busy laughing and texting my friends about all the cheekily maximalist memes surrounding England's team.

yet oversized way, the World Cup has allowed the news-obsessed among us to remember that some shiny objects of distraction aren't all so bad. Some, like earnestly cheering for your countrymen — or even better, whimsically for someone else's country — are probably, in fact, pretty healthy.

The World Cup will not raise wages or fix our crippled health care system. It will not make "Arrested Development" good again, nor will it decide for the left whether Hillary or Bernie was right. It may engender global unity but it can't end our wars. In fact, there's a good case to be made that it once flamed the

fires of war in Central America. I am in no way an advocate of looking away. Not being angry, not being scared, not thinking about the barrage of bad news — even for a moment — is a luxury.

In the 52nd minute of the final, three Russians from the protest-art group stormed the pitch, clad in police uniforms, bringing the match to a brief halt and reminding us that this spectacle of smiley-faced globalism was hosted by a harsh police state. Before security dragged the protesters away, France's star, Kylian Mbappé — in a moment maybe more brilliant than his goal — smirked and high-fived one of the women.

So thank you for helping us multitask the light with the dark, World Cup, it's been fun. In the proverbial post-match analysis, that should matter more to us than whoever won the thing.

Except for me — I'm Scottish; so in watching England lose in the semis and in the third-place game, stripped of their World Cup dreams, I'm proud to say my country has never been stronger.

(Tom Philip is a writer based in Brooklyn, New York. He contributes to *Vulture*, *The New Yorker*, *gq* and other outlets.)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I got severely criticized by the Fake News Media for being too nice to President Putin. In the Old Days they would call it Diplomacy. If I was loud & vicious, I would have been criticized for being too tough. Remember when they said I was too tough with Chairman Kim? Hypocrites!

@realDonaldTrump

02



It was in your leadership skip @ImrankhanPTI that we became world champions in 1992. It is in your leadership that we can again become a great democratic country. #vote-forkapatan#nayapakistan

@wasimakramlive

03



Could everyone screaming at me about Trump & Brexit please just shut up? It's Saturday, I'm watching @TigerWoods light up The Open, and I just don't have the patience today for your incessant, foul-mouthed, ill-informed echo chamber hysteria. Sorry.

@piersmorgan

04



Modi is an aggressive Moderator. But if you don't have new content, public gets bored. Modi is repeating same old speech.

@waglenikhil

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

Trouble in fishing waters



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

What a racist society we are. Yes, I know Bahrain is celebrated for its harmony and its freedom of religion and cultural identity. It's a quirk of human nature that these admirable traits can exist easily cheek-by-jowl with casual racism that would never pass muster in countries that boast of a high happiness index.

I am speaking about the views expressed by Bahraini fishermen to our Tribune reporters, which placed the blame of rising fish prices (quite seasonal in high summer) squarely on expatriate fishermen. Really? Rules in Bahrain are very strict about restricting the operating of fishing vessels to Bahraini owners. It is quite another matter that the Bahraini fishing fleet owners employ expats from other cheap labour nations to man the boats and they work under very difficult conditions. These are the 'expat fishermen' that Bahrainis are blaming, quite overlooking the fact that they are not independent operators but merely employees of Bahraini fishermen.

What are the conditions at sea for fishermen? Firstly, despite the mechanised trawlers, it is a

tough life, exposed to the elements, the salty air and spray and the blazing sun. Even if the fleet goes out at night, there will be stinging sea waves and always, the risk of straying into non-Bahraini waters and facing arrest and imprisonment. There is no guarantee of a boatload of catch — it is a profession of chance. It is a job that requires patience, nerves and muscles of steel, the focus of a fighter and the ability to withstand the disappointment of poor catches and fluctuating of prices.

In Bahrain, because the sea is a bay and the waters are not ocean-deep, fishing boats are of medium size. Still, the problem of over-fishing persists even in our territorial waters. Reclamation has bitten huge chunks into our coastline and our waters and boats are having to travel further and further inland to seek fish. Moreover, in their rush to meet market demand, fishermen are fishing indiscriminately — so much so, that classic Bahraini fish such as Hamour and Safi are being pushed to scarcity.

Even now, during these months of the shrimping ban to allow stocks to replenish during the breeding season, violators are being caught daily.

What can we, the chair-bound advisors in air-conditioned offices and homes, do to make this situation better? Firstly, we need to watch what we are eating and eat seasonally available food. That means, no shrimp biryani during summer months. Sometime back, top class restaurants in Dubai started a 'Say No to Hamour' movement to encourage guests to explore other fish options and reduce the pressure in the market for the endangered fist. Why can we not do this in Bahrain? Start a 'Say No to Shrimp' movement and refuse to buy the illegal catch. If we choke off demand, supply will automatically dwindle.

Fishing methods need to be reorganised. Countries like Bahrain are still closer to sustainable fishing methods. But in the big seas, we have fishing factories in the high seas which, the FAO says, account for discarded fish and sea life that accounts for 8 per cent of the total weight of the world's captures, or more than 7.3 million tonnes of fish.

We can reduce our use of single-use plastic and microplastics which end up causing damage to the marine environment.

You know how you spot a fresh fish catch? By its clear eyes. Similarly, we have to spot our fisheries problems with clear eyes and not get diverted by cloudy judgement that blames expats and other non-existent causes.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune)