

The Branch



The Hong Kong protest

A Hong Kong (HK) man went to Taiwan with his girlfriend and murdered her. He came back to Hong Kong where the government wanted him to return to Taiwan to be arrested. But Hong Kong's laws does not allow the government to send individuals overseas to face criminal charges. So, the idea was to change the law and introduce extradition. However, the HK people have begun protesting against changing of the law to allow for this. Hong Kong citizens believe if the law is changed to allow extradition to Taiwan then this opens up the possibility of extradition to other places like China. HK people could be sent to China to face criminal charges. They believe that this poses a significant threat, because they don't believe any defendant will have a fair trial in China. So, masses of people protested against the extradition law. Nearly two million people have taken part in the protest, making this one of the largest protests in Hong Kong history. The protest also calls for the HK chief executive, Carrie Lam, to resign. Constituents don't trust her because they strongly believe that Hong Kong should have independent laws from China. They say that Carrie Lam will comply with the Chinese government's interests.

"I personally have to shoulder much of the responsibility. This has led to controversies, disputes and anxieties in society," Carrie Lam admitted, "For this I offer my most sincere apology to all people of Hong Kong."

BBC's Nick Beake asked why she hasn't resigned nor withdrawn the bill. She said "the fact that the bill was suspended showed she was listening."

The protest organizers were disappointed that she didn't resign and said that they will meet to decide further action. Joshua Wong was released from jail and told the Wall Street Journal, "When one million people marched at least we got a suspension, when two million people marched all we got is a sorry. How many people does she want to drive to the streets?" Abi, a 20 year old protester told the BBC she saw Carrie Lam's apology "insincere". Carrie Lam tried to connect with the young protesters who have been demanding her to

resign, saying she knew they "want a chief executive who listens to you". However, protesters have reacted angrily to her press conference, saying that she's not met either of their demands that she should formally withdraw the bill, and step down as leader. They also said she had plenty of earlier opportunities to apologise, or stop the bill, after the huge protests on the 9th and 12th of June.

The protesters wear black shirts and white ribbons on their chest. Many people carry bunch of white flowers to honour a man who fell from a wall and died on Saturday, he was holding a banner opposing the extradition.

"We buy the white flower hope that he can rest in peace." Said a 23 year old who like the others hold a sign saying "freedom is not free".

By Katya Bellers

The terrifying Timothée Chalamet doll.

EBay — the home of super cheap hair ties, second hand knitted jumpers and now a terrifying doll of the *Call Me by Your Name* star Timothée Chalamet.

Now, I know what you're thinking, "How can I get my hands on this incredibly detailed masterpiece that looks exactly like Timmy?" Well this beauty comes in at the very reasonable price of £96,909- what a bargain! Although for some reason, no-one's made a bid yet. However, if the price may look a little much then please remember that the doll comes with Timothée's chiselled cheekbones, cold stare and the Louis Vuitton outfit worn by Chalamet at the Golden Globes. According to the doll's EBay page this "One of a kind" ventriloquist figure is "a Perfect gift for any occasion, from a baby shower to a Bar Mitzvah!"

By Mabel Kinnings



Pigeon facts



- Pigeons and doves are very similar, the most noticeable difference is their size.
- A pigeon's coo is to communicate, mate or defend their territory, if a pigeon grunts it means they are in distress or they're warning others.
- Baby pigeons aren't seen often because they only leave the nest when they are mature enough to live on their own.
- Pigeons bob their heads to stabilize their vision and gain depth percentage.
- Pigeons can recognise each letter of the human alphabet.
- Pigeons use the sun as a guide like a magnetic compass, they also use landmarks as signposts and will travel along man made roads and motor ways.
- Pigeons mate for life
- Pigeons will have two chicks in the same time.
- Female and male pigeons share responsibility for caring for the young and they both take turns keeping the egg warm.
- Although pigeon droppings are now seen as gross, a few centuries ago pigeon droppings were seen as an extremely valuable. Pigeon droppings were the best available fertiliser and armed guards would stand outside the pigeon house to prevent people from taking the droppings.
- Pigeons can fly at altitudes up to and beyond 6000 feet, and at an average speed of 77.6 mph. The fastest recorded speed is 92.5 mph.

By Katya Bellers

75th Anniversary of Paratroopers



On 21st September 2019 over 1,500 paratroopers floated out of clear blue skies in the eastern Netherlands to commemorate the 75th anniversary of a, daring but ultimately unsuccessful, mission that sought to end the Second World War.

Operation Market Garden was British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery's ill-fated plan to drop 35,000 paratroopers deep behind enemy lines in Nazi-occupied Netherlands. Forces captured and secured key roads and bridges, so that Allied troops that were massed in Belgium could pour into Germany's industrial heartland and bring the conflict to an end.

On Saturday, military aircraft flew low over Ginkel Heath and paratroopers – including 97-year-old veteran Sandy Cortmann, from Aberdeen – leapt out as thousands of spectators looked on, applauding as the soldiers walked past after landing.

The British 1st Airborne Division led the huge airborne assault in September 1944 that also involved the US Army's 101st Airborne Division and 82nd Airborne Division, along with Poland's 1st Independent Parachute Brigade. What does this mean? Why is British 1st military aircraft important?

But once on the ground, the Allied troops met with stubborn German resistance in and around the city of Arnhem. Their advance stalled on a bridge spanning the River Rhine in a battle immortalised in the book and Hollywood film *A Bridge Too Far*.

More Allied troops – about 11,500 – died in the nine days of Operation Market Garden than during the D-Day landings.

Prince Charles and the former Dutch Queen, Princess Beatrix, were among dignitaries who joined the ever-dwindling group of veterans who took part in the operation for the annual commemoration event.

By Caitlin Macey

Why stranger things episode lengths should be shorter *spoiler*



With a huge viewing of 26.4 million people, the first season stranger things broke viewing expectations. Many viewers binge watch each episode of stranger things, without realising. But with those who have a very short attention span watching one episode of stranger things can take a long time. Typical stranger thing episodes are 50 minutes to an hour long and have many different things happening. The episodes could be halved to discuss one topic at a time. I haven't been able to watch the last episode of stranger things 3, when hopper and Billy supposedly die according to many spoilers.

With only eight episodes, the number of hours in total per series is on the shorter side of many series. A solution to keep audiences with short attention spans in tune with each episode, is to make each episode lengths shorter and make more episodes in a series. Making episodes 30 to 40 minutes long would keep viewers easily interested and have less issues and topics to discuss.