

1963

A BAC **One-Eleven** prototype airliner crashes in UK with the loss of all on board.

1964

Jean-Paul Sartre is awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, but turns down the honor.



1966

The Supremes become the first **all-female music group** to attain a No. 1 selling album (The Supremes A' Go-Go).

1966

The **Soviet Union** launches Luna 12.

Boris Johnson is less like Hannibal and more like one of his elephants

Boris' lumbering negotiations have little in common with the skill of the Carthaginian military strategist, who famously led a herd of African elephants across the Alps



As lawmakers huddled inside the House of Commons on Saturday to debate Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Brexit deal, hundreds of thousands of protesters gathered outside the Palace of Westminster to demand that voters be given the final say on Brexit.

Gavin Esler

About 2,200 years ago, the greatest general of the time and the most feared military tactician was Hannibal Barca. An aristocrat from the north African city of Carthage, Hannibal had marched his armies from what is now Tunisia through Spain and France and threatened to destroy Rome itself. For several years, he occupied Roman territory and terrified opposition military commanders by using elephants in combat. The fact that Hannibal managed to cross the Alps with his elephants gives an idea of his extraordinary logistical and military abilities. And yet, Hannibal lost. Had he won the Second Punic War between Carthage and Rome, the future of Europe would have been utterly different. Instead of Roman laws and culture, and Latin as the language of diplomacy and scholarship, Carthage and a different set of north African values and systems would have conquered a large slice of southern Europe. But while the name Hannibal lives on – albeit in movies such as *Silence of the Lambs* – the Roman who defeated him is generally forgotten, except by scholars. The winner of the

Second Punic War, which led to the destruction of Carthage and the triumph of Rome as Europe's most important city, was Quintus Fabius Maximus Verrucosus, better known as Fabian Cunctator or Fabian the Delayer, who lived about 280BC. Fabian is sometimes credited with being the inventor of guerrilla warfare. Rather than attacking Hannibal's overwhelming forces in one major battle, Fabian delayed – and delayed. He used smaller, harrying attacks to wear down Hannibal's army and eventually secured victory for Rome.

And that brings me – yet again – to Brexit. In Britain, governments and prime ministers have considerable power – the formidable power of the British state – at their disposal. But as prime minister Boris Johnson tried to rush the UK into his plan for leaving the European Union, the delaying tactics of modern-day Fabians have been much in evidence. Another House of Commons defeat for Mr Johnson has provoked yet another delay, forced on the government by the apparently inferior forces lined up against him.

The prime minister who said he would rather “die face down in a ditch” than secure yet another Brexit extension, because

Boris Johnson is less like Hannibal, a shrewd strategic genius, and more like one of his elephants – lumbering along, trumpeting a lot but ultimately failing to defeat his enemies.

leaving the European Union by October 31 this year was “do or die”, is finding that in government, the facts sometimes matter more than bold phrases and stirring rhetoric. With an almost childish display of peevishness, Mr Johnson has sent a letter requesting a delay to his plans to leave the EU on October 31 – but he refused to sign the letter. Then he added other communications making clear (as if anyone was in any doubt) that he simply does not want the delay he is asking for. Today he tried and failed to mount another last-ditch attempt, despite Saturday's extraordinary parliamentary sitting, to force through his Brexit deal.

For a man who wanted to “take back control”, his fate and that of an entire country rests on decisions taken by 27 foreign leaders. Mr Johnson has marched his elephants towards his opponents and they have simply disappeared. As with ancient Rome, nothing is certain about the ultimate winner. But an estimated one million people marched on parliament at the weekend demanding a second referendum. And Mr Johnson, despite playing on the sense of fatigue many feel about the whole Brexit process, has profoundly irritated some of his once strong supporters.

Northern Ireland's 10 Democratic Unionist Party MPs voted for Brexit, but the thing they care about most has been undermined by Mr Johnson – the union of the United Kingdom. The DUP are, rightly, very cross that Mr Johnson's supposedly “Conservative and Unionist” government has signed a deal with the EU that in effect moves the border between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic to between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. This, the DUP rightly fears, could be the beginning of the end for Northern Ireland within the UK, especially since Mr Johnson's deal is equally loathed in Scotland, with which Ulster

unionists have a strong cultural connection. Scotland now looks certain to demand a second independence referendum. And the incompetence of the British government continues with a bizarre statement from the foreign secretary Dominic Raab. He says: “It's a cracking deal for Northern Ireland because they've got seamless access to the EU single market.” As numerous people have pointed out, if it is a “cracking deal”, why isn't it also the deal for Scotland, England and Wales?

And so we enter another week of negotiations and possibly these preliminaries are finished. It's worth repeating that even if Mr Johnson does get his deal through the House of Commons, it will merely mean a new set of negotiations to settle permanent future trade deals and other matters. That means engaging again with our European partners who – to put it mildly – are not impressed with things so far.

And despite all the bluster, Boris Johnson is less like Hannibal, a shrewd strategic genius, and more like one of his elephants – lumbering along, trumpeting a lot but ultimately failing to defeat his enemies. Victory may yet come to the delayers.



TOP
4
TWEETS

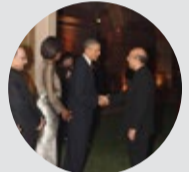
01



Optimism does not mean being blind to the actual reality of a situation. It means maintaining a positive spirit to continue to seek a solution to any given problem. And it means recognizing that any given situation has many different aspects – positive as well as problematic.

@DalaiLama

02



I personally don't subscribe to Savarkar's ideology but that doesn't take away the fact that he was an accomplished man who played part in our freedom struggle, flights for Dalit rights and went to jail for the country. #NeverForget

@DrAMSinghvi

03



Congratulations to Barbara Barrett, the 25th @SecAFOfficial. I know she will lead the charge to modernize @usairforce operations in space defense. I look forward to working with her to implement the National Defense Strategy.

@EsperDoD

04



We should back our traders on the Flipkart/ Amazon issue. When we can access Amazon of USA through credit cards what is the need to allow Amazon in India? Traders are a solid base of our culture and Amazon will destroy that. Same problem with Walmart

@Swamy39

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

Citizens for Bahrain

TRIBUNE

Ministry and public office for an official on as a trafficking wide adequate provisions to victims un- tion or voluntary” The government ted booklets about all relevant min- ongovernmental s in order to raise bout the NRM and ns of all concerned. ur Market Regula- ty (LMRA) between ceived direct refer- 6 potential victims of sources, includ- TP's hotline, police stations, other government entials and foreign embassies. The LMRA's Expatriate Protection Unit (EPU) provided all 516 individuals – some of whom were trafficking victims – with shelter, food, clothing, medical care, religious support, psycho-social counseling, rehabilitation, familial reunification, translation assistance, legal counsel, and repatriation or job placement in Bahrain. The Expatriate Protection Unit ensured the provision of safe houses and shelter for male and female workers, regardless of their legal status. It also maintained onsite offices for medical

and mental health professionals and a representative from the police anti-trafficking unit, and provided a training room for training shelter residents and a conference space for the NCCTIP. In 2017 the NCCTIP allocated BD 200,000 for the establishment of a victim assistance fund from which trafficking victims could obtain a grant to help them reestablish themselves either in Bahrain or in their home country, as well as monthly compensation in the event their presence in Bahrain was court-mandated to conclude a criminal trial.

Labour Law No 36 of 2012 reinforced protections for domestic workers, requiring employers to provide a labour contract specifying working hours, annual leave and bonuses and paying workers at least monthly. In late 2017, the government launched standardised tripartite labour contracts for domestic workers. The LMRA provided all 130 registered recruitment agencies in Bahrain with copies of the new contract, which required domestic workers to sign, prior to their arrival, a comprehensive work agreement that unequivocally outlined labour rights and employment obliga-

tions. The new unified contract took effect in January 2018, aiming to strengthen protections for domestic workers by requiring employers to declare the nature of the job, working hours and salary. Bahrain's government has taken significant steps to reform the sponsorship system particularly for workers who are currently undocumented. In July 2017, the LMRA launched a “flexible work permit” program to legalise undocumented workers while simultaneously permitting previously exploited and illegal labourers to self-sponsor. This represents a shift away

from the sponsorship-based employment system. “By allowing higher market-place flexibility, stronger protections for workers' rights, and improved workplace environs, this new permit programme allows up to 2,000 expatriates to apply every month to reside and work in Bahrain without needing a sponsor, after which successful applicants can work any job with any employer on a full-or part-time basis, negotiate wages and working hours directly, and secure multiple jobs concurrently with varying employers.”