

1941

Plutonium is first produced and isolated by **Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg**.



1942

World War II: Japanese submarines fire artillery shells at the coastline near Santa Barbara, California.

1943

A fire breaks out at **Saint Joseph's Orphanage**, County Cavan, Ireland, killing 35 children and one adult.

1943

Greek Resistance: The United Panhellenic Organization of Youth is founded in Greece.



Man town of Hanau.

signed. Mrs Merkel herself issued warnings about the march of right-wing politics. Now following the Hanau tragedy, the interior minister Horst Seehofer warned that far-right extremism was the biggest terror threat facing the country. Germany has a particular history but there are other European countries going through similar traumas. The threat seen in Hanau has been seen from Finland to

Politics in Europe's largest country has been upended in recent months by events originating in the town of Erfurt on the border of the old East and West Germany, where local resident Bjorn Hocke is the regional leader of the AfD.

Christchurch, New Zealand, where almost a year ago at least 50 people were gunned down while offering Friday prayers in two mosques. In the nexus between the political arena and the violent fringe, what happens in Germany will determine how this threat is contained or marginalised; not just in one country but around northern Europe and further afield.

The immediate headlines following the Hanau attack used shisha cafes as shorthand for Muslims. In fact the five-month pregnant victim, Mercedes Kierpacz, was of mixed Roma, Polish and German background. The Rathjen "manifesto" concentrated on racial purity, not religious issues.

Thousands of people rallied in city squares in the area and around Germany at the end of last week, with many carrying banners crying "Nazis out" and "never again". The AfD carried much of the blame – but therein lies a problem. It is fair

to resist the rise of hard-right parties with nativist agendas – their policies are obviously discriminatory – but there is a danger in losing the focus on the extremists themselves.

Politics is changing in the West. Political parties are confronted by demands of voters who are aggrieved and seeking a new departures. In Germany, a party that has unpalatable policies has fed off the failure of the political centre-ground to adapt. By contrast in Britain, the Conservative Party has changed its political stripes and, so far, smothered a challenge from the right. In France, the very traditional right-wing National Front was kept at bay by a maverick centrist president.

Keeping the purist killers marginalised and ineffective is a whole different challenge – one that is more suited to the realms of counter-extremism and criminal justice. It might be tempting to fuse the trends; after all, allegations that the new right acts as a seedbed have the ring of truth but they spur wider divisions. It is more useful to remain discriminating between the threats.

Assailants and killers occupy a dedicated fringe, and thwarting attacks remains a primary task for the security forces. But just as important is the need for political leaders to do a better job at resisting the onslaught that is crushing the political centre.

At the end of the day, the fight against extremism is interlinked but it is not one and the same.

## ons against Turkey



ns between Moscow and Ankara are strained over Idlib.

Moscow has described them as illegal and threatened to respond but Russia is nonetheless set to incur financial losses. There is also anxiety that new US laws could impose restrictions on foreign investments in Russia.

situation, especially in light of the recent anti-regime protests across the country.

Hardliners in Tehran, led by the supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps – the regime's influential militia arm – see the weekend's legislative elections as an opportunity to squeeze out the so-called liberals from within the establishment. Having already disqualified most liberals from running in polls, the regime has sought a national mandate for harsher policies vis-a-vis the West.

However, while Tehran is keen to assure Moscow that it has things under control at home, the worry is that its attempted purges would reduce any influence President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif might have in the country's dealings with the rest of the world. This would

preclude any negotiations with the US and possibly lead to further escalations in the region.

Given its problems with Turkey, Russia might have little choice but to accept Iran's assurances and its boastful claim of having helped Hezbollah, Tehran's ally in Lebanon, to consolidate its power in that country. But it does not encourage the current developments in Tehran.

There is also the threat of economic pressure on Moscow. Last week, Washington imposed sanctions on the commercial arm of the Russian energy giant Rosneft for helping Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro – another ally – to evade US sanctions. Moscow has described them as illegal and threatened to respond but Russia is nonetheless set to incur financial losses. There is also anxiety that new US laws could impose restrictions on foreign investments in Russia.

Moscow is aware that Washington is determined to get it to end its support of the regime in Tehran, even if that means slapping more sanctions. What it does anticipate fully is an official warning from the US next month, when a key meeting regarding US foreign policy on Iran and its supporters is scheduled to be convened.

In a nutshell, recent events have left Moscow concerned even as it reviews its tactics and partnerships – both existing and potential – as it looks to preserve the gains it has made over the years in the Middle East and elsewhere.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



I would like to compliment the Supreme Court of India for organising an international conference to discuss the important subject of 'Judiciary and the Changing World'. In my remarks highlighted the greatness of India's Constitution and the respect our Courts have among people.

@narendramodi

02



Johnny McEntee called in White House liaisons from cabinet agencies for an introductory meeting Thursday, in which he asked them to identify political appointees across the US government who are believed to be anti-Trump, per 3 sources familiar w meeting.

@jonathanvswan

03



Donald Trump in his India visit - scheduled for Feb 24 - is bringing The Beast with him. The limousine worth \$1.56 mn was presented to the US Prez in 2018, replacing the previous Cadillac One, used by Barack Obama.

@bsindia

04



From 610kms during 2013-14 to 5,276kms in 2018-19, @narendramodi government has accelerated the electrification of railways at a massive record pace. This will enable a safer, faster and eco friendly travel by rail.

@kishanreddybjp

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

## Going loco over locusts



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

Many squeamish people in Bahrain have been talking with dread about the locust invasion that affected Bahrain, reaching across the desert area and well into the Tubli residential zones. You see, the appearance of the locusts is a natural phenomena in neighbouring desert stretches but Bahrain is not a common destination for the swarms. Meanwhile, the Daily Tribune reported a small and interesting detail: in Kuwait, many of the older generation consider these grasshopper-like insects as edible and a rich source of protein.

That is not surprising at all. Grub gastronomy, as the cuisine involving insects and bugs is called, is considered very trendy in many parts of the world and is a time-honoured snack in others, especially South-East Asia.

They form the core of many tribal diets around the world and are now finding their way into restaurants across Australia, London, Europe and America. Isn't it funny how one's perspective changes when you see these bugs as food?

**Grub gastronomy, as the cuisine involving insects and bugs is called, is considered very trendy in many parts of the world and is a time-honoured snack in others, especially South-East Asia.**



Would we be complaining as much if hundreds of locusts crawled into our home, if all we had to do was catch them and batter-fry them?

Jokes apart, proponents of grub gastronomy say that insects will be the 21st century's eco-friendly protein source as the world increasingly eschews red meat which costs us so much green cover and water to raise. Indeed, even white meat is under the scanner because of the pollution of our oceans – fish ingest so much micro-plastics that we may as well be eating chopped-up plastic bags and farm-bred chicken are pumped full of growth hormones and antibiotics.

Of course, it's not a question of just catching the insects, bugs and grubs in fields and cooking them.

The industry has developed its own insect farming methods, where edible insects are bred in tray farms in carefully-monitored environments and prepared with all the care we give today to a cordon bleu meal.

So the next time you say, "Let's catch some grub," it could have a very different meaning. And for those of us who feel delicate about eating creepy-crawlies, well, there is always the option of going vegetarian!

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)