

### ASEAN Region – Press Review December 2020

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# Myanmar

Will the position of State Counselor be renewed by Myanmar's new government? (the Irrawaddy, the Straits Times, The Diplomat)

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https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/myanmars-aung-san-suu-kyi-faces-party-renewal-challenge https://thediplomat.com/2020/12/challenges-to-democracy-and-hopes-for-peace-and-justice-in-myanmar/

Bridge to prison? Myanmar journalist faces criminal prosecution for routine report (Radio Free Asia, BNI Online)

https://www.rfa.org/english/news/mvanmar/reporter-lawsuit-12232020144556.html https://www.bnionline.net/en/news/defamation-suit-against-dmg-reporter-latest-prosecution-arakan-journalist



# Cambodia

Hints Hun Sen starting to look away from China (Asia Times, The Diplomat, Nikkei Asia)

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https://thediplomat.com/2020/12/cambodias-covid-19-vaccine-boondoggle/

https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Coronavirus/Cambodia-shuns-China-s-Sinovac-vaccine-in-favor-of-COVAX-shots

Cambodian court charges acting opposition chief Sam Rainsy under lèse-maiesté law (Radio Free Asia, the Phnom Penh Post)

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https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national-politics/rainsy-faces-five-years-prison-insulting-king



Malaysia-Brunei relations need to be strengthened (The Borneo Post)

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### Indonesia

Indonesia's Jokowi reshuffles Cabinet ending months of speculation, appoints former rival as minister (CNA, South China Morning Post, Jakarta Globe, the Jakarta Post)

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https://jakartaglobe.id/news/jokowi-appoints-former-rival-sandiaga-uno-as-minister-in-cabinet-shakeup https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/12/22/jokowi-announces-end-of-year-cabinet-reshuffle.html

Indonesia's Jokowi turns politics into a family business (Nikkei Asia, South China Morning Post, CAN, Asia Times)

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Indonesian cleric Rizieq Shihab turns himself in over COVID violation (DW, Al Jazeera, the Jakarta Post)

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## Laos

Compensation delays for survivors of Laos' worst dam disaster (Radio Free Asia) https://www.rfa.org/english/news/laos/pnpc-11252020154134.html

Hydropower vs Heritage: Will Laos lose Luang Prabang? (The Diplomat, VOA)

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# Malaysia

Malaysia's slim budget vote win leaves PM Muhyiddin safe – for now (South China Morning Post, Reuters, Free Malaysia Today)

https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3114015/malaysias-pm-muhyiddin-averts-danger-slim-budget-vote-win

https://uk.reuters.com/article/malaysia-politics-vote/malaysias-parliament-passes-2021-budget-at-final-stage-idINK7N29P01M

https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2020/12/15/muhyiddin-survives-2021-budget-with-3-vote-majority

The nearly man: will Anwar Ibrahim ever lead Malaysia? (South China Morning Post)

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# The Philippines

Duterte's war on drugs: ICC sees 'reasonable basis' for crime against humanity probe in Philippines (South China Morning Post, ABS-CBN, the New York Times, Nikkei Asia, Al Jazeera)

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https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/12/15/20/icc-finds-reasonable-basis-for-alleged-crimes-against-humanity-in-duterte-drug-war

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https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/12/15/icc-reasonable-basis-of-crimes-against-humanity-under-duterte

Pacquiao adds punch to Duterte's party as new leader (Nikkei Asia, Manila Times, Inquirer)

https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Pacquiao-adds-punch-to-Duterte-s-party-as-new-leader

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# **Singapore**

# NCID nurse becomes first person in Singapore to receive COVID-19 vaccine (CNA, the Straits Times, Al Jazeera)

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### Lee family still just can't get along in Singapore (Asia Times, the Straits Times, CNA)

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## **Thailand**

Thai protesters to pause for now and return next year (Reuters, South China Morning Post) https://www.reuters.com/article/us-thailand-protests-idUSKBN28O15O

https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3115717/thailand-protests-pro-democracy-movement-hits-pause

# Thailand: COVID outbreak among Myanmar workers sparks anti-migrant backlash (DW, Bloomberg, Khaosod English, the Irrawaddy)

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#### **Sudarat launches new party** (Bangkok Post)

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## **Vietnam**

### Vietnam prepares for supply chain shift from China (Financial Times, VN Express, Reuters)

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### Vietnam's Communists brace for next 5 years after big 2020 (Nikkei Asia, Reuters)

https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Asia-Insight/Vietnam-s-Communists-brace-for-next-5-years-after-big-2020 https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Vietnam-s-leader-wants-a-successor-tough-on-corruption https://www.reuters.com/article/vietnam-politics-idUSKBN28O0AZ

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### COVID-19: A regional response is key for ASEAN (The Diplomat)

https://thediplomat.com/2020/12/covid-19-a-regional-response-is-key-for-asean/

### **ASEAN in the driver's seat in the South China Sea** (East Asia Forum)

https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2020/12/18/asean-in-the-drivers-seat-in-the-south-china-sea/

### Displaced, stranded, unprotected: ASEAN's migrant workers (The Diplomat, Bangkok Post)

https://thediplomat.com/2020/12/displaced-stranded-unprotected-aseans-migrant-workers/

https://www.bangkokpost.com/world/2040739/asian-migrant-workers-locked-up-dumped-as-curbs-ease https://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/opinion/2042715/dont-leave-migrant-workers-behind?

# **ASEAN bargains on RCEP trade deal to secure 'centrality' in Asia** (Nikkei Asia, The ASEAN Post, Bangkok Post)

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# **Timor-Leste**

How tiny Timor-Leste kept the coronavirus at bay (Al Jazeera)

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Timor-Leste's COVID-19 success and sweeping political change (East Asia Forum)

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