

1944

Merrill's Marauders: The Marauders begin their 1,000-mile journey through Japanese occupied Burma.

1945

Egyptian **Premier Ahmad Mahir Pasha** is killed in Parliament after reading a decree.

1946

Colonel Juan Perón, founder of the political movement that became known as Peronism, is elected to his first term as President of Argentina.



1949

The Armistice Agreements are signed, to formally end the hostilities of the 1948 **Arab-Israeli** War.

Peace plan is a lose-lose for the 'weak', and for itself

Many friends of Israel are seriously questioning how anything resembling a "democratic" or even meaningfully "Jewish" state can be sustained if the Trump plan is realised. Palestinians clearly stand to lose everything in the short run.

ating table. They would do not because it was wise, onable, legal, just or logi- but because enough Jew- israelis desperately want to hold of these territories for ous, historical, economic or strategic reasons – and stinians completely lack the age to compel them not to. most of the era following signing of the Oslo Accords which came to a formal and minious end with the pub- lion of the Trump plan in ary – was characterised by ly Israeli settlement-build- and deepening the matrix control on the ground. It was defined by adroit Israeli stance to all international sure to meaningful territo- compromises. en when then US president ck Obama secured a partial ement construction freeze a Israel for 10 months in

2009, settlement construction did not, in fact, slow, let alone stop. There were enough ex- ceptions, grandfathering clauses and other provisions to prevent that. Had it been extended any longer, it would have started to slow the entrenchment of the occupation, but Israel refused to consider that despite extremely generous US inducements.

Yet Israel was prevented from formally annexing settlements or the Jordan Valley because the US was a signatory to the 1993 Declaration of Principles, and remained committed to a two-state solution. With Mr Trump, all of that has changed. Now Israel is dealing with an administration in Washington that does not feel constrained by international law, signed treaty obligations or human rights.

Mr Trump's administration enthusiastically embraces the logic of power that would enable Israel to conduct large-scale annexations precisely because it can.

But even if Israel seizes the settlements and the Jordan Valley, it will not have resolved the Palestinian issue. The logic of "the strong do what they can" therefore sets up an even more chilling future scenario. The Israelis will be more committed than ever to keeping hold of these territories but will be completely unable to politically incorporate the Palestinians.

For "the strong", there is an obvious solution that could well become irresistible. Mass dis-

placement leaving a small rem- nant of Palestinians, at most, in the areas that Israel intends to permanently control would pro- vide the elusive solution. This could be done in the name of self-defence or military neces- sity, particularly if, or rather when, another major Palestinian upris- ing against occupation erupts.

Can anyone still believe that the US, let alone the world, would do anything serious about it?

Yet it is worth considering how Thucydides implicitly interpreted the Athenian cru- elty he depicted towards the Melians, who were completely massacred or enslaved. In his immortal account of the Pelo- ponnesian Wars, this exercise of strength in the form of brutal cruelty certainly seems to have sown the seeds for a hubristic Athens' eventual defeat at the hands of Sparta.

The great Athenian historian illustrated not only the logic of unbridled power but also the grim implications that holds for the "strong" as well as the "weak".

Many friends of Israel are se- riously questioning how any- thing resembling a "democratic" or even meaningfully "Jewish" state can be sustained if the Trump plan is realised.

Palestinians clearly stand to lose everything in the short run. But by embracing brute force and radical overreach simply because they can, Israelis may too in the long run.

schools, workplaces to tackle all forms of bullying



The incidents were already high back in 2008, with 75 per cent of employees affected. However, by 2019, ninety-four per cent of the 2,081 employees surveyed reported having been bullied in the workplace. The most frequent source of bullying in 2008 and 2019 were managers, with bullying most commonly taking the form of aggressive emails, being shouted at, and harmful gossip.

Beyond sporting stars and celeb- rities, though, the regular world of work also has its share of bullying. Workplace bullying is a rising issue and it undermines the significant ef- forts made towards promoting work- place well-being.

We can have an office space to rival Google's, with a gym, games room and beanbags galore, but if we are bullied at work, all those perks are worthless.

Research in the US suggests that workplace bullying is on the rise. A survey by Monster.com run in 2008,

and again 2019 reported an increase of 19 per cent in the rate at which employees were affected as either the target or witness of workplace bullying.

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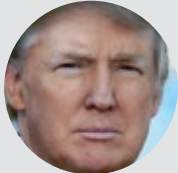
The most frequent source of bully- ing in 2008 and 2019 were managers, with bullying most commonly taking the form of aggressive emails, being shouted at, and harmful gossip. The UK's Advisory, Conciliation and Arbi- tration Service, a body that regularly receives calls about bullying and har- assment in the workplace, reports similar data.

We need more kindness in schools, media, sports fields and workplaces. Beyond zero tolerance for bullying, we also need to promote compassion and concern for the well-being of others. If we can't be kind, we might at least be curious as to why not? And if we can't be positive towards others, we might do well to follow the Ara- bic adage: "Say something good, or remain silent".



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Looks like Crazy Bernie is doing well in the Great State of Ne- vada. Biden & the rest look weak, & no way Mini Mike can restart his cam- paign after the worst de- bate performance in the history of Presidential Debates. Congratulations Bernie, & don't let them take it away from you!

@realDonaldTrump

02



I am tearing up just thinking about what it would mean to Amer- icans everywhere--and to the world--to have @ BernieSanders as Pre- sident, fighting for US. I am so ready for that.

@PramilaJayapal

03



India is spending Rs. 100 crore but President Trump has said that no trade deal. So it's a pay- back for Howdy Modi? Essentially Trump's elec- tion rally in India?

@RuchiraC

04



On the feast of the #ChairOfSaintPeter, we give thanks to God for the mission entrusted to the apostle Peter and his successors: to gather His people from among the nations and guide them in charity and truth along the path of salvation.

@Pontifex

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

At 52, going stronger and stronger



VENUS S

Last week, the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) cele- brated its 52th anniversary with a renewed com- mitment to defend Bahrain from outside threats. Over the last five decades, the BDF has served as a bulwark force, a well-organised establishment and armed with modern technology and staffed with qualified personnel in all its sections –land, air and naval forces.

The Gulf region is a politically and military sensitive area, and where the influence of outside forces is remark- ably manifested in geopolitical competition for hegemonic or economic interests. These motivations and compe- titions create atmospheres of instability in the regional countries and perhaps that is the reason why the region continues to face instability and pop-up unexpected con- frontations at different times.

Amid such a disturbing environment, building a strong national defence force has become a matter of life and death -to maintain territorial integrity and sovereignty of nations.

Bahrain has succeeded in building a strong defence force, the BDF, a force to be reckoned with, stood over the years against forces that intend to invade or attack Bahrain directly or indirectly through proxy forces. BDF has confronted them with firm commitment of bravery and patriotism.

One way of supplying the BDF with a continuous flow of fresh recruits every year is for the government to approve a national service programme, where youths of a certain age allowed to serving in the military for a period of a year or so and then backing to civilian life. During emergency, they can be called to serve in the military.

These days, BDF has not only become a strong national force we are proud of but also an international force, deployed in conflict areas ranging from Syria to Yemen and contributed its part in achieving peace and stability in the respective countries.

During the peak of the conflict in Syria, Bahrain has participated in the US-led coalition forces against the so-called Islamic State terrorist (IS or Daesh) and contributed in de- stroying the cult death group. BDF is actively participating in the Saudi-led coalition forces in Yemen, whose mission is to bring the legitimate government back to power, and abort Iranian influence and dream of hegemony.

BDF is also aggressively engaging in the Com- bined Maritime Forces (CMF), a multinational naval force, based in Bahrain. CMF aims to promote stability, security and prosperity in the Arabian Gulf, the Northern Indian Ocean and the Red Sea, which are the main shipping lanes where most of the world oil is exported. Apart from its mission, the CMF has success- fully curbed trafficking and smuggling of illegal weapons and drugs.

Thus, the BDF has transformed from a de- fender of a nation to a peace-force deployed in other nations and regions and is contributing in regional stability and maintain international order. This transformation is something few countries in the region have ever achieved.

The achievement of the BDF would have been incomplete without the royal assistance. His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's undivided attention to the business of upgrading the weapons, familiarizing and training of staff with the updated military hardware has made the BDF one of the strong forces in the region.

Thus, when the BDF is celebrating its 52th anniversary its entire national, regional and international achieve- ments need to be highlighted. Recently, Bahrain has agreed to buy advanced military wares from the United States, which will contribute to its strength, and advance- ment that can match to one of the strongest national forces of the region.

Finally yet importantly, the BDF needs a reserve force, a sort of a support group composed of retired military personnel and civilians who volunteer to work with the BDF in case of unexpected developments and threats the region may face. Last month's Parliament recommenda- tion on this issue deserved attention.

From the author's experience, one way of supplying the BDF with a continuous flow of fresh recruits every year is for the government to approve a national service programme, where youths of a certain age allowed to serving in the military for a period of a year or so and then backing to civilian life. During emergency, they can be called to serve in the military. The United Arab Emirates has such a programme worth appreciating. Hope, we will implement it one of the days.