

2013

Nik Wallenda becomes the first man to successfully walk across the Grand Canyon on a tight rope.



2014

The last of Syria's declared **chemical weapons** are shipped out for destruction.

2016

The **United Kingdom** votes in a referendum to leave the European Union, by 52% to 48%.

2017

A series of terrorist attacks took place in **Pakistan** resulting in 96 deaths and wounded 200 others.



Global levels of oil demand in the short term tend to be highly inelastic, meaning that relatively modest shocks in available supply can have a drastic impact on prices.

represent a blunt message to the world: "We can still hurt you."

Maritime experts point out that it is impossible to fully protect civilian shipping. Hundreds of oil tankers and commercial ships are continually moving through the Hormuz chokepoint. The repeated nature of these attacks means that oil prices may remain elevated. Shipping and insurance costs could soar, with severe knock-on effects for the global economy, particularly since the afflicted companies have signalled that they will suspend Gulf operations and other corporations may follow. As was the case when Iran mined Gulf waters during the 1980s, there are also dangerous environmental consequences for fish stocks and complex ecosystems when huge tankers loaded with petroleum products are torpedoed.

Enough of Iran's good-cop-bad-cop games: Seducing the Europeans with smiling, but impotent, Zarif and Rouhani, while Khamenei and Soleimani implement a strategy infinitely more aggressive than anything Khomeini ever dreamed up. Russia is urging negotiations to calm tensions, yet it was Moscow that opened a

Pandora's box by aiding Tehran's expansion in Syria and elsewhere. What does Putin care that there were Russian nationals on the targeted ships?

This terrorist regime and its proxy figureheads have repeatedly and explicitly warned us that they intend to engulf the region in flames and torch the global economy. Why do we always fail to take Iran at its word? When tensions flared in May, European observers queued up to blame the Trump administration and portray this as a failure of US policy. These latest unprovoked attacks suggest that the escalation is fuelled from one side only. World leaders must not sit back and wait to see what action (if any) Trump will take. This calls for a unified response by entities such as NATO, particularly as member states including Norway are involved.

Global levels of oil demand in the short term tend to be highly inelastic, meaning that relatively modest shocks in available supply can have a drastic impact on prices. With one-fifth of the world's oil flowing through the Strait of Hormuz, Iran believes that it can hold the world's economy to ransom and send oil prices skyrocketing.

This crisis has gone way beyond previous bouts of macho posturing and sabre-rattling between Tehran and Washington.

World leaders generally lack the stomach for decisive action in order to reestablish an effective containment strategy against Iran, but they may quickly discover that they have little choice when the alternatives are global economic meltdown or a prolonged and destructive regional war.

(Baria Alamuddin is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK. She is editor of the Media Services Syndicate and has interviewed numerous heads of state.)

Deterrence only works when it is shown to be serious. The US administration has played its hand badly, gaining a reputation for barking very loudly, but failing to bite. Khamenei was likely reassured by Trump plaintively declaring that he does not want conflict. Given that soaring oil prices could torpedo a teetering world economy, and with the US leader staking his 2020 reelection prospects on economic growth, the Gulf attacks seem calculated by Khamenei to hit Trump where it hurts. Furthermore, the attacks

It need special applause

li-Arab conflict have focused on the search for a diplomatic solution. Such was the case with the Lausanne Conference (1949), the Geneva Conference (1973), the Madrid Conference (1991), the Annapolis Conference (2007) and more.

On the other hand, the four regional conferences held between 1994 and 1997, including the multilateral negotiations on issues of water, the environment, arms control, and refugees, were closely aligned with the diplomatic process (the Oslo Accords and the peace treaty with Jordan) and designed to strengthen and entrench it. The collapse of the Oslo process meant also the demise of the multilateral track.

In recent years, especially because of dynamic efforts initiated by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Manama has already built the image of one of the very few nations in the Middle East, which has been wholeheartedly promoting peace and stability.

On the other hand, Bahrain is a time-tested ally of the United States while ever since the signing of a defence pact between Manama and Washington and a free trade agreement in 2006, hundreds of

History shows that most international conferences on the Israeli-Arab conflict have focused on the search for a diplomatic solution.

Such was the case with the Lausanne Conference (1949), the Geneva Conference (1973), the Madrid Conference (1991), the Annapolis Conference (2007) and more.

US firms already are operating in Bahrain.

Moreover, the US Fifth Fleet is headquartered in Manama, evidently proving the existing warm relations between Bahrain and the US. The upcoming conference would open a new vista of opportunity for the US and Middle Eastern companies in further strengthening the existing cordial relations with Bahrain by boosting trade and investment.

One of the most important points about Bahrain is that its leadership has taken special initiatives in ensuring that his country does

not support any kind of religious extremism.

The Kingdom also has inter-faith relations with the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles and in December 2018, it named Rabbi Marc Schneier as special adviser on the Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence that he had founded in Manama.

Schneier has been working for the past 15 years to create inter-faith bridges between Israel, the Gulf States.

Houda Ezra Nonoo, a Jewish Bahraini woman, served as her country's ambassador to the US from 2008 to 2013. All this places Bahrain in an excellent position to host Trump's economic summit, which in any case fits in with the Kingdom's defence and economic interests.

One of the key points centering the upcoming Bahrain Peace Conference is the sincerest willingness of the Trump administration and the rulers of Bahrain is ensuring peace and stability in the Middle East, which is crucial for each of the nations in that part of the world.

(Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury is the editor of Blitz. Follow him on Twitter at Salah_Shoaib)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



After years of mistreatment and indefinite detention of prisoners, the United States must close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay.

@Rokhanna

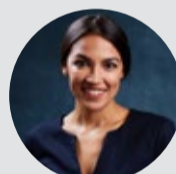
02



Millions of people will enter this weekend filled with fear. Children who are U.S. citizens will wonder if their mothers will be ripped from home in the pre-dawn hours before church on Sunday. And why? So Trump can vilify immigrants as part of a political campaign. It's shameful.

@KamalaHarris

03



This was Philadelphia after an oil refinery exploded this morning. So... what's that about how climate change isn't an existential crisis that will disproportionately impact working class people & burn its way up? We need a solution on the scale of the crisis: #GreenNewDeal

@AOC

04



Nice to be back in Israel. Looking forward to meeting with Israeli PM Netanyahu tomorrow & my counterparts from Israel & Russia, Meir Ben-Shabbat & Nikolay Patrushev, to discuss regional security.

@AmbJohnBolton

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

Combating climate change in your home



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

It has been a topsy-turvy summer for us in Bahrain this year. Although we're not complaining, May was relatively balmy and the 35 degree Celsius average temperature was cut by cool evening breezes that made our Ramadan fasting without water easier to sustain. But June began and continued in an uncomfortable blaze as if summer is catching up with us after a lull and I worry that the months ahead will be tough. Should the government bring forward their July labour laws that made it mandatory for companies to change outdoor workers' timing to the cooler morning hours?

For the many amongst us who think climate change is over-rated ad fictional, I must remind you of what a dangerous near-reality it is for small islands like Bahrain. In the vast Pacific Ocean, more than 15 small-island countries like Fiji, Samoa, Cook Islands, the Galapagos with their fabled wealth of biodiversity and the tourist haven of Maldives, with its picture-perfect beaches and sunsets... they are all living everyday with the threat of being swallowed by the sea.

The village of Vunidogoloa in Fiji became the first to relocate due to coastal erosion in 2018 - the threat is that close. The UN's climate-science arm has predicted that oceans around the world could rise up to three feet by the end of the 21st century and destroy many low-lying island nations.

When people think about how their lives will be affected by climate change, they might imagine living in a world with shorter winters and longer summers. They might envision coastal cities losing ground to sea level rise. They might even expect more extreme weather, such as hurricanes or wildfires.

All of those effects have struck various parts of the world. But climate change is also affecting what we eat. With warmer temperatures and more pests, farms will produce less food. And farmers will have to work harder to grow what food they do bring to harvest. Some crops might even be less nutritious.

While much of the damage is done, you and I can change the course of this destruction. We need to adopt a watchful way of living that is not wasteful and conserve the resources of our planet. Not just plastics, the new enemy, but also wastage of electricity and water, wastage of food - they all add up. How many of us are guilty of leaving the tap running when we brush our teeth, hosing down our cars or overloading our plates at the buffet? Simple, thoughtless actions can add up and break the planet. So along with avoiding plastics, let's reassess our habits and pledge to adopt one good planet-saving action at least each week.

(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)