

1914

HMHS **Britannic**, sister to the RMS Titanic, is launched at Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast.

1919

President **Woodrow Wilson** signs an act of Congress establishing the Grand Canyon National Park.



1929

President **Calvin Coolidge** signs an executive order establishing the 96,000 acre Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

1935

Adolf Hitler orders the Luftwaffe to be re-formed, violating the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles.



Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., during a campaign event in Austin, Texas.

ential to be leaders. In recent years, more students that fill the diversity quota are admitted. But even if you do not have a family sets you on the Ivy track any on, you do not stand a chance. If your family struggled to pay rent, it is likely they are thinking of billing you in extra-curricular activities or pricey university preparation classes. It is precisely these students, who do not stand much of a chance, we need to reach most. They are the ones left behind. Earlier this week, I had a meeting with a dean from a north-eastern American

can public university (a state school that offers lower tuition to local students). Her dilemma was how to keep low-income students enrolled for the full four years and help them pay off small debts. "Some of them have to drop out because they owe \$200 in parking tickets or library fees," she said. Some of them have to support families or work in order to pay for food or housing.

Everyone knows the value of education, whether it is educating girls in Afghanistan or countering violent extremism. But I often wonder guiltily – because even though he is on a full scholarship, my son goes to

a private school and I teach at Yale University, an Ivy League school – how different American society would be if young low-income students were set on leadership paths early on. What if we could reach the kind of students that Elizabeth Warren grew up with in Oklahoma? What if they had the opportunities to take unpaid internships, overseas fellowships or get help securing their first job. It is not a secret that the Ivy League brand is pretty much an assurance that you graduate with a job offer in hand, and probably a high-paying one. Recruiters don't visit the state universities; they want the best and the brightest.

This takes me back to Ms Warren and Mr Sanders. Ms Warren believes that "every kid in America should have the same access to a high-quality public education – no matter where they live, the colour of their skin or how much money their parents make."

Mr Sanders believes we should "re-invest" in education, and use the first African-American Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall as an icon – his plan largely focuses on combating racism, free universal school meals and rebuilding schools.

So while I don't think of either one of them as true, blue socialists, I do think what they are proposing in terms of education is radical and very much needed. They want to tear down the system and rebuild it. This may spell anarchy but without it, the elite who run America will continue to do so.

Opinion on Malaysian politics

Mr Anwar advanced swiftly through the ranks, becoming prime minister the following year, finance minister in 1991 and deputy prime minister in 1993. Five years later, though, he was sacked from all his posts and later convicted of sodomy and corruption. Mr Anwar's supporters claimed the charges were inflated, and the sodomy conviction was later reversed.

ment for reform and came to defeating the long-ruling BN coalition in 2013. Dr Mahathir officially retired in 2018, but handpicked the next prime ministers – Abdullah Badawi and Najib Razak – before becoming dissatisfied with them and using his influence to force them out of office. In 2018, Najib's premiership ended in May 2018, when the PH-led coalition – with, in a dramatic turn of events, Dr Mahathir at the helm – turfed BN out of office for the first time ever in a general election. This was not the least due to the fact that Anwar (who was back in prison for a second time) agreed to step aside, re-join Dr Mahathir's ranks and assist his efforts against Mr Najib. This was when Dr Mahathir's taker government began,

as per his agreement with Mr Anwar. Dr Mahathir was meant to cede power after six months, pending Mr Anwar's receipt of a royal pardon and release from prison. Mr Anwar was cleared and freed shortly after the election, but nearly two years on, the handover of government never occurred.

Mr Anwar, meanwhile, has kept smiling while telling everyone not to fuss about the succession plan. But many suspect that the rapprochement between him and the prime minister is not real, and that their deal will go unfulfilled. Instead, Dr Mahathir might favour Azmin Ali, Mr Anwar's deputy in PKR.

And so to this weekend, when leaders of several factions went to the royal palace to tell the king that together they represent a majority in parliament and should be allowed to form a new government with Dr Mahathir at the helm.

The group represents almost entirely ethnically Malay and some Islamist-leaning political bodies, and would have a good chance of securing the more than 50 per cent Malay-Muslim vote. For BN politicians currently facing graft charges, there would be hope that the cases would be quietly dropped.

But all of this, according to Mr Anwar, has been done falsely in the current prime minister's name. Dr Mahathir

would not work with what he regards as the corrupt BN, Mr Anwar claims. The fact that he resigned – he is acting prime minister at the moment – and left his own party gives credence to the idea that overeager subordinates have gotten ahead of themselves.

On the other hand, Dr Mahathir has switched sides before in order to maintain his influence and top position.

With the departure of the mutineers, PH has lost its majority. Mr Anwar and Lim Guan Eng, the leader of the mainly Chinese DAP – which is also part of the crumbling PH-led alliance – have pleaded with Dr Mahathir to save the coalition. The opposition's plan, they claim, is to woo him onto their side and to sideline non-Malays and non-Muslims from government.

Just what will happen in the coming days, when a new government must be formed, is unclear. But so far there is only one beneficiary: Dr Mahathir, who will have his pick of parties and politicians, with a new, devoted administration that will not require any promises about handovers.

The details of the plotting and "betrayals", as Mr Anwar calls them, will also emerge. But for now, the doctor has consolidated his grip as Malaysia's leading political force.



TOP
4
TWEETS

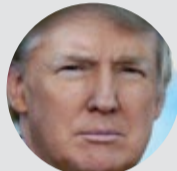
01



What if we as a society decided it wasn't okay for three billionaires to have more wealth than half the country?

@Ilhan

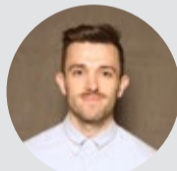
02



Cryin' Chuck Schumer is complaining, for publicity purposes only, that I should be asking for more money than \$2.5 Billion to prepare for Coronavirus. If I asked for more he would say it is too much. He didn't like my early travel closings. I was right. He is incompetent!

@realDonaldTrump

03



Ronny Jackson, ex-White House physician, on Trump's diet: "The exercise stuff never took off as much as I wanted it to. But we were working on his diet. We were making the ice cream less accessible, we were putting cauliflower into the mashed potatoes."

@kylegriffin1

04



Yet another excellent meeting and talks with my friend @realDonaldTrump. Relations between India and USA are not merely ties between two governments. Ours is a friendship that is people-driven and people centric. Our nations are cooperating extensively, which is a great sign.

@narendramodi

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

Wide Angle

Bahrain's battles against epidemics



JOEL INDRUPATI

The Arabian Gulf region may have experienced many waves of epidemics over the last few centuries, but not enough documentation is easily available.

However, "the British authorities' records of epidemics between 1893 and 1924 serve as our best historical source of information" says Dr Abdul Aziz Yousif Hamza who was the Undersecretary of Bahrain's Ministry of Health and whose contribution towards improving emergency services of hospitals here is immense.

In his book, "Tears on an Island: A History of Disasters in the Kingdom of Bahrain" (2009), with his painstaking research, he offers us excellent documentation on the various battles Bahrain had fought against disasters – both, natural as well as man-made.

Cholera was the first recorded epidemic. And, it was contained in the same year it had broken out, in 1893; but sadly, not before it took the lives of 7,000 people. With all steamers enforcing a strict quarantine against Bahrain at that time, there was a 33 per cent decline in the annual pearl fishing income, according to the author.

Oral history tells us that even a few decades earlier to this, two outbreaks of Cholera, in 1820 and 1871, with origins in India, had already been very tragic for Bahrain. They are remembered as 'Dharb Al-Awal' and 'Dharb Al-Thani' - 'The First Hit' and 'The Second hit'.

No proper numbers are available on the deaths, but outbreaks will remain in Bahrain's collective memory.

It is good to see that the government has quickly sealed off entry-points, such as airports and seaports, cancelled classes, in public schools, set up hotlines like 444 so that medical authorities can be easily reached, and even disseminated the needed information through text messages.

In his book, Dr Abdul Aziz Hamza writes that "In the period 1893-1924, nine epidemics of plague, three epidemics of cholera, and one wave of influenza occurred in Bahrain, six of which were severe. A total of 24,205 people are estimated to have died". The devastation will seem larger only when we realise that the population of Bahrain had only been around 100,000 then; which meant that nearly 25 per cent had lost their lives.

But thanks to doctors, nurses, and paramedics of the American Mission Hospital (established in 1900, which had had 110 beds by the 1910s), of the small Victoria Memorial Hospital (which closed in 1948), and also of the Quarantine established in Halat Abu Maher, in Muharraq, the country had come out undaunted from these huge medical crises.

To write this piece, as I dug into material related to contagious diseases in Bahrain, I found it fascinating that despite its small size, Bahrain had always fought these outbreaks with formidable courage and resilience.

Plague, cholera, typhoid, smallpox, poliomyelitis, influenza, hepatitis a, rubella, mumps, measles, and meningitis have all affected Bahrain at different points in recorded history. They took scores of lives. But Bahrain's medical facilities quickly rose up to meet these challenges and successfully thwarted the outbreaks. More recently, even fears of SARS and Swine Flu have been effectively tackled and contained.

Our faith in the medical facilities of this nation, therefore, can be reinforced and bolstered when we look at history; and especially at the quick action we are seeing all around us, on the arrival of coronavirus to Bahrain's shores.

It is good to see that the government has quickly sealed off entry-points, such as airports and seaports, cancelled classes, in public and private schools, set up hotlines like 444 so that medical authorities can be easily reached, and even disseminated the needed information through text messages.

But, we should avoid panic and paranoia by not getting swayed easily by misinformation that's floating around as Whatsapp forwards.

We must remember that the real experts are the doctors and medical authorities. We must pay attention to their announcements, and heed to them. Our friends, however good their intentions could be, are not really experts. And we must be careful in evaluating their forwards.

With today's advanced medical techniques and global cooperation, Bahrain, like always, will come out strong. Yet again.

(The writer's twitter handle: @joelindrupati)