

CARI CAPTURES

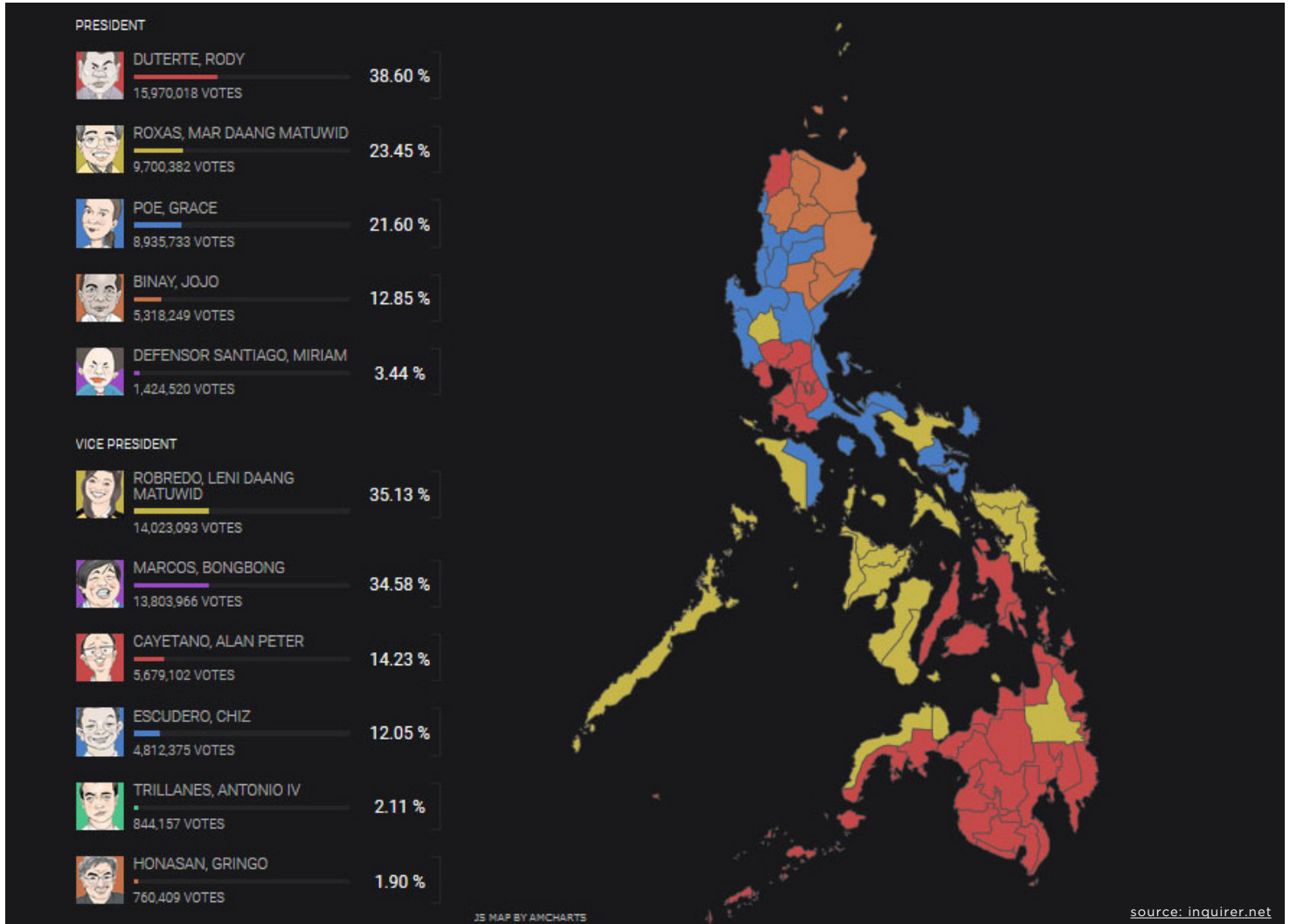
SINGAPORE YARD INKS \$450
MILLION IRAN DEAL

ASEAN-RUSSIA SUMMIT TO DEFINE
NEW GOALS OF PARTNERSHIP

MALAYSIA'S GROWTH DROPS TO SLOWEST
PACE IN NEARLY SEVEN YEARS

01 PHILIPPINES

PRESIDENT ELECT RODRIGO DUTERTE'S POLICY AGENDA



With unofficial tallies showing President-elect Rodrigo Duterte leading the polls with 40% of the 54 million voters, the current mayor of Davao City has begun to outline policy shifts to the current regime's approach to crime and peace.

► In terms of foreign policy, Mayor Duterte said he would seek multilateral negotiations to address issues in the South China Sea that should include Japan, Australia and the United States, which is traditionally the region's dominant security player and contests China's development of islands and rocky outcrops in the sea

► The Mayor also pledged to ban smoking and drinking alcohol in public places, and to crack down on speeding and drunken driving. He pledged to restore the death penalty, which was suspended in 2006, and allow police to shoot on sight people suspected of involvement in organised crime

► Mr. Duterte has already imposed many of his suggested restrictions on Davao, which he has run for three decades as mayor. Though taxi drivers still grumble about the 60 kilometer-an-hour speed limit, many citizens in this city of roughly 1.5 million people seem comfortable enough with Mr. Duterte's rules

www.abc.net.au (14 May 2016)

SINGAPORE YARD INKS \$450 MILLION IRAN DEAL

Singapore's Kim Heng Holdings says it has signed an agreement worth US\$450 million with Iran Marine Fund to finance offshore facilities and other maritime ventures.

- ▶ The partnership will provide financing for the manufacturing of platform supply vessels, offshore cranes, chemical tankers, and also aluminum and fiberglass vessels; the agreement is said to leave room for future provisions which could include shipbuilding, chartering of Kim Heng's assets, purchasing of offshore vessels, rig management and offshore maintenance
- ▶ The non binding agreement sets forth that commercial terms and the form of financing for each project

will be negotiated on a project by project basis and documented in definitive agreements;

- ▶ Financing is set to be spread over a decade, With Kim Heng Holdings providing technical expertise and financing to Iranian offshore marine and oil & gas projects; Iran hopes that the deal will help to attain its aim of achieving sustainable development, bridging the gap between the government and the private sector, through the provision of finance and technology
- ▶ The partnership was formed after Singapore and Iran sought to renew trade and investment through the signing of a bilateral agreement promoting and protecting investment

presstv.ir (14 May 2016)



SINGAPORE-IRAN AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT INVESTMENTS

Under the Agreement Singapore investors and investments in Iran and vice versa will be:

- Treated as favourably as any other foreign or local investments,
- Provided prompt, adequate and effective compensation in the event of nationalisation
- Allowed cross border transfer of capital and returns,
- Given the option to resolve investment disputes amicably through consultation,
- The agreement also provides Singapore investors the option to resolve the dispute through international arbitration;

Source: www.mti.gov.sg

ASEAN-RUSSIA SUMMIT TO DEFINE NEW GOALS OF PARTNERSHIP

The Summit is to be thrown in celebration of the 20th anniversary of open dialogue between the bloc and Russia.

- ▶ With the slogan of "Towards a Strategic Partnership for the Sake of the Common Good.", the summit is expected to adopt a declaration that will lay the basis for an action plan of Russia-ASEAN cooperation in the political, economic and cultural spheres, as well as in the sphere of security
- ▶ Russia has been a dialogue partner of ASEAN since July 1996. Similar partnership summits are normally

held on the territory of member-states and the choice of Sochi as venue for the Russia-ASEAN summit on the partnership's 20th anniversary is symbolic

- ▶ According to President Vladimir Putin, the summit's agenda will cover a wide range of issues related to improving the architecture of regional security, searching for new ways of countering the growing threats of international terrorism, violent extremism and trans-national crime

tass.ru (12 May 2016)

MALAYSIA'S GROWTH DROPS TO SLOWEST PACE IN NEARLY SEVEN YEARS

Malaysia recorded its slowest economic growth in nearly seven years in the first quarter, as weak exports and tepid domestic demand continue to hurt the trade dependent nation.

- ▶ In the period between January and March, the economy grew 4.2% from a year earlier, slightly beating the 4.1% median forecast in a Reuters poll but down from 4.5% in the previous quarter; the quarter was the fifth straight of declining growth and also had the slowest expansion since the third quarter of 2009

- ▶ Private section consumption increased 5.3% from a year earlier, an improvement on 4.9% in the previous quarter and 4.1% in the period of July to September; the current account surplus narrowed to US\$1.24 billion in the first quarter from a revised US\$2.6 billion for the fourth quarter of 2015
- ▶ Economists say improved exports are essential for Malaysia, to get its growth-rate back up.; the central bank said exports decreased 0.5% in the first quarter from a year earlier, a reflection of their subdued momentum

finance.yahoo.com (13 May 2016)

WORLD BANK EXTENDS \$67-M GRANT FOR PHILIPPINES RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

The World Bank has approved \$67 million in financial assistance for two renewable energy guarantee programs that would help poor households in far-flung areas gain access to electricity.

- ▶ This grant was split into funding two separate projects, with the first being a US\$23 million grant for the Access to Sustainable Energy Project (ASEP), the second approved project was a US\$44 million guarantee under the Philippines Renewable Energy Project (PhRED)
- ▶ PhRED would provide more financial resources to an existing financial guarantee program of the government, the Electric Cooperative Partial Credit

Guarantee Program, that has been providing credit guarantees since 2004 to commercial banks in the Philippines that extend loans to electric cooperatives

- ▶ The ASEP on the other hand, is designed to help bring solar power to remote communities and islands not connected to the electricity grid managed by electric cooperatives
- ▶ According to Energy Secretary Zenaida Y. Monsada, the two World Bank-assisted projects will help the government achieve its long-term goals of full electrification by the 2020s and a tripling of renewable energy installed capacity by 2030, as part of the country's sustainable development agenda

[philstar.com \(15 May 2016\)](#)

MALAYSIA MOVES INTO POWER TRADING WITH INDONESIA

Malaysia is moving into the power export business with the commissioning of the Sarawak-West Kalimantan 275kV transmission line, bringing much needed electricity into the Indonesian province.

- ▶ The project is part of an initiative known as ASEAN Power Grid formulated by ASEAN to beef up electricity infrastructure in the region where economic development is uneven; ASEAN estimates that only about 66% of the population have direct access to electricity
- ▶ Under the ASEAN Power Grid program, 15 projects

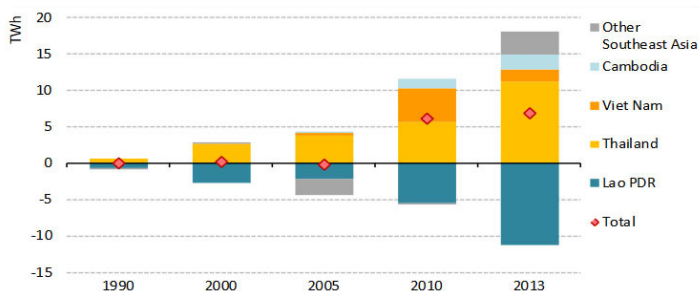
had been identified with an investment of US\$6 billion; the Sarawak-West Kalimantan project channels the much-needed power supply to 8,000 households in the Indonesian region from the Mambong substation through a 275 kilovolt interconnection operated by Sarawak Energy, a state energy company

- ▶ Both countries did not reveal the value of the power trading but the transmission of hydroelectricity could reduce Indonesia's cost of generation by a third to US\$0.18 per kilowatt-hour, according to the ADB

[thestar.com.my \(12 May 2016\)](#)

ASEAN POWER GRID PROGRAM

Net electricity imports in ASEAN countries



Source: IEA (2015a), World Energy Outlook Special Report 2015: Southeast Energy Outlook, OECD/IEA, Paris.

Planned interconnections until 2020

Country	Capacity (MW)
Priority interconnections	
Peninsular Malaysia–Sumatra in 2019	1 030
Sarawak–Brunei in 2018	300
Lao PDR–Cambodia in 2018	300
Interconnections planned by 2020	
Thailand–Lao PDR	6 447
Lao PDR–Viet Nam	4 399
Thailand–Peninsular Malaysia	400

Source: HAPUA (Heads of ASEAN Power Utilities Authorities) (2015), presentation by HAPUA Secretary at 21st HAPUA Working Group Meetings, Melaka, Malaysia, May 2015

VIETNAM REPORTS 48% DROP IN OIL REVENUE IN JAN-APRIL

The Ministry of Finance's new data showed a year-on-year drop to US\$576.71 million in the first four months, falling 24% short of projected targets.

- ▶ However, the state's revenue still posted a slight increase of 1.2% to US\$142.11 billion in the first four months, as other sources such as corporate and luxury taxes grew 9.6% compared to the same period last year
- ▶ Government spending increased 4.7% to US\$16.58

billion, more than 70% of which was for funding the government's administrative system, while public projects such as transport infrastructure and schools accounted for just around 15%

- ▶ Vietnam's legislature capped the state budget deficit 4.95% of gross domestic product this year; last year the budget deficit was originally expected to be around 5% of GDP, but in the end it was equivalent to 6.1%

[thanhniennews.com \(15 May 2016\)](#)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

▶ The US has lifted more of its economic sanctions on Myanmar, removing ten state-owned companies in the banking, timber and mining industries from the blacklist, as show of support for ongoing political reform in the country. Despite the election in November and the following smooth transfer of power, there's no reward here for the Myanmar military as army companies and dozens of individuals who've made millions from military contracts are still sanctioned.

[BBC \(18 May 2016\)](#)

▶ Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong will officially launch the Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Training Institute when he visits Myanmar in June, Singapore's Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan announced on 18 May at a dinner commemorating Singapore and Myanmar's 50 years of diplomatic ties. Located in Yangon, the institute will help train Myanmar youth in practical and employable skills.

[Channel NewsAsia \(18 May 2016\)](#)

▶ Mr. Eamonn Murphy, UNAIDS country coordinator has urged the Myanmar government, legislative bodies and people, not to discriminate against the LGBT community and to treat them in a dignified manner. Discrimination against the LGBT community occurs in healthcare services, workplaces and society, according to the Myanmar Human Rights Commission.

[Mizzima \(18 May 2016\)](#)

POLITICS

▶ Myanmar police has begun legal action against five protesters over a rally on 14 May, in which several activists and students marched through Yangon in a rare gesture of religious solidarity. The move came as rights groups raise concerns about efforts by the new pro-democracy government to amend draconian laws on demonstrations.

[Aljazeera \(17 May 2016\)](#)

ECONOMY

▶ Myanmar is expanding its aviation capability with a new airline and the construction of an international airport. The new carrier, to be named Asian Blue Aviation, is a joint venture (JV) between Japan's full-service carrier All Nippon Airways (ANA) and Myanmar-based Golden Sky World. The construction of the new international airport at Hanthawaddy is scheduled to start late this year, and will be 49% funded by a US\$0.75 billion ODA loan from the Japanese government.

[Mizzima \(12 May 2016\)](#)

MALAYSIA TO HOLD BY-ELECTIONS IN TEST OF NAJIB AFTER SARAWAK WIN

Malaysia will hold by-elections next month after two lawmakers were killed in a helicopter crash, a fresh chance to assess Prime Minister Najib Razak's popularity after a recent win for his ruling party in the Sarawak state election.

- ▶ Polls in Sungai Besar in Selangor state and for Kuala Kangsar in the northern Perak region will be held on 18 June 2016
- ▶ The election is a direct result of the deaths of deputy plantation minister Noriah Kasnon and chairman of the Malaysian Palm Oil Board, Wan Mohammad Khair-il Anuar Wan Ahmad, who were among six people killed when the chopper they were traveling in crashed last week in Sarawak; both were lawmakers from Najib's United Malays National Organisation and were re-elected to parliament in the 2013 general election
- ▶ Barisan Nasional's Sarawak win was also helped by a fractured opposition, as parties fielded multiple candidates in some seats. The Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party, or PAS, has called on other opposition groups to avoid three-way contests in the two by-elections, the Star newspaper reported Friday. The seats have traditionally been contested by PAS, deputy president Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man was quoted as saying.

[bloomberq.com \(12 May 2016\)](#)

THE 11TH SARAWAK ELECTIONS



SARAWAK STATE ELECTION • 7 MAY



- The 11th Sarawak elections saw BN bagging 72 of the 82 seats up for grabs.



- DAP losing five of the 12 seats it won in 2011, PKR merely retaining their three seats and Amanah leaving empty handed.

Source: [themailonline.com](#)

CAMBODIA PM 'MUST BE CALLED LORD PM AND SUPREME MILITARY COMMANDER'

Media outlets in Cambodia have been told they must begin referring to PM Hun Sen as "Lord Prime Minister and Supreme Military Commander".

- ▶ In a three-hour briefing at the information ministry, reporters were told full titles must be used on first reference for the PM, the first lady and other officials; failure to comply could lead to action, but it was unclear what this would be
- ▶ Hun Sen's honorary, six-word title in Khmer, "Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen", would have to be used in the opening lines of print articles, radio and TV stories about the leader
- ▶ The first lady Bun Rany Hun Sen's title would roughly translate to "Celebrated Senior Scholar Bun Rany Hun Sen"; Officials' honorary titles are already widely used by pro-government media outlets

[bbc.com \(13 May 2016\)](#)

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