

January 17, 2007

In this issue: State of Emergency Declared in Bangladesh; The United Nation's New Secretary- General; Universal Health Care in California?

Topic 1: State of Emergency Declared in Bangladesh

Advanced Article:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/12/world/asia/12bangladesh.html?n=Top%2fNews%2fWorld%2fCountries%20and%20Territories%2fBangladesh>

Intermediate Article:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=21203&Cr=bangladesh&Cr1=>
and

http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/asiapcf/01/11/bangladesh.emergency.ap/index.html?eref=rss_world

Beginning Article: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6254403.stm

Related link: Bangladesh Election Commission: <http://www.ecs.gov.bd/index.php3>

Discussion Questions:

1. Where is Bangladesh? What countries does Bangladesh border?
2. What is a "state of emergency"? Why might a president or government decide to declare a state of emergency?
3. What characteristic of Bangladeshi politics allows the president to resign and remain president at the same time?
4. Why was a state of emergency declared in Bangladesh? Explain the role of the elections in this decision.

Curriculum:

1. Bangladesh Study Guide/Lesson Plan:

http://www.maryknollmall.org/studyguides/10431_34.pdf

2. The World According to Sesame Street (PBS page on the film, which has a section on Bangladesh and shows similar violence before the last election cycle)

<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/worldaccordingtosesamestreet/film.html>

and a lesson plan:

<http://www.wviz.org/edsvcs/newsdepth/archives/lessons/SesameStreetFeature.pdf>

California Standards:

World History: Contemporary Nation Building

Government: Elections, Comparative Government

Language Arts: Reading and Writing, Analyzing the Media

Topic 2: The United Nation's New Secretary General

Advanced Article: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/6adcc176-9617-11db-9976-0000779e2340.html>

Intermediate Article: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=21137&Cr=ban&Cr1=ki-moon>

Beginning Article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/6222437.stm>

Multimedia: Interview with Ban Ki-Moon.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/programmes/newshour/news/story/2006/12/061215_moon.shtml

Related Article: "What makes a good UN secretary general?"

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/5388840.stm

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is the United Nations' new secretary general? Where is he from?
2. Why might a UN secretary general from South Korea be politically significant right now?
3. What did you learn about Ban Ki-Moon's reputation as a diplomat from this article?
4. How do you predict Ban Ki-Moon's term as secretary general might be different from that of Kofi Annan?
5. What do *you* think makes a good UN secretary general?

Curriculum:

1. New York Times: "Helping Hands: Examining the United Nations' Security Council's Involvement in Affairs Around the World"
http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20030910wednesday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons
2. PBS: "Avoiding Armageddon: The International Role of the United Nations"
http://www.pbs.org/avoidingarmageddon/getInvolved/involved_02_01_lesson2.html
3. PBS: "Divided Peninsula: Six Decades of Military and Political Tension in Korea"
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/classroom/2lp4.html>

California Standards:

World History: Developments in Post-WWII world (creation and work of UN), Cont. Nation Building

Language Arts: Analyzing the Media, Reading and Writing

Government: Political Systems, New Democracies, Elections

Topic 3: Universal Health Care in California?

Advanced Article: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/01/09/MNGCGNF3ME1.DTL&hw=universal+health+care+california&sn=006&sc=553>

Intermediate Article:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/10/us/10health.html?ex=1169182800&en=a53b3c9ce6b41c64&ei=5070>

Beginning Article: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-reject9jan09,1,6811115.story>

Discussion Questions:

1. What is universal health care?
2. Do any other states currently have universal health care?
3. Make a list of the pros and cons of Governor Schwarzenegger's universal health care plan.
4. Does the governor's health care plan fit exactly with the term "universal"? Why or why not?
5. What political groups are for and against the governor's plan? Why?

Curriculum:

1. PBS – NOW: "Rising Costs of Health Care"
<http://www.pbs.org/now/classroom/healthcare.html>
2. New York Times - "Health Conscious? Surveying Classmates on their Attitudes Towards Illness"
http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20060117tuesday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons

3. New York Times - "Heart to Heart: Understanding how Class and Lifestyle Affect Health"

http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20050517tuesday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons

California Standards:

U.S. History: Contemporary Issues, Domestic Issues

Language Arts: Reading and Writing, Analyzing the Media

Economics: Role of the Federal Government

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