

# ASEAN Region – Press Review May 2021

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# **ASEAN**

### On ASEAN and Myanmar

ASEAN's Myanmar Dilemma - Barry Desker | East Asia Forum

UN envoy urges Asean to act as Myanmar junta ignores consensus plan – Bhavan Jaipragas | SCMP

Myanmar's Human Rights Violations and ASEAN's Response - Mie Oba | The Diplomat

ASEAN awaits the appointment of envoy to Myanmar – Dian Septiari | The Jakarta Post

ASEAN's Mission to Myanmar: An Approach to Ends with Possibilities of Success - Hoang Thi Ha | Fulcrum

# **Energy Transition**

ASEAN to receive \$10bn decarbonization support from Japan – Juntari Ari | Nikkei Asia

### COVID-19 Situation

Southeast Asia Had COVID-19 Under Control. What Went Wrong? - Nathan Tompson | Foreign Policy Nikkei

ASEAN aims to reach herd immunity against COVID-19 in 2022 | The Nation Thailand/Viet Nam News Regional vaccine approach is imperative – Thitinan Pongsudhirak | Bangkok Post

### The Mekong River

Why Asean needs to care about Mekong issues like it did with haze - Hoang Thi Ha and Farah Nadine Seth | **SCMP** 

The Mekong River Ecosystem in Crisis: ASEAN Cannot be a Bystander by Hoang Thi Ha and Farah Nadine Seth | ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute



### Brunei as ASEAN Chair

Will Brunei's time at the helm of ASEAN be defined by the Myanmar crisis? – Asyura Salleh and Huong Le Thu ASPI - The Strategist.

Forget Asean bureaucracy, Brunei must decide on Myanmar special envoy with urgency - Evan A. Laksmana SCMP

### **COVID-19 Situation**

Brunei among world's lowest in COVID-19 infection – Hakim Hayat | Borneo Bulletin Brunei King commends patience of country's citizens and residents in pandemic fight | The Star/Borneo Bulletin



# Cambodia

### **COVID-19 Situation**

Cambodia ends blanket COVID-19 lockdown despite more infections | Reuters Vaccines, Not Lockdowns, Underpin Cambodia's Fight Against COVID-19 - Luke Hunt | The Diplomat Cambodia's Vaccine Drive Off to Quick Start with A Dose of Coercion - Aun Chhengpor | VOA

Cambodia's Hun Sen: 'If I don't rely on China, who will I rely on?' - Nikkei staff writers | Nikkei Asia Hun Sen's Mistake? The Domestic Political Ramifications of His Chinese Shelter - Charles Dunst | East-West Center

Hun Sen tackles Cambodia's once untouchable tycoons - David Hutt | Asia Times



# Indonesia

### **COVID-19 Situation**

<u>Death toll from Covid-19 in Indonesia surpasses 50,000 as total cases soar past 1.8 million</u> | The Star/Xinhua <u>Indonesia's vaccine campaign hits speed bumps</u> – I Nyoman Sutarsa | East Asia Forum <u>Indonesia study shows China's Sinovac vaccine highly effective</u> – Shotaro Tani | Nikkei Asia <u>Chinese vaccines meant for Indonesian prison stolen and sold to public</u> – Aisyah Llewellyn | SCMP <u>Covid: Reused nose swab scam busted in Indonesia airport</u> | BBC

Reused nose swabs: Indonesian firm faces lawsuit over Covid-19 test 'fraud' – Aisyah Llewellyn | SCMP

# On Corruption Eradication Commission/KPK

KPK: 51 of 75 Employees Who Failed Civic Knowledge Test Are Dismissed – M Rosseno Aji | Tempo English KPK fires 51 employees despite Jokowi's call for restraint – Dio Suhenda | The Jakarta Post Annul KPK decision, Jokowi urged | The Star

<u>'Racist, unnecessary': How controversial test seen as pretext to fire top KPK employees</u> – Marchio Gorbiano | The Jakarta Post

#### **Israel-Palestine Conflict**

In Indonesia, Gaza conflict is fodder for politicians hoping to score points – Johannes Nugroho | CAN Indonesia leads regional condemnation of Israel – Emma Connors | Financial Review Indonesia calls for international pressure for Israel-Palestine peace talks – Dian Septiari | The Jakarta Post

### Rizieg Shihab sentenced to Prison

An Indonesian cleric is sentenced to prison for Covid rule violations – Richard C. Paddock and Dera Menra Sijabat | The New York Times

<u>Indonesia Imprisons Cleric for 8 Months Over COVID-19 Breaches</u> – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat <u>Indonesia jails banned group's hardline leader for COVID breaches</u> | Al Jazeera



# Laos

#### **COVID-19 Situation**

<u>Laos Records Second COVID-19 Death as Number of Infections Balloons</u> | RFA/Benar News

<u>How Laos escaped coronavirus community transmission and deaths — until now</u> – Max Walden | ABC

<u>Extended lockdown essential amid ongoing challenges: PM</u> - Souksakhone Vaenkeo | The Nation/Vientiane

Times

### **Fake News**

<u>Laos orders registration of social media news platforms</u> | Inquirer/Vientiane Times <u>Laos Forms Special Taskforce to Combat Fake News</u> – Phayboune Thanabouasy | The Laotian Times

### **Laos-China Relations**

China vows to promote ties, advance socialist endeavor with Laos | The Star/Xinhua



# Malaysia

# **COVID-19 Situation**

<u>Malaysia to enter 'total lockdown' from Jun 1 to Jun 14 as daily number of COVID-19 cases hits new record</u> – Vincent Tan | CNA

Malaysian PM faces renewed pressure to allow Parliament to reconvene amid rising anger over Covid-19 | The Straits Times

<u>COVID-19 management: We cannot afford more flips-flops</u> – Khoo Ying Hooi | MY Sinchew After Covid-19, Malaysia must offer migrant workers a fairer deal – Hwok-Aun Lee | SCMP

### **Politics**

<u>Umno, stalled juggernaut of Malaysian politics, faces leadership dilemma</u> – Amy Chew | SCMP

<u>On Umno's 75th anniversary, party vice-president says a house divided will not stand</u> – John Bunyan | Malay Mail

<u>Umno leader removed as rail firm's boss after controversial remarks on LRT accident</u> – Ram Anand | The Straits Times

Tajuddin's political career in tatters – Joceline Tan | The Star



# Myanmar

### Aung San Suu Kyi appeared in Court

Aung San Suu Kyi in first public appearance since February arrest | Al Jazeera

Detained Myanmar Leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Moved, Kept in Isolation | The Irrawaddy

Myanmar ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi appears in court in person for first time since coup - Sarita

Harilela, Chandler Thornton, CNN & Reuters | CNN

Suu Kyi trial adds more fuel to Myanmar's fire - Bertil Lintner | Asia Times

# 100 Days of Myanmar's Coup

100 Days Since Myanmar's Coup: Looming Economic Collapse, Poverty and Hunger | The Irrawaddy

Myanmar's Neighborhood Relations After 100 days | The Diplomat

Myanmar counts cost of coup, 100 days on | France 24/AFP

100 days of Myanmar's military coup – in pictures | The Guardian

# Frontier Myanmar's Managing Editor Danny Fenster got detained

American journalist detained in Myanmar while trying to board flight out of country – Morgan Winsor | ABC News

<u>US demands immediate release of American journalist in Myanmar</u> – John Reed and Katrina Manson | Financial Times

Myanmar junta forces arrest US editor at Yangon airport - AFP/Myanmar Mix | Myanmar Mix



# **Philippines**

### **COVID-19 Situation**

Philippines' coronavirus missteps could make it Asia's economic 'laggard' as recovery seen among region's slowest | SCMP/Bloomberg

Most Filipinos don't want a coronavirus vaccine. Especially not a Chinese one – Alan Robles | SCMP Covid made the Philippines' hunger crisis worse. So why does hardly anyone want a vaccine? – Rebecca Wright and Yasmin Coles | CNN

### Philippine Election 2022

Six more years of Duterte in the Philippines – Jason Castaneda | Asia Times

Sara Duterte's meeting with Imee, Bongbong fuels tandem talks in 2022 polls | Inquirer

The stakes in 2022 – Leila De Lima | Rappler

<u>There 'should only be one' opposition candidate in 2022 elections: Robredo</u> – John Gabriel Agcaoili | ABS-CBN News

The opposition's narrow, viable path – John Nery | Inquirer

Philippines' Duterte to let God decide his political future | Reuters

Pacman for president of the Philippines – Jason Castaneda | Asia Times

How strong is Duterte the strongman? - Michael Beltran | The Interpreter/Lowy Institute



# **Singapore**

### **COVID-19 Situation**

<u>Singapore reimposes tough distancing rules after Covid cases rise</u> – Stefania Palma | Financial Times <u>Singapore's largest active Covid-19 cluster: What went wrong at Changi Airport?</u> – Linette Lai | The Straits Times

<u>Singapore Moves Back Toward Lockdown as Virus Cases Rise</u> – Kyunghee Park | Bloomber Quint <u>Rise in COVID cases drives Singapore back to stricter measures</u> - Michelle Jamrisko and Philip J. Heijmans and Ramsey Al-Rikabi | Al Jazeera/Bloomberg

### **Politics**

<u>Singapore searches for next prime minister: 3 names to know</u> – Dylan Loh | Nikkei Asia <u>Singapore's next Prime Minister must be someone who can bring the team together, says PM Lee</u> – Chew Hui Min | CNA

### Singapore's Green Plan 2030

PM Lee details Singapore's green plan – Rei Kurohi | The Straits Times
Singapore unveils Green Plan 2030, outlines green targets for next 10 years – Ang Hwee Min and Matthew
Mohan | CNA



# Thailand

### **COVID-19 Situation**

COVID-19 sweeps through Thailand's overcrowded prisons | CNA/AFP

Thailand's overcrowded prisons hit by Covid-19 surge – David Hopkins | The Interpreter/Lowy Institute

More than 1m apply to get virus jab in capital | Bangkok Post

Thai princess allows new vaccine imports as slow rollout prompts anger | Reuters

#### **Politics**

Coup is seven years old - Mongkol B. Aekarach S. and Wassana N. | Bangkok Post

Group calls on Prayut to resign as PM - Mongkol Bangprapa | Bangkok Post

Thai protest leader facing lese-majeste charges released on bail - Masayuki Yuda | Nikkei Asia

Thailand court allows minister to keep post despite drug conviction | BBC

Thailand tightens information law - Kavi Chongkittavorn | Bangkok Post

### Thailand's draft law on NGOs

<u>Implications of new draft law on NGOs</u> – Kavi Chongkittavorn | Bangkok Post

Rights Groups See 'Existential Threat' in Draft Thai NGO Law - Zsombor Peter | VOA

Thailand's proposed NGO law will devastate civil society - Mark Cogan | Southeast Asia Globe



# **Timor-Leste**

### **COVID-19 Situation and Disaster**

<u>Lessons from the recent cyclone in Timor-Leste</u> – Fidelis Magalhães | The Interpreter – Lowy Institute <u>Why Humanitarian Assistance Matters: The Case of Climate Disaster and COVID-19 in Timor-Leste</u> – Fidelis Magalhães |The Diplomat

COVID-19 breaks out in Timor-Leste - Manuela Callari | Cosmos Magazine



# Vietnam

### **COVID-19 Situation**

<u>Vietnam's COVID resurgence prompts strict new lockdowns</u> – Hugh Bohane | Deutsche Welle <u>No changes to 21-day quarantine policy for foreign arrivals: Foreign ministry</u> – Vietnam News <u>Vietnam says new COVID outbreak threatens stability</u> – Reuters

### **Politics**

<u>Vietnam holds parliamentary election</u> | Yahoo News/Australian Associated Press

<u>Vietnam holds parliament election amid new COVID outbreak</u> | Reuters <u>NA Chairman: voter turnout reaches 99.57 percent</u> | Vietnam Plus

COVID wave challenges Vietnam's national election Sunday – Tomoya Onishi | Nikkei Asia Vietnam's first openly gay candidate seeks change with parliament run – Tran Thi Minh Ha | Yahoo News/AFP