

CARI CAPTURES



01 ASEAN STEPS UP IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

 ASEAN  CHINA  VIETNAM



Southeast Asian leaders have expressed "serious concern" over worsening territorial disputes in the South China Sea, presenting a rare united front against an increasingly assertive Beijing.

- ▶ The 10-nation ASEAN, in a statement released on Monday after a summit on Sunday, called for a peaceful resolution to the maritime rows, which flared up this month after China moved an oil drilling rig into waters also claimed by Hanoi
- ▶ In a series of escalating tensions following China's recent installation of a oil rig in disputed territory, Philippine authorities on Monday

filed charges against nine of the 11 Chinese fishermen apprehended last week for allegedly poaching hundreds of endangered sea turtles in a shoal near the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea

- ▶ Upon a conviction, the fishermen face 12 to 20 years of imprisonment or a fine of \$2,290 per act according to Philippine environmental laws; whilst Chinese authorities have demanded their immediate release, political tensions in the region have not helped in resolving the situation

02 SUMMIT HOST DECLARES SUCCESS DESPITE CIVIL SOCIETY ABSENCE



Myanmar President U Thein Sein, who is Chairman of the 24th Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), issued an 84-point statement post-summit, summarizing the just-concluded summit in Nay Pyi Taw and calling it productive.

- ▶ “Moving forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community” was the theme for Myanmar’s chairmanship. The 24th summit focused on the timely realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015, strengthening ASEAN Institutions and envisioning a strategic direction for the ASEAN Community post- 2015
- ▶ ASEAN encouraged continued effort to enhance the implementation of the ASEAN-China, ASEAN-S.Korea and ASEAN-Australia-NewZealand FTAs. While recognizing the opportunities in forging an economic partnership with Hong Kong, the ASEAN leaders also welcomed the commencement of the ASEAN-Hong Kong negotiations in July this year
- ▶ ASEAN leaders underscored the importance of ASEAN unity as a foundation for all efforts in promoting regional peace, stability and enhancing economic development. ASEAN leaders also reaffirmed their pledge to strengthen democracy, enhance good governance and the rule of law and to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms by adhering to the principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes and noninterference in internal affairs as reflected in the ASEAN Charter, which are in line with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law to complement global efforts for international peace and security
- ▶ However, with the success of the summit the beginning was rather rocky. Civil society leaders from around the region have refused to participate in the interface meeting, citing interference from some Southeast Asian governments
- ▶ The half-hour meeting is an initiative of the ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People’s Forum (ACSC/APF), an independent organising body for regional civil society actors, and the ASEAN summit. It is intended to give civil society actors a voice within the ASEAN process, but has been subject to political pressure from national governments in the past [dvb.no \(11 May 2014\)](#)

03 ASEAN MUST HAVE SOCIAL PROTECTION - NTSP



“The 2015 ASEAN integration is supposed to benefit the sub-region’s more than half-a-billion people. But ASEAN political decision makers are largely focused on the establishment of a common market and have involved mainly corporate interest groups. They have neglected the social dimension of integration,” Southeast Asia-wide Network for Transformative Social Protection said after leaders of the 10 ASEAN countries meet in Myanmar for the ASEAN Summit

- ▶ ASEAN integration must centre on people and their needs, not on business and profits. As a result of running businesses, most Southeast Asians will continue to live in poverty and inequality despite record economic growths in booming Asia
- ▶ The NTSP also added that the ASEAN integration process lacks implementing programs and defining role of labour and other social partners. Many trade agreements “show how ASEAN integration puts people at the losing end of these deals and how government is renegeing on its duty to protect its people. ASEAN integration lacks social protection.”
- ▶ The Network for Transformative Social Protection is calling for nationwide and globally funded social protection systems that ensure a life of well-being and dignity, with rights to work, livelihood, basic social services, and social security — all deemed as part of the social commons, or essential things that support humanity and that must be safeguarded and reclaimed like water, education, health services, etc.

[Inquirer \(13 May 2014\)](#)

04 THAILAND’S SENATE ATTEMPTS TO BREAK POLITICAL DEADLOCK

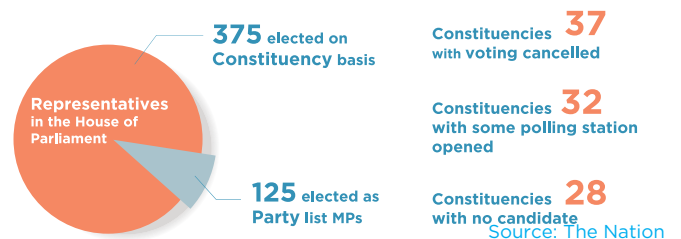
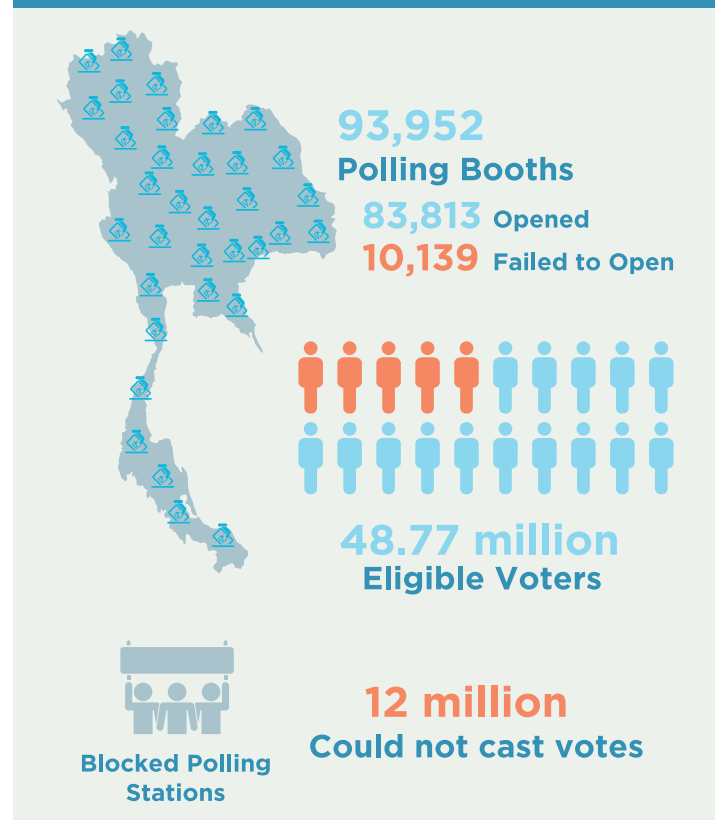


Thailand’s pro and anti-government protesters are calling on the nation’s upper house to legislate in their respective favours and bring clarity to the political situation left in the wake of the ousting of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra last week.

- ▶ Thailand’s political crisis deepened further Tuesday as efforts to find a compromise between government supporters and opponents foundered in the nation’s Senate; the upper house met Monday to discuss options after Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and nine of her cabinet members were removed from office last week by the nation’s Constitutional Court
- ▶ However, Jatuporn Prompan, a leader of the pro-Yingluck Red Shirt movement, told thousands of supporters on the outskirts of the capital Sunday that any such move would “create a serious crisis that could lead to civil war that no one wants to see.”
- ▶ “The problem has accumulated for more than 10 years,” said acting Senate Speaker Surachai Liengboonlertchai, according to the Nation. “We won’t be able to solve the problem within a day. We’ll try to do it as quickly as possible in a way that is fairest for the country and for the people.”

[Time.com \(13 may 2014\)](#)

Thailand’s 2014 Political Turmoil



05 JOKO WIDODO ONE STEP CLOSER TO COALITION

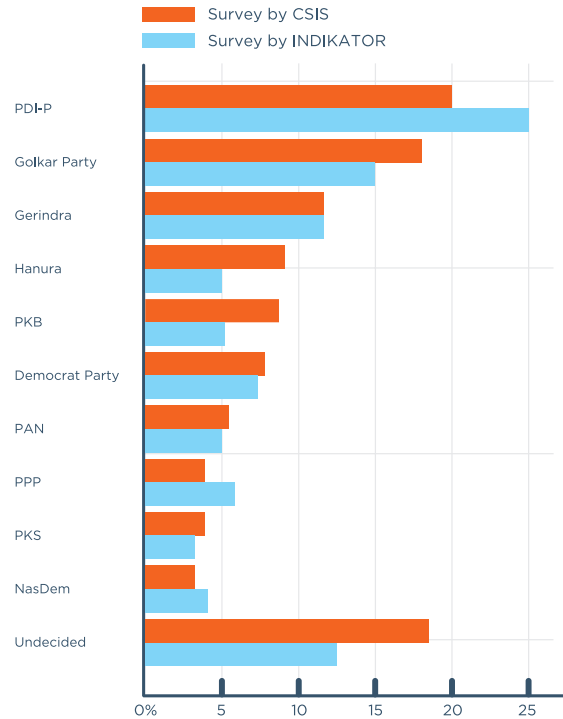
INDONESIA

Golkar, one of Indonesia's largest parties said Tuesday it is considering joining the coalition of Jakarta Gov. Joko Widodo, potentially giving the presidential front-runner a boost in the final week of coalition-building ahead of elections in July.

- ▶ Aburizal Bakrie, chairman of the Golkar stopped short of saying his party would align with Mr. Widodo's Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) in a public statement, which topped legislative polls last month with 19% of the popular vote; Golkar came in second at the elections with about 15% of the vote, and unlike Mr. Widodo's party hasn't yet formed a coalition that meets an electoral threshold necessary to nominate a presidential candidate
- ▶ All this is good news for Jokowi ahead of the deadline on May 20th for parties to register their presidential candidates; only Prabowo Subianto, a former general, remains a threat to Jokowi. His Great Indonesia Movement Party, or Gerindra, won 12% of the popular vote on April 9th
- ▶ The same survey that gave Jokowi 51% in April gave Mr Prabowo 36%, up from 23% last year. Gerindra has the support of two other Islamic parties, but missing out on the support of Golkar will make it harder for Mr Prabowo to pretend that he is offering a workable coalition of his own

Source: online WSJ (13 May 2014)

INDONESIA'S JULY ELECTIONS SURVEY



Source: The Wall Street Journal

06 SHANMUGAM, KERRY REAFFIRM SINGAPORE-US RELATIONS

SINGAPORE

Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs K Shanmugam and US Secretary of State John Kerry have reaffirmed the close and longstanding relations between their countries that span the economic, political, military and socio-cultural fronts.

- ▶ Mr Shanmugam and Mr Kerry reiterated their countries' commitment to further strengthen cooperation, both bilaterally and regionally. Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) mentioned that they also discussed key regional and global developments
- ▶ Mr Shanmugam and Mr Kerry reiterated the importance of working towards an expeditious conclusion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership

(TPP) agreement. Both sides also welcomed efforts to strengthen ASEAN-US ties, through US-ASEAN Energy cooperation, of which Singapore is the country coordinator, as well as the US-Asia-Pacific Comprehensive Energy Partnership for a Shared Future (USACEP), of which both sides are in the Steering Committee

- ▶ In Washington, Mr Shanmugam also met his US counterpart in his capacity as Minister for Law, Attorney General Eric Holder, at the Department of Justice where they exchanged views and reaffirmed their desire to strengthen legal cooperation in a constructive and mutually beneficial way

Channel News Asia (13 May 2014)

07 SOUTH BOMBERS 'CAPTURED ON CCTV'

THAILAND

An intense investigation has been launched into the coordinated bomb blasts that went off in eight locations in Narathiwat's Sungai Kolok district, killing one person and injuring nine others. Pol Col Weasamea Salea, chief of Sungai Kolok district police, reported police have reviewed CCTV, which captured images of individuals who may have planted bombs in four of the eight locations.

- ▶ Progress has been made in the investigation into a spate of bomb explosions in Narathiwat and security measures will be beefed up to boost public safety said the Thai
- ▶ One of the locations was Pithan intersection, where a suspect was seen wearing a brown shirt and trousers parking a Yamaha motorcycle in the area. The suspect left shortly before a bomb exploded
- ▶ At the second location at the Super Centre department store on Wongpradit Road, a male suspect wearing a white vest and a cap followed a woman with a headscarf into the store. The suspect was

seen on CCTV trying to place a bomb on one of the shelves but he was interrupted by shoppers. The suspect managed to place the bomb on his second attempt

- ▶ The last location where police were able to collect a clear image of a suspect was at a spot on the main road that runs through the municipality. A suspect carrying a backpack with a bomb inside was seen dropping the bag before walking away quickly.
- ▶ Police said surveillance cameras also recorded two men on a motorcycle planting a bomb on the stairs of Prayoon Panich Company, but this image was not as clear as the others
- ▶ Temporary checkpoints have been set up, and vehicles heading to the food festival will be checked

Bangkok Post (14 May 2014)



08 MYANMAR MONITOR 

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

▶ For the first time in its 17 years as a member of ASEAN, Myanmar held its first ASEAN Summit over the weekend 10-11 May in Naypyidaw. Discussions during the summit were dominated by escalating maritime tensions in the South China Sea and ASEAN Foreign Ministers issued a joint statement expressing their serious concern over the issue.

[Myanmar Times \(12 May 2014\)](#)

▶ European Union foreign ministers agreed on 12 May to hold regular discussions with Myanmar on human rights issues and to help bring the country in line with international standards. The agreement lists 21 benchmarks for Myanmar to meet, including the adoption of international human rights treaties; the abolition of death penalty; the release of political prisoners; improvements to the rule of law; and efforts to tackle discrimination.

[Bangkok Post \(12 May 2014\)](#)

▶ Vietnam and Myanmar agreed during the ASEAN Summit on 10-11 May to find ways to boost economic, trade and investment cooperation. The two countries have agreed to discuss specific measures to facilitate Vietnamese business investment in Myanmar, including the licensing of Vietnamese banks.

[Vietnam Briefing \(14 May 2014\)](#)

POLITICS

▶ Several opposition parties in Myanmar have complained about the new rules proposed by Myanmar's Election Commission (EC), saying they will limit their opportunities to campaign during the 2015 elections. Under the new rules, candidates will need the ECs approval before holding campaign rallies and giving speeches in public areas.

[The Irrawaddy \(15 May 2014\)](#)

ECONOMY

▶ The Central Bank of Myanmar is expected to submit a new monetary policy later this month during Parliament's next session, including a section on the entrance of foreign banks. The Bank has already announced that foreign banks would be permitted to offer limited financial services this year. The Central Bank is also working on lending rules, keeping a lid on rising inflation, and how mobile banking will work in the country.

[The Irrawaddy \(15 May 2014\)](#)

▶ The first Yangon Business Support Services Fair, an event which will link small business owners with service providers to discuss business problems, will take place on 24 May. The event is organised by Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association (MYEA), in partnership with the Ministry of Industry's SME Center and GIZ, a German government-owned aid agency.

[The Irrawaddy \(15 May 2014\)](#)

09 GARMENT WORKER ADVOCATES CONDEMN RISE IN DETENTIONS IN CAMBODIA

 CAMBODIA

Two Cambodian youths are facing 11 years in prison for throwing rocks at police during one of the country's recent clashes between security forces and workers who make clothes carried by some of the largest Western retail outlets, including major buyers like The Gap Inc., Hennes & Mauritz AB and Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

▶ The two youths have become the international focus of a rash of recent violent confrontations between angry garment industry workers and their supporters. The workers say they need to be paid higher than the current \$68 a month minimum wage and require better working conditions and benefits. The issue echoes similar problems happening 1,800 miles to the northwest of Phnom Penh in Bangladesh, which has been in the media spotlight for more than a year over its dangerous garment factories

▶ Vanny Vannan and Meas Nun, a minor who works collecting scrap metal on the streets of Phnom Penh, are scheduled to have their verdict read before a judge on May 30. Meas is developmentally disabled and Vanny was wrongfully arrested said a human right activists.

▶ "The Cambodian authorities should be prosecuting the unnecessary use of lethal force by security forces instead of trying to convict a misidentified young man and a teenage boy with a disability," Brad Abrams, Asia director of Washington D.C.-based Human Rights Watch

▶ Following several strikes, the workers have rejected the government's call to raise the minimum monthly wage to \$95, which is less than the \$160 the unions are demanding. The U.K.-based Labour Behind the Label and the Phnom Penh-based Community Legal Education Centre estimate that workers need about \$150 a month to cover the basic cost of living in Cambodia

[ibtimes.com \(13 May 2014\)](#)

10 MALAYSIA AIRLINES TAKES A TURN FOR THE WORSE

 MALAYSIA

Malaysia Airlines have reported their biggest quarterly net loss in two years of US\$138 million, as passengers shunned the company after flight MH370 disappeared earlier this year with 239 people on board.

▶ In a statement on Thursday, Malaysian Airline System Bhd (MAS) said its first-quarter net loss expanded by nearly two-thirds to US\$138 million from US\$86.2 million a year earlier; already beset by high costs and stiff competition from regional and global carriers, MAS has lost money for the last three years, the recent disappearance of MH370 on March 8 has put "additional stress" on what it already expected to be a challenging year

▶ Sales in China slumped 60 percent in March in response to the loss of MH370, with the majority of passengers being Chinese customers who have taken their business elsewhere; analysts expect the disappearance of MH370 to continue to deter some travellers from using the airlines

▶ Over the past few years, MAS has been squeezed between nimbler rivals such as AirAsia Bhd on short-haul routes, and Gulf carriers and AirAsia X in the medium and long-haul market; since last year, MAS has adopted a strategy of lowering fares to try and bolster traffic, but was hampered by a strong trade union reluctant to embrace new working practices, it has struggled to slash costs and improve productivity

[Online WSJ \(12 May 2014\)](#)

Group Financial Performance (RM Mil)		Revenue	3,601	2	3,537
	Cost	3,702	6	3,507	
	-Fuel	1,583	14	1,387	
	-Non Fuel	2,119	0	2,120	
	Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, Amortization	(101)	>-100	30	
	Net Income After Taxes	(443)	-59	(279)	
	Cash Balance	3,376	40	2,418	
	Cash from/(used in) Operating Activities	(371)	>-100	147	
	Net Gearing	2.4		4.9	

MAS Financial & Operating Highlights		Q1 2014	%	Q1 2013
	ASK (Available Seats Kilometres), Mil	15,864	19	13,357
	RPK (Revenue Passenger Kilometres), Mil	12,115	18	10,227
	Seat Factor	76.4%		76.6%
	Airline Revenue per Available Seat Kilometre (RASK), sen	20.9	-13	24.1
	Airline Cost per Available Seat Kilometre (CASK), sen	22.8	-10	25.3
	-Fuel	9.2	-2	9.4
	-Non Fuel	13.6	-14	15.9

Source: au.finance.yahoo.com

