

1989

The Hungarian Republic is officially declared by president **Mátyás Szűrös**, replacing the communist Hungarian People's Republic.



1989

Bankruptcy of **Wärtsilä Marine**; the biggest bankruptcy in the Nordic countries until then.

1991

Signing of the **Paris Peace Accords** which ended the Cambodian-Vietnamese War. Commemorated as a public holiday in Cambodia.

1993

1993 – The Troubles: A Provisional IRA bomb prematurely detonates in the Shankill area of **Belfast**, killing the bomber and nine civilians.

Brazilian politics

It's not too late to halt the tide

...d's supporters is gen- somewhat different. messages tend to distort arao's positions on taxes e minimum wage, often exaggerated data. But anti-Bolsonaro messag- WhatsApp are outright acy theories: After Bol- was stabbed at a cam- vent on Sept 6, Haddad's ters shared pictures of didate entering a hos- iling, suggesting he had the attack. The image, er, was taken before the g.

With such high stakes and such a polarised debate, Brazilians should not be casting their votes on the basis of false or distorted information.

ed by saying that there was not enough time to implement the changes. We disagree: In India, it took only a few days for WhatsApp to start making adjustments. The same is possible in Brazil.

Our country is in a decisive political moment. Bolsonaro's extreme right-wing positions – including his contemptuous positions on human rights and his nostalgia for the military dictatorship – have led many voters to fear for the future of our country's democracy. Many other voters worry that Haddad seems to be following orders from Luis Inácio Lula da Silva, the former president who is now in prison on corruption charges.

With such high stakes and such a polarised debate, Brazilians should not be casting their votes on the basis of false or distorted information. None of our proposals would require WhatsApp to limit its operations or impede Brazilians' ability to communicate with friends and family. We are suggesting only that the company temporarily impose some restrictions to stop the spread of fake news and dangerous rumours ahead of a critical election.

(Cristina Tardáguila is the director of Agência Lupa, a fact-checking platform.)

the same measure in Brazil to limit the reach of disinformation.

Restrict broadcasts. WhatsApp allows every user to send a single message to up to 256 contacts at once. This means that a small, coordinated group can easily conduct a large-scale disinformation campaign. This could be prevented by limiting the number of contacts to whom a user could broadcast a message.

Limit the size of new groups. New chat groups created in Brazil during the next two weeks should have a limit on the number of users. This wouldn't affect existing groups.

We contacted WhatsApp this week and presented these suggestions. The company respond-

until now

ncere. We are more ready hem out on all those cen- of excess, more likely to to those pink-trousered, eed dinosaurs who still re us as their inferiors. I myself genuinely breath- ch anger when I read the vative MP Andrew Brid- cent comments assum- would be entitled to an assport post-Brexit. How e possible that a member iament in 2018 still be- hat Ireland is nothing but rce to be drawn from and ed at will? I once laughed e cluelessness. But I don't unny anymore, how they f us – or often, how they oter to think of us at all. ived in London for three hadn't spent much time in before my arrival and particular feelings to- e English. I expected e react to me with similar ity. What I didn't expect e toxic mix of dismiss- casual disdain. It would e easier, perhaps, if it as overt as potato jokes. at kills you is the igno- what grinds you down uch they don't know e past and, if they do ow little they care. It's

But there was an idea not so long ago, even among many Irish, that it was time to move on. We were all going to be European together forever, after all, and we ought to at least try to smooth over our differences.

a strange and maddening thing to discover about the people who shaped your country's fate and who are poised to do so again. Why does it matter that an English man is English when he shouts at Irish protesters? Why did it matter where the men who threw the pigeon head were from? Because England keeps on making itself matter to Ireland, against our will.

Two weeks ago I visited Birmingham while the Conservative Party Conference was being held. All around me were examples of the worst elements of the English ruling class: their solipsism, their hatred of the

poor, their amazing rudeness. A man in a boater hat and cravat, drinking Champagne and smoking a cigar, ignored a homeless woman asking for change and then chided me when I gave her some.

Fed up and demoralised, I wandered off to the cinema and saw "Black 47," a thriller set during the Irish famine. In it, an Irish deserter from the English Army returns home to find his family dead and his homeland ravaged as a result of British rule. He hunts down those responsible – the landlords, the judges, the army, the lord in his manor – and metes out fitting punishments.

An older couple next to me in line, both wearing lanyards from the conference, were deciding what to see and asked me what "Black 47" was about. "It's a sort of revenge fantasy, I think," I replied. "Set during the famine, the Irish against the English."

"Oh, really?" the woman asked.

And then, ponderously, more to herself than to me: "Revenge for what?"

(Megan Nolan is an Irish writer of essays, fiction and criticism based in London.)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



General Directorate of Traffic wishes safety to all road users and calls upon drivers to be cautious of the rain by driving on the correct lane, following the speed limits and leaving the safety distance between vehicles.

@moi_bahrain

02



Every time you see a Caravan, or people illegally coming, or attempting to come, into our Country illegally, think of and blame the Democrats for not giving us the votes to change our pathetic Immigration Laws! Remember the Midterms! So unfair to those who come in legally.

@realDonaldTrump

03



Because motivation pervades all action, it is important that we have a positive motivation. Whatever we are involved in, whether it's politics, education, medicine, law, engineering, science, business or industry, the nature of our motivation determines the character of our work.

@DalaiLama

04



I'm supporting @BenJealous because of his plan to drive down costs for prescriptions. On Friday I stood in my pharmacy, near tears, because my son needed medication but the insurance company would not approve it. I was going to pay \$648 for two weeks of medicine.

@marcelineawhite

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

Like it or not

Views - current dated



P UNNIKRISHNAN

Is this your cheque?

Yes
Are you the one who signed this cheque?
Yes
Did you deposit enough funds to clear this cheque?
No
Did you bring cash with you to replace these cheques?
No
Then wait ...

We stood for a while without understanding the hidden meaning of that 'wait'.

To trace back, I was at a police station to settle a dud cheque case for a good friend of mine.

Sir...

Before my friend could speak, the policeman said, "I very well know the long story you are planning to tell, the story of a businessman who dreamt about building an empire, the number of jobs you managed to generate in this country, the contributions you have made to the development of this country...up to how you got cheated by a loan shark.

"But dear, ignorance of law is no excuse. For us a dud cheque is a dud cheque."

Most of the businessmen who get caught in dud cheque cases have similar stories to tell, maybe with minute twists in the script!

The nightmare continues! More cheques were presented, some signed by my friend, others by his company. There were also cheques settled ages ago but not collected from clients.

Believe me, four more clients hurried to present dud cheques on the same day at the same police station against my friend. Fire travels a bit slow when compared to the speed of bad news!

"Do you have a lawyer?" I whispered into my friend's ears though it appeared loud as the room was filled with a scary silence.

Unfortunately, the lawyer had not done much. He only attempted to convince my friend by saying, "Don't worry, see you in court."

And as promised the lawyer met him in court. Was he there to tell my friend, "See you in jail or ask your buddy to arrange funds!" Lawyers most often seem to be helpless in dud cheque cases.

Most of the expat businessmen use cheques in the form of guarantees and my friend was no different. It is a normal practice in Bahrain to accept and demand assurance through cheques.

Loan sharks pump oxygen to most of the expat businessmen simply for the reason that there is no way to get a loan without providing collateral.

Unfortunately, loan sharks are like double-edged swords. They make sure to collect enough documents before charging exorbitant interest.

My friend had enough assets, but converting them to cash wasn't an easy task.

No doubt, entrepreneurs are the backbone of any economy; to create more jobs you need more entrepreneurs. To create more entrepreneurs, we need to remove the fear factor from people over taking risks.

When a country goes through economic crisis, businessmen are the one who suffers the most. Many expats run away over fears of getting arrested. The number of abandoned cars at the Dubai International Airport during the time of recession serves testimony to this fear.

It was then Dubai government tried something new. They began imposing fines on dud cheques (minor offences) rather than jail sentences. And reports say it reduced the number of absconders while encouraging banks to restructure debts. Prison budget also fell subsequently.

Unlike the UAE, Bahrain laws don't offer the waiver of criminal complaint in dud cheque cases. A claimant must choose to waive their right to the criminal complaint. If they don't decide in favour, the legal course will follow.

I think there needs a debate over 'decriminalising the bouncing of cheques'. Do we need an amendment to the provisions in the penal code, which presumes bad faith in such cases? I feel the authorities should be considerate enough to give businessmen punished for such crimes access to Internet and other facilities so that he can still run the show behind bars.

Let me summarise, cheques are boomerangs that will hurt if not handled with care. Whenever I see my CFO searching for the details of any old cheques, the four questions and fear begin to haunt me.

Is this your cheque?...

(P Unnikrishnan is the Chairman of the Management Board as well as Managing Editor of The Daily Tribune)