

### ASEAN Region – Press Review November 2020

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### Myanmar

Suu Kyi's NLD confirms 396 seats, surpassing 2015 landslide victory (Nikkei Asia, Reuters, the New York Times, the Irrawaddy)

https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Myanmar-election/Suu-Kyi-s-NLD-confirms-396-seats-surpassing-2015-landslide-

https://www.reuters.com/article/myanmar-election-idUSKBN27P0A4

https://www.nvtimes.com/2020/11/23/opinion/mvanmar-election.html

https://www.irrawaddy.com/elections/proportion-women-myanmars-legislatures-rises-following-nov-8-election.html

### Myanmar's ruling party denounces post-poll violence after MP-elect shot dead (Reuters, Radio Free Asia, Myanmar Times)

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-election/myanmars-ruling-party-denounces-post-poll-violence-aftermp-elect-shot-dead-idUSKBN2820D4

https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/shooting-death-11232020183542.html

https://www.mmtimes.com/news/nld-mp-elect-shot-dead-kyaukme.html



### Cambodia

Hun Sen goes for the legal kill against rival (Asia Times, Radio Free Asia, Associated Press, the Guardian)

https://asiatimes.com/2020/11/hun-sen-goes-for-the-legal-kill-against-rival-cnrp/

https://www.rfa.org/english/news/cambodia/cnrp-trial-11262020163220.html

https://apnews.com/article/election-2020-trials-general-elections-elections-cambodia-

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https://www.thequardian.com/world/2020/nov/26/cambodia-mass-trial-begins-of-130-government-critics-chargedwith-treason

#### Cambodia convicts journalist for criticizing Hun Sen (VOA, CPJ)

https://www.voanews.com/press-freedom/cambodia-convicts-journalist-criticizing-hun-sen https://cpj.org/2020/11/cambodia-jails-journalist-ros-sokhet-for-criticizing-prime-minister-hun-sen/



### Brunei to chair ASEAN in 2021 (The Scoop, VN Express)

https://thescoop.co/2020/11/16/brunei-to-lead-asean-in-2021/

https://thescoop.co/2020/11/24/in-person-meetings-for-asean-unlikely-in-first-half-of-2021/

https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/vietnam-hands-over-asean-baton-to-brunei-4192110.html



### Indonesia

Jokowi signs controversial omnibus bill into law (Nikkei Asia, the New York Times, Bloomberg, Jakarta Globe)

https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Jokowi-signs-controversial-omnibus-bill-into-law?

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/03/world/asia/indonesia-stimulus-bill-signed.html

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-11-03/jokowi-s-jobs-law-faces-legal-review-as-unions-continue-protest

https://jakartaglobe.id/business/jokowi-says-investing-in-indonesia-is-easier-than-ever

Hardline Indonesian cleric returns from Saudi exile to call for 'moral revolution' (South China Morning Post, Nikkei Asia, Asia Times )

https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/people/article/3109284/hardline-indonesian-cleric-returns-saudi-exile-call-moral https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Islam-in-Asia/How-firebrand-cleric-Habib-Rizieq-plans-to-Islamize-Indonesia https://asiatimes.com/2020/11/indonesia-brass-barks-back-at-islamists-moral-threat/

Palm oil giant Korindo accused again of illegally burning Papuan rainforest (Mongabay, BBC, Greenpeace International)

https://news.mongabay.com/2020/11/palm-oil-korindo-papua-rainforest-fire-burn-greenpeace-forensic-architecture https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-54798452

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfxFgKX2p-M



### Laos

Laos bids to shed least developed country label (VOA, the Star)

https://www.voanews.com/east-asia-pacific/laos-bids-shed-least-developed-country-label https://www.thestar.com.my/aseanplus/aseanplus-news/2020/09/10/laos-hopes-to-exit-least-developed-country-list-despite-challenges

Lao villagers demand investigation of polluting Chinese, Vietnamese farms (Radio Free Asia) https://www.rfa.org/english/news/laos/demand-11042020183132.html



### Malaysia

Malaysia leader wins budget vote, passes key leadership test (Bloomberg, the Straits Times, Nikkei Asia)

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-11-25/malaysia-leader-faces-crucial-political-test-in-budget-gamble

https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/malaysian-pm-muhyiddins-federal-budget-passes-parliament-test https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Malaysia-in-transition/Malaysia-s-COVID-budget-approved-in-critical-vote-for-Muhyiddin

https://www.thestar.com.my/opinion/columnists/its-just-politics/2020/11/29/a-telling-vote-on-budget-2021

Malaysia will hold general election after coronavirus is over, Muhyiddin (South China Morning Post, Al Jazeera, CNA)

https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/3111772/malaysia-will-hold-general-election-after-coronavirus-over

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/11/28/malaysia-will-hold-an-election-after-coronavirus-is-overhttps://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/covid-19-malaysia-will-hold-election-after-pandemic-muhyiddin-13657756



## The Philippines

Duterte regime doing too little to reduce disaster risk (Asia Times, Inquirer, BBC, Bangkok Post)

https://asiatimes.com/2020/11/duterte-regime-doing-too-little-to-reduce-disaster-risk

https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1362405/duterte-places-luzon-under-calamity-state?

https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-54934373

https://www.bangkokpost.com/world/2018487/major-floods-in-manila-as-typhoon-batters-philippines

### The Marcoses: A history of rejecting election defeats (ABS-CBN, Rappler, Inquirer)

https://news.abs-cbn.com/spotlight/11/27/20/the-marcoses-a-history-of-rejecting-election-defeats

https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/11/09/20/bongbong-marcos-wants-sc-justice-leonen-to-inhibit-in-poll-protest https://www.rappler.com/nation/robredo-camp-counter-manifestation-bongbong-marcos-petition-justice-leonen-vp-protest-case

https://opinion.inquirer.net/135499/whats-up-in-bongbong-leni-vp-tiff



### **Singapore**

# **PM** Lee takes the stand in defamation suit against TOC's Terry Xu (the Straits Times, the Independent, Mothership)

https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/courts-crime/pm-lee-hsien-loongs-defamation-suit-against-tocs-terry-xubeqins-monday

https://theindependent.sg/pm-lee-to-participate-in-two-libel-trials-on-the-same-day/

https://mothership.sg/2020/11/terry-xu-lawsuit-appeal/

# Singapore activist in court over one-man 'smiley face' protest (Al Jazeera, Reuters, the New York Times)

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/11/23/singapore-activist-charged-over-one-man-smiley-face-protest https://www.reuters.com/article/us-singapore-crime/singapore-activist-faces-fine-over-one-man-smiley-face-sign-protest-idUSKBN2800DV

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/23/world/asia/singapore-smiley-face-protest-charges.html



### **Thailand**

Thai protesters march to barracks against king's military power (Nikkei Asia, the Guardian, Nikkei Asia, the New York Times)

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-thailand-protests/thai-protesters-march-to-barracks-against-kings-military-power-idUSKBN2890BA?il=0

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/29/thailand-protesters-march-to-royal-guard-barracks-in-bangkok https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Turbulent-Thailand/Thailand-protesters-call-for-probe-into-king-s-wealth-and-spending

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/02/world/asia/thailand-protests-military.html

#### Police to charge protest leaders with lese majeste (Bangkok Post, TIME)

https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2024807/police-to-charge-protest-leaders-with-lese-majeste https://time.com/5915493/thai-police-charge-protesters-lese-majeste/

https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2025563/cops-summon-12-protest-leaders-over-lese-majeste

### Thailand youth-led protesters dismiss PM's reconciliation offer (Nikkei Asia, Bangkok Post)

https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Turbulent-Thailand/Thailand-youth-led-protesters-dismiss-PM-s-reconciliation-offerhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013415/3-ex-pms-invited-to-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-panelhttps://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2013987/protesters-reject-reconciliation-pa



### **Vietnam**

#### Vietnam economy is Asia's shining star during (BBC, Nikkei Asia, Asia Times)

https://www.bbc.com/news/business-54997796

https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Vietnam-emerges-as-sole-economic-winner-in-Southeast-Asia https://asiatimes.com/2020/11/vietnam-shining-bright-as-covid-crisis-winner/

**Vietnam threatens to shut down Facebook over censorship requests** (Reuters, the Diplomat, Asia Times)

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-vietnam-facebook-shutdown-exclusive/exclusive-vietnam-threatens-to-shut-down-facebook-over-censorship-requests-source-idUSKBN27Z1MP
https://thediplomat.com/2020/11/could-vietnam-really-shut-down-facebook/
https://asiatimes.com/2020/11/facebooks-self-defeating-censorship-in-vietnam/



### **ASEAN**

Why RCEP will not benefit ASEAN (Inquirer, BBC, Al Jazeera, Bangkok Post, Nikkei Asia)

https://opinion.inquirer.net/135552/why-rcep-will-not-benefit-asean#ixzz6efxbUwHY

https://www.bbc.com/news/business-54899254

https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2020/11/15/rcep-15-asia-pacific-nations-set-worlds-biggest-trade-pact

https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2019339/rcep-could-hurt-small-farmers

https://asia.nikkei.com/Opinion/ASEAN-must-counter-Chinese-attempts-to-own-RCEP-trade-agreement

## **ASEAN must promote peace, avoid being caught in big-power rivalry, leaders say** (Radio Free Asia, Bangkok Post, the Diplomat, the Jakarta Post)

https://www.rfa.org/english/news/vietnam/asean-summit-11122020201947.html

https://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/opinion/2020811/asean-is-still-alive-and-kicking-softly

https://thediplomat.com/2020/11/covid-19-recovery-dominates-weekend-of-asian-summits/

https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/11/12/indonesia-to-initiate-travel-corridor-talks-at-asean-summit.html

Southeast Asian nations mull ASEAN-wide travel bubble (The Diplomat, Bloomberg, Jakarta Globe)

https://thediplomat.com/2020/11/southeast-asian-nations-mull-asean-wide-travel-bubble/

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-11-12/indonesia-pushes-for-southeast-asia-travel-bubble-in-early-2021

https://jakartaglobe.id/news/jokowi-urges-asean-to-open-travel-bubble-by-march-2021



### **Timor-Leste**

How traditional seeds and crops are bringing food independence to Timor-Leste (the Conversation)

https://theconversation.com/how-traditional-seeds-and-crops-are-bringing-food-independence-to-timor-leste-147976

Timor Leste's COVID-19 cash transfer: good if you got it (DevPolicy Blog@ANU)

https://devpolicy.org/timor-lestes-covid-19-cash-transfer-good-if-you-got-it-20201113-2/