

1984

American singer **Prince** releases his most successful studio album, *Purple Rain*.

1991

**Croatia and Slovenia** declare their independence by referendum from Yugoslavia.

1993

**Kim Campbell** is sworn in as the first female Prime Minister of Canada.



1996

The **Khoobar Towers** bombing in Saudi Arabia kills 19 U.S. servicemen.



press conference.

ty concerns. Likewise, prior to 2011, attacks by Iranian proxies compelled coalition forces to exit as fast as they could. Trump is in even more of a hurry to quit Syria. Meanwhile, European states have no sensible remedy for the disintegration of the nuclear deal, so they run around like headless chickens trying to sweet-talk Iran into pretending the situation is business as usual.

Each new Iranian provocation further exposes its enemy's weakness and strategic floundering. Despite his crude rhetoric, Trump lacks any vision for containment or regime change. Attacks against Gulf shipping and threats against the Strait of Hormuz are ratcheting up oil prices and could undermine the global economy to the degree where Trump loses all stomach for this fight. A \$53 billion ExxonMobil deal with Baghdad has been frozen over security concerns, insurance rates on tankers have risen tenfold, and airlines have been diverted from Gulf flight paths.

However, Iran's mistake is treating Trump as a rational, predictable politician. He isn't. Trump fears appearing weak and, if he perceives that Tehran has willfully attacked his ego, he will lash out in a manner that may not be proportionate or containable. If these belligerent parties inadvertently embark on a cycle of escalation, the result will be ruinous for both sides. I, like most people, detest war in all its forms; and indeed the worst possible scenario would be a protracted conflict that leaves

**The ayatollahs senselessly sacrificed hundreds of thousands of their countrymen during the 1980s conflict with Iraq. They would readily do so again, but would prefer to relocate the fight to Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen and Saudi Arabia.**

some form of the regime in place — or perhaps something worse.

When the bluff is called on world powers and red lines prove to be blurred lines, it becomes open season for rogue states to aggressively assert themselves and expand their boundaries. One of the great untold stories of the past decade is the silent demise of conflict resolution and judicial institutions for enforcing the international order. In the resulting vacuum, bully states pursue whatever they can get away with: Like 18th century expansionist imperialism, but with bigger weapons.

Why, in Iran's case, does the world regard attacks against commercial vessels, diplomatic missions, civilian airports and oil pipelines as an almost normal, overlookable way of pursuing its agenda? Other rogue states will be ecstatically taking notes on how to challenge, divide and intimidate the international community.

The ayatollahs senselessly sacrificed hundreds of thousands of their countrymen during the 1980s conflict with Iraq. They would readily do so again, but would prefer to relocate the fight to Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen and Saudi Arabia, using cheap foreign proxies and disposable human shields.

Furthermore, Iran's pledged return to enriching uranium is not a symbolic gesture. A nuclearised Iran could get away with infinitely greater provocations, knowing that its enemies would not dare retaliate. To avoid being held hostage to a future Iranian nuclear threat, tactical and ideological differences must be put aside. This is not just America's problem. Iranian proxies already have a foothold toward Europe in the Eastern Mediterranean, while Russian, Chinese and Iranian interests are increasingly conflicted in Central Asia.

We all have a stake in a rules-based world where an embattled tin-pot regime cannot capriciously menace its neighbours. Tehran's attempts to deflect conflict to the Arab world and Gulf waters must be thwarted. Meanwhile, the ayatollahs must not be allowed to sleep peacefully in their beds as long as their paramilitary, terrorist and nuclear ambitions seek to subvert the world order.

*(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.)*



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Productive meeting with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud today to discuss heightened tensions in the region and the need to promote maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz. Freedom of navigation is paramount.

@SecPompeo

02



Talent shows & quiz shows, no matter how popular, can not be a substitute for genuine engagement. The youth in Kashmir will not have their anger & alienation assuaged by platitudes. I hope the Modi government has something more substantial planned to engage gen-next in the state.

@OmarAbdullah

03



I have always believed access to housing should be a fundamental right, a human right, a civil right. That's why I introduced a bill in the Senate to ensure seniors, veterans, nurses, teachers, and others can keep a roof over their head, despite rising rents.

@KamalaHarris

04



Wealthy TV "experts" are shaming millennials for buying coffee and avocado toast. But young people are broke because they're drowning in debt and low wages. The ruling class wants to divide the young and old to distract us from an economy that's rigged for the richest 1%.

@SenSanders

CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

## Plastic ban, a victory for marine life

Yoga is a universal science and technique. It is an agreement between the individual and the universe. It is universal in its approach and applies to all human beings irrespective of sex, age, caste, creed or religion.

the development of the whole of mankind on the physical, mental, and spiritual levels.

Yoga is a science of the self in relation to outer world. It helps to bring subtle attitudinal change in life. Yoga aims to transform the body and mind by bringing it into sound state. Yoga is a scientific and a powerful technique to master instinctive behaviour of human beings. It aims at the melodious progress of the mind, body and the soul. Yoga transforms the brain and brain has deposits of all our past impressions, conflicts, dualities, problems and worries, by practising yoga, our thoughts transform into peace, harmony and love.

*(Dr Meraj Ahmad Meraj is an Assistant Professor with the Department of Arabic, Aliah University, Kolkata. He can be reached on merajjnu@gmail.com.)*

I read what you wrote in your front page of the Weekend-er this morning 20/06/19 about the plastic bags ban and was wondering if you are willing to be a part of the solution or a part of the problem and that is because I received your newspaper at my home inside a plastic bag!!!

We moved around two weeks ago to a new address and give the notice to your office so they started sending the newspaper to our new address. I was very much annoyed to see that the newspaper comes inside a plastic bag!

I used to receive the newspaper at the old address without a plastic bag. I really

don't understand what have changed between this address and the former one in order to pack the newspaper in a plastic bag. I don't see any reason to do that.

I myself together with my wife are consumers which don't use plastic bags as much as we can and we chose to deter this erroneous habit. I am also an open water swimmer and I have seen from very close sight how we are destroying our oceans and beaches without thinking about the next generation.

When we shop in the supermarket we take always with us the reusable bags, when we buy something and the seller automatically put it in a plas-

tic bag we take the item out and explain that we don't use plastic bags and they should be aware of the problem and ask the buyers if they need a plastic bag or not and not acting automatically without thinking of the damage this bags are doing to our already polluted world.

After saying all this we want to ask you not to send us the newspaper inside a plastic bag. Please take a note of our request and take it seriously because plastic pollution is a serious problem and we hope your newspaper will be part of the solution.

We have only one world!

**Ed Ryan**

## Concern will be addressed

Thank you very much for bringing the matter into our notice. Weekender has always been fully ingrained to speaking and supporting environmental causes and our leading weekly publication has

always worked towards keeping this issue in the limelight. We will definitely be having a word with the circulation team to look into the matter as your commitment to save the planet and minimise plastic usage

is synonymous to our vision which we will commit to even harder. Thank you once more for bringing our attention to the same; your concern is justified and shall be addressed.

**Editor, Weekender**

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