

Image: <http://img.mota.ru/upload/wallpapers/source/2013/11/19/16/04/38122/rK4q676nAj.jpg>

In the news!

- Mother Teresa, who worked with poor people in Bangladesh, was declared a saint in the Vatican
- UK and USA dwarf China as top foreign investors in Australian agricultural land
- China warns new Hong Kong politicians not to back independence
- Palm oil firm accused of hiring men to kidnap smog inspectors in Indonesia
- Australia seeks \$120 million for Great Barrier Reef damage from Chinese coal ship
- Kim Jong - North Korea must keep up drive for nuclear weapons
- North Korea suspected of new nuclear test after 'earthquake' detected
- Thailand's crown prince returns from abroad to become King Rama X
- Huge weekly demonstrations against President Park Geun-hye in Seoul and other major cities, in which hundreds of thousands have called for her to resign
- India's long queues for cash after the government scrapped high value banknotes. The process is to phase out 500 rupee notes. It is meant to bring billions in so-called 'black', or undeclared, money back into the formal system
- Donald Trump phoned the President of Taiwan, Tsai Ing-wen, -breaking with US policy set in 1979

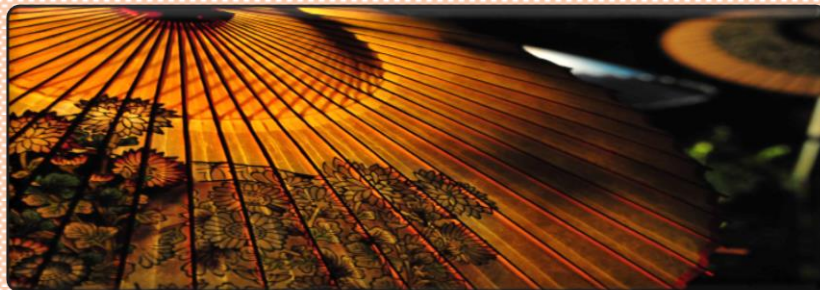


Image: <https://rubell.files.wordpress.com/2009/05/japanese-umbrella-2.jpg>



Nathan Law (centre) celebrates after winning a seat on the legislative council. Photograph: Tyrone Siu/Reuters

Subjects: History, Civics and Citizenship

Hong Kong's political class shaken up by 'new kids on the block'

In September, in the first election in Hong Kong since the umbrella movement in 2014, more than 2 million citizens – nearly 60% of all registered voters – went to the polls.

Young anti-China activists victorious in Hong Kong vote

Young activists support Hong Kong's independence from China. It comes as fears grow that Beijing is tightening its grip on the semi-autonomous city in a range of areas, from politics to education and media



Hong Kong Legco elections: Radical democrats gain foothold, likely to rile China

Inquiry questions

- What was the umbrella movement?
- What is the conflict between Beijing loyalists and pro-democracy veterans?
- What do the 'new kids on the block' want?
- What do you think will be the impact of young people wanting more independence from China? How do you think Beijing could retaliate?

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/05/hong-kong-elections-political-class-shaken-new-kids-block-umbrella-movement>

<http://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/record-voter-turnout-in-key-hong-kong-election>

Subjects: History, Geography, Citizenship



An empty street in Hangzhou on 2 September 2016. Factories have been closed to ensure blue skies during the G20. Photograph: Nicolas Asfour/AFP/Getty Images

Ghost town: how China emptied Hangzhou to guarantee 'perfect' G20

A third of city's 6 million people were 'convinced' to leave as week-long public holiday was declared. Factories were shut and dissidents put under house arrest.



Inquiry questions

- What countries were involved in the G20 meeting?
- What were the outcomes on the meeting?
- Do you think there could be changes to the meeting's outcome, since Donald Trump is now President of USA?
- The incident showed the world that Beijing also saw a chance to bolster its reputation as a great power. What were the outcomes of this mass exodus?

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/05/ghost-town-how-china-emptied-hangzhou-to-guarantee-perfect-g20>
Details- priorities, speeches of G20 <http://www.g20.org/English/>



Subjects: Geography, Science, Technology

India unveils the world's largest solar power plant

The facility in Kamuthi, Tamil Nadu, has a capacity of 648 MW and covers an area of 10 km². It aims to reduce the country's problem of air quality. Recently, air pollution level in New Delhi reached its worst levels in 17 years. The country is on schedule to be the world's third biggest solar market in 2017.

Inquiry questions

- What have been the causes and impacts of air pollution in Indian cities?
- What are the advantages of solar energy?

Source:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/11/india-unveils-world-largest-solar-power-plant-161129101022044.html>

Subjects: History, Civics and Citizenship, Religious Studies, Society and Culture



Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, is accused of insulting Islam during election campaigning. Jakarta's governor faces trial for insulting Islam.

Indonesia is the world's largest Muslim-majority nation. Mr Purnama is a Christian, ethnic Chinese. This is referred to as a double minority in Indonesia, where ethnic Chinese are about 1% of the population.

Two protests against him, the last bringing together 200,000 conservative Muslims, were held in the city. December's counter-rally was pitched as a "parade of Indonesian culture"

Inquiry questions

- What are the protests about?
- What is the result of the protests?
- Purnama was accused of insulting Islam during an election campaign. What did he say?
- What is meant by a 'parade of Indonesia culture'?

Source:

<http://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/2046584/jakarta-governor-face-trial-insulting-islam-indonesian-stability>



Subjects: Economics, History, Geography.

Will the new sanctions on North Korea work?

*The UN Security Council has slapped new sanctions on North Korea over its nuclear programme, **but will they have any impact?** China is North Korea's biggest trading partner. Except that of course that there's one major difference: North Korea would completely collapse without China's economic help. That's why the US has been persuading Beijing to help the international community ensure that the new round of sanctions would hit North Korea where it hurts - cutting off access to Pyongyang's biggest customer is one way to send a powerful message.*

The latest sanctions - imposed because of North Korea's nuclear programme - aims to cut its coal exports to China by 60%.

Inquiry questions:

- What are sanctions?
- What is the aim of the new sanctions on North Korea?
- What will be the impacts of the sanctions for China?

Source:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/correspondents/karishmavaswani>

Impacts of UN sanctions on North Korea

<http://www.str.ulg.ac.be/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/7.-The-Impact-of-UN-Sanctions-on-the-DPRK.pdf>



Subjects: History, Geography, Society and Culture, Civics and Citizenship

Human Rights group have called in the international community to take action to prevent a genocide in the country. The welfare of the Muslim Rohingya in Myanmar is at stake.

Inquiry questions:

- Who are the Rohingya?
- Watch the video at this website below. Why are they crimes against humanity?
- Why are they refugees seeking asylum in other countries?

Video:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/12/rights-group-act-avoid-rohingya-genocide-161201082950460.html>





Bhalswa landfill site, rubbish is not processed or segregated but dumped on top of older waste

Subjects: Geography, Science, Economics

Delhi's dilemma: What to do with its tonnes of waste?

Thousands of tonnes of rubbish are dumped on open landfills where children as young as five work to scavenge through it.

Inquiry questions:

- What is child labour?
- Why do children have to work in rubbish tips?
- What are the advantages of recycling rubbish?
- How would this type of work effect the health of children?
- What could be done to reduce child labour in rubbish tips?

Source:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/inpictures/2016/11/delhi-dilemma-tonnes-waste-161124095624368.html>

Subjects: Geography, Society and Culture, Citizenship, Economics



<http://interactive.aljazeera.com/aje/2016/malaysia-babies-for-sale-101-east/img/watch.jpg>

According to a press release by Al Jazeera, the reporter who went undercover found that:

- 1) Babies are being traded like commodities in Malaysia;
 - 2) Price is determined by race, skin colour, gender, and weight;
 - 3) Corrupt doctors and government officials are falsifying birth documents; and,
 - 4) Critics blame Malaysia's complex adoption laws for creating the underground market, targeting couples who can't have their own child.
- <https://phi325.wordpress.com/2016/11/28/bp-12-new-industry-babies-trade-in-malaysia/>

Babies for sale! A complex web of traffickers and doctors is turning the youngest, most vulnerable human lives into commodities, putting them up for sale to the highest bidder. 101 East investigates Malaysia's underground baby trade.

Inquiry questions:

- Watch the film listed below and start your journey into Malaysia's illegal baby trade.
- What are the main points covering these people involved in the trade: parents who want to adopt a baby, babies, women who are forced or willing to sell their babies, trafficker, doctors and sex workers?
- Why is it a thriving business?
- How can this illegal practice be eradicated?

Source:

<http://interactive.aljazeera.com/aje/2016/malaysia-babies-for-sale-101-east/index.html>