

1939

Siam is renamed Thailand by **Plaek Phibunsongkhram**, the country's third prime minister.

1963

The United Kingdom grants **Zanzibar** internal self-government.

2002

The **Igandu train disaster** in Tanzania kills 281, the worst train accident in African history.



2010

Julia Gillard assumes office as the first female Prime Minister of Australia.



Tayyip Erdogan

ers and "conduct special work." Turkey now understands that the collective punishment of the Kurds on the southeastern periphery affects freedoms and democratic culture across the

country. What was limited to the Kurds has become the norm for Erdogan's opponents elsewhere too. The only hope for a liberal, democratic future lies in our coming together to defeat the

authoritarian regime.

(Selahattin Demirtas is the Peoples' Democratic Party's presidential candidate in Turkey. This essay was translated from the Turkish by Amberin Zaman.)

nt march

weaken the judiciary or alter significant aspects of the peace deal, which is what most center-left voters fear Uribe wants him to do.

However, his successful adaptation of trickle-down economics to Colombian – and, indeed, Latin American – politics should remain a cause for concern. Colombia endures more inequality than most other countries in the world, and its economy is beholden to the interests of local oligopolies that control the financial sector and other key industries. These industries, like many in the United States, successfully produce studies and reports casting economic facts in a light that's convenient to their own interests, but not often to the public at large. Unlike in the United States, however, misinformation about basic economic facts is rarely met by vigorous opposition from citizen organizations at the intersection of

While it may be hard for the new president to completely escape the influence of former president Álvaro Uribe, whose support was instrumental in his election since he was mostly unknown to the public a year ago, he may move to the centre nonetheless.

academia and public policy.

The Observatorio Fiscal, an organisation I lead at Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, is trying to fill this gap by modelling itself after American organisations like the Tax Policy Center and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. But our task is enormous and we cannot do it alone.

More like-minded organisations are needed to offer the public perspectives on economic and policy issues that benefit the average citizen, not just those who can pay their way into positions of influence and power. Crucially, the charitable giving culture that supports these initiatives and that Americans seem to take for granted is nearly absent from Colombia, perhaps because our decades long war has torn apart the social fabric. Colombians who believe in the social democratic principles of the country's Constitution need to come together to defend them, with their voices as well as with their wallets. Americans can help too. At a time when populism and misinformation are a global threat to democracy and equal opportunity, we are all in this together.

(Luis Carlos Reyes is an assistant professor of economics and director of the Observatorio Fiscal at Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá.)



TOP
4
TWEETS

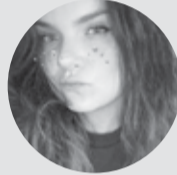
01



India's demographic dividend is our asset, which can contribute to further commercial growth. Spoke about the need for our business to use more technology, expanding GeM and ways to boost exports in multiple sectors.

@narendramodi

02



I feel like Belgium focus on plays and teamwork rather than sharp elbows and theatrics. Spain v Portugal was mostly about who could dive prettier. Belgium's entire team play, while most of the big teams revolve around one or two players.

@pirahx

03



Drudge Report "OBAMA KEPT THEM IN CAGES, WRAPPED THEM IN FOIL" We do a much better job while at the same time maintaining a MUCH stronger Border! Mainstream Fake Media hates this story.

@realDonaldTrump

04



It's shameful that Dems and the media exploited this photo of a little girl to push their agenda. She was not separated from her mom. The separation here is from the facts. Dems should join POTUS and fix our broken immigration system. #ChangetheLaws

@PressSec

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

Building future from our past



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

We saw a curious phenomenon in the past couple of weeks – I believe that over 27,000 visitors enjoyed the skilled and colourful Disney on Ice show that was flown in specially for the Eid break. It was an inspired move of the Tourism Authorities to project Bahrain as a holiday destination for families with special international attractions. In the absence of permanent theme parks, these 'pop-up' shows are a great way to gather holiday-makers.

In the same Eid holiday period, how many visitors made an effort to explore the Bahrain Fort, the Jasra House, birthplace of our beloved late Amir Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, or the Saar Temple site? Yes, the hot summer sun makes it difficult to drum up the enthusiasm for such outdoor and families would rather spend the time in indoor shows and malls. But that does not make

the importance of these sites to our Kingdom's history any less. They are markers in our history, which tell us about the conflicts we faced, the issues that shaped us and the people and circumstances who built our nation. These places give us our identity.

Bahrain actually has a very effective plan for protecting our heritage and over the past decade, we have won praise for the way our historic monuments have been restored and the roads leading to them marked clearly. However, while heritage is preserved at the highest level, not much is being done to promote the interaction of our history on a daily basis among people – tourists and residents alike. Few of us have seen the painstakingly restored Pearling Trail in Muharraq, the Poetry House, home of our late Poet Laureate Ibrahim Al Arrayedh and many such heritage sites.

It is important to create a sense of ownership among people for these immeasurably valuable sites where Bahrain's character was shaped. There are many enemies of these ancient sites – war, unrest, climate change, even over-tourism, strangely enough. But a lack of interest in them by generations to come will surely sound the death-knell of these sites.

Bahrain is well-balanced at the edge of heritage preservation and tourism promotion. We get visitors and cruise ships but nothing that will overwhelm us in numbers. The time is right to take a look at our strategy to make our heritage sites living memorials of our history.

As a first step, we should make information about tour-

As a first step, we should make information about tourism accessible online and popularise our tourist spots and activities. To appeal to all age groups, we should continue to have activities such as the Disney shows, the Bahrain Summer Festival and Spring of Culture.

ism accessible online and popularise our tourist spots and activities. To appeal to all age groups, we should continue to have activities such as the Disney shows, the Bahrain Summer Festival and Spring of Culture. However, let us also plan different layers of exploration such as classroom trips and get our youth also involved in preserving our heritage sites. Tourism and culture authorities must invest in local sound and light shows that can highlight Bahrain's history. They may cost as much as the Disney shows, for sure, but they will speak the timeless story of our past and embed it in our future.

We need to work on our strengths such as a peaceful environment and a rich history and build a new narrative of Bahrain that will stand the test of time.

(Capt Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune.)