

CARI CAPTURES



01 THAI JUNTA DECLARES MARTIAL LAW



List of Past Coups in Thailand

The Khana Ratsadon party overthrows the absolute monarchy of King Prajadhipok.

24 JUNE
1932

Phraya Phahon Phonphayusasena overthrows Phraya Manopakorn Nititada.

20 JUNE
1933

Phin Choonhavan overthrows Thawal Thamrong Navaswadhi.

7 NOV
1947

Military overthrows 1949 constitution and reverts to 1932 constitution.

29 NOV
1951

Sangad Chaloryu overthrows Seni Pramoj.

6 OCT
1976

Self-coup of Thanom Kittikachorn.

18 NOV
1971

Self-coup of Sarit Thanarat.

20 OCT
1958

Sarit Thanarat overthrows Plaek Pibulsongkram.

21 SEP
1957

Kriangsak Chomanan overthrows Tanin Kraivixien.

20 OCT
1977

Sunthorn Kongsompong overthrows Chatichai Choonhavan.

24 FEB
1991

Sonthi Boonyaratglin overthrows Thaksin Shinawatra.

19 SEP
2006

Prayuth Chan-ocha overthrows Niwatthamrong Boonsongpaisan

22 MAY
2014

Source: www.abc.net

The Thai National Peace and Order Maintaining Council (NPOMC) seized control on May the 24th, prompting Thailand's former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra to reveal plans in setting up a government in exile, directly challenging the legitimacy of the military.

- ▶ Headed by General Prayuth Chan-Ocha, Thailand's newest military government has since began by dissolving the Senate, detaining key politicians, limiting border traffic, and shutting down the media; on the list of the detained include Yingluck Shinawatra, alongside 150 intellectuals, activists and MPs
- ▶ Meanwhile, the newly empowered Junta has publicly informed King Bhumibol Aduljadej of the most recent coup, hoping that the King's endorsement would alleviate social unrest; historically speaking, none of the political coups which have failed to receive the King's backing have succeeded in holding onto power in the past
- ▶ The recent military coup has sparked negative repercussions in terms of foreign policy, causing the US to cancel its planned military exercises, and testing ASEAN's commitment to solidarity and non-interference

02 INDONESIA, PHILIPPINES REACH PACT ON SEA BORDER



The Philippines and Indonesia came to an agreement on ways to handle their overlapping maritime boundary claims, said the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs.

- ▶ The two nations agreement comes in the course of renewed tensions over disputed areas in the South China Sea that includes the latest occurrence involving Vietnam and China over an oil rig that a Chinese state- run energy company placed in waters both countries claim
- ▶ The overlap takes place in Indonesia's and the Philippines' so called exclusive economic zones, defined by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as extending up to 200 nautical miles from a country's coast. Surrounding countries have special rights in these zones over the use of marine resources
- ▶ The Philippines' foreign affairs undersecretary for policy, Evan Garcia said the agreement is an example of reasonable efforts to build a stable and peaceful regional community and that their interests are in accordance with international law. He added, the deal will help advance their common interest of managing and preserving the resources in the exclusive economic zones for the benefit of the people

[The Wall Street Journal \(19 May 2014\)](#)

04 SINGAPORE'S GDP EXCEEDS ESTIMATE AS MODEST GROWTH SEEN: ECONOMY



Singapore's economy will experience "modest" expansion this year as a tight labor market constrains some industries amid improving global demand, the government said after growth exceeded initial estimates last quarter.

- ▶ Singapore maintained its 2014 growth and export forecasts even though manufacturing gains helped GDP rise an annualised 2.3% in the three months through March from previous quarter
- ▶ The island nation is approaching the midpoint of a 10- year economic transition strategy to reduce its dependence on cheap overseas workers while attracting new industries including research and development
- ▶ "The tighter labour market should place a cap on the manufacturing sector," said Daniel Wilson, an economist at Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. in Singapore. "At the margin, the gain from an externally led services rebound is still less than the gain that would accrue from an unconstrained manufacturing sector"

[Bloomberg \(20 May 2014\)](#)

03 INDONESIA COALITION INCITES MARKET BUMP



The announcement that Jusuf Kalla was potentially to be the running mate of Joko Widodo helped to bring the rupiah up by 0.6% to reach a one month high; however, the rupiah ultimately fell by 0.1% as uncertainties about the political race became apparent.

- ▶ Mika Martumpal, a currency

strategist with Bank CIMB Niaga, explained the rupiah's fall by saying "the fact that Pak Prabowo now has support from more political parties than Pak Jokowi poses a degree of uncertainty to the market"

▶ The Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) coalition has established its official campaign team, which will be led by PDI-P secretary-

general Tjahjo Kumolo; according to the list of campaign team members, published by the coalition, PDI-P chair Megawati Soekarnoputri, NasDem Party chairman Surya Paloh, National Awakening Party (PKB) chairman Muhaimin Iskandar and Hanura Party chair Wiranto will be members of the team's advisory board

▶ Indonesia's newest coalition will meet every running requirement, achieving a total of 37% of seats in the House of Representatives and 40% of the national vote, fulfilling the 2008 election laws requiring that potential candidates hold 20% of seats in the house or 25% of the national vote

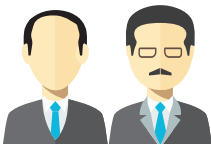
[theJakartaPost.com \(20 May 2014\)](#)

INDONESIA'S JULY ELECTIONS SURVEY



Jokowi

Received education from Gadjah Mada University, School of Forestry and was the Governor of Jakarta. Age 53 | Islam | Javanese

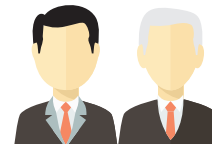


Kalla

Received education from Hasanuddin University, School of Economics, and was the Chairman of Indonesian Red Cross. Age 72 | Islam | Bugis

Prabowo

Received education from American School in London, UK (High School) and was Chief of the Army's Strategic Reserves. Age 53 | Islam | Javanese



Hatta

Received education from Hasanuddin University, School of Economics, and was the Chairman of Indonesian Red Cross. Age 72 | Islam | Bugis

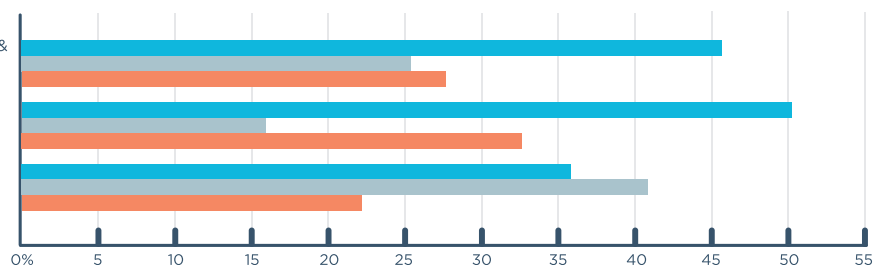
Jokowi-Kalla Coalition

Undecided

Prabowo-Hatta Coalition



Saiful Mujani Research & Consulting (SMRC)
April 20th - 24th
 Indonesian Political Indicator
April 20th - 26th
 Indonesian Survey Circle (LSI)
May 1st - 9th



Source: The Nation



05 AUSTRALIAN-CAMBODIAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AGREEMENT CONFIRMED

 CAMBODIA  ASEAN  AUSTRALIA

Following recent tensions circling the Australian-Indonesian refugee debacle, Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen has confirmed an agreement with Australia to re-settle rejected refugees from Australia in Cambodia.

- ▶ Said agreement has managed to incite the ire of various human rights and refugee advocates, even though details of the agreement have not been made public; whilst Cambodia has insisted that refugees not be sent against their will, refugee advocates predict many refugees slated for Cambodia on the tiny Pacific island of Nauru will refuse to resettle in Cambodia, opting to hold out in the hope there is a policy change and they will eventually be able to get to Australia
- ▶ Australia is expected to give Cambodia tens of millions of dollars for accepting the refugees who will be expected to assimilate into a society where 40% of the population still live below the poverty line, whilst China has also endorsed the deal with a US\$1 billion aid package
- ▶ Of 68 asylum seekers or refugees already living in Cambodia most are desperate to be relocated to another country according to welfare groups; this is as refugees are reputed to not have been able to receive work permits, open bank accounts, or send money overseas

smh.com.au (20 May 2014)

AUSTRALIA'S NEW ASYLUM SEEKER PLAN



2) Re-settled in Cambodia

Australian-Cambodian Refugee Resettlement Agreement

1) Asylum Seekers from Indonesia

Refugees in need of settlement
747,000
70,000 places offered in Australia

Costs Australia
A\$2 Billion
Annually

Humanitarian Concerns
Psychological effects of refugees relocated in a remote location away from public scrutiny.

Source: racismnoway.com.au

06 CHINESE SHIPS EVACUATE 3,500 FROM VIETNAM

 VIETNAM

In Vietnam, more than 3,500 Chinese citizens were evacuated by sea as anti-Chinese protests escalated.

- ▶ A total of 3,553 Chinese nationals boarded three passenger ships leaving the central Vietnamese port of Vung Ang and headed to the southern Chinese port city of Haikou, China's official news agency Xinhua reported
- ▶ Xinhua added, several major Chinese travel agencies have suspended their Vietnam tours
- ▶ During the protests, two Chinese nationals were killed and around 140 injured when enraged mobs torched factories. On top of that, hundreds of foreign-owned businesses in Vietnam were damaged
- ▶ Authorities have deployed hundreds of security personnel to control the violence and the number of suspected perpetrators being prosecuted surpasses 300
- ▶ "This will definitely have a big impact on the country's image, which so far had been seen as foreign-investor friendly... these actions went way beyond what is acceptable in terms of basic law and order," said a foreign diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity

The Straits Times (20 May 2014)

07 PLANE CRASH IN LAOS KILLS COUNTRY'S DEFENSE MINISTER

 LAOS

An Air Force plane carrying senior Lao government officials crashed in remote region of Laos. Among the fatalities is the country's defence minister.

- ▶ About 20 people were believed to be on board the plane that left Vientiane, Laos' capital that morning. On the way to an official ceremony in the north-eastern province of Xiangkhong, about 290 miles away the plane crashed said Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman Sek Wannamethee
- ▶ Laos Defence Minister Douangchay Pichit and his wife are amongst those confirmed killed, said the Thai defence ministry's permanent secretary Nipat Thonglek
- ▶ According to Lao news agency KPL, authorities were "helping to rescue the survivors," from the crashed Russian-made Antonov AN-7KTK300 in the Pek district of Xiangkhong province
- ▶ the cause of the crash was not immediately known due to the secretive nature of the Laos government, most of the information about the crash came from Thai officials.

New York Daily (17 May 2014)

08 MYANMAR MONITOR 

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

▶ Protests against Chinese companies in Vietnam have sparked up anti-China sentiment in central Myanmar, resulting in villagers seizing two employees of a Chinese-run copper mine on 18 May and released them a day later. Locals are angry about the mine's impact on the area, including the destruction of a Buddhist temple in April.

[The New York Times \(19 May 2014\)](#)

▶ US President Barack Obama renewed limited investment sanctions on Myanmar on 15 May, which prohibits US businesses and individuals from investing in the country or doing business with military, government officials and any others associated with repression of the democracy movement since the mid-1990s. Obama cited ongoing conflict and human rights abuses in ethnic minority areas and the continued role of the military in the country's political and economic activities, as reasons for the renewal of sanctions.

[Democratic voice of Burma \(16 May 2014\)](#)

POLITICS

▶ A parliamentary committee tasked with reviewing proposed changes to Myanmar's constitution has agreed to amend a key clause that would change the required support for amending the constitution to two-thirds of lawmakers instead of currently requiring more than 75 percent of lawmakers, which gives the military de facto veto power as the military is guaranteed 25 percent of parliamentary seats. The committee has submitted its recommendation to parliament for an official vote.

[Radio Free Asia \(21 May 2014\)](#)

ECONOMY

▶ The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) will restrict foreign banks from providing loans to local business at the initial stages of their operation, according to its vice governor U Set Aung. Industry leaders worry that existing banks cannot meet firms' capital requirements and say local businesses are looking forward to improved access to capital available from foreign banks.

[Myanmar Times \(18 May 2014\)](#)

▶ Plans of opening a stock exchange in Myanmar in October 2015 are stalled due to difficulty recruiting suitable staff and finding companies with potential to list on the market. The Japanese securities company Daiwa Securities Co has trained mid-career government officials since around 2011 "but the trained officials may not necessarily take jobs at the planned stock exchange," a Daiwa official said, noting that workers in Myanmar predominantly view government jobs as better than private-sector jobs, including those at the exchange.

[Bangkok Post \(22 May 2014\)](#)

09 FINANCE CHIEFS FINALISE ASEAN BLOC LAUNCH



Finance ministers from Southeast Asia gathered in Manila for the 10th Asean Finance Ministers' Investors Seminar (AFMIS) to discuss current economic issues and put the finishing touches on the framework for regional integration that begins in 2015.

- ▶ The seminar organised by the Department of Finance with support from Citi, HSBC, Morgan Stanley and Standard Chartered Bank also served as a curtain raiser for the World Economic Forum on East Asia
- ▶ "Inter- ASEAN trade is growing rapidly. In the past three years, the growth of inter- ASEAN trade has outpaced the growth of world trade. That just shows the benefits of a more connected, more harmonised ASEAN, which, as a single country, would have the third largest population and a GDP of over \$2 trillion," said Philippine Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisina
- ▶ Several issues were discussed in the seminar, amongst which, finance ministers were set to resolve double taxation concerns and withholding tax issues in the proposed AEC
- ▶ To further prepare for the ASEAN Economic Community 2015, AFMIS is expected to come up with an action plan to promote ASEAN as an attractive investment destination and to intensify policy cooperation

[Philippine Star \(21 May 2014\)](#)

10 SINGAPORE ADOPTS AGEING POPULATION SOLUTION

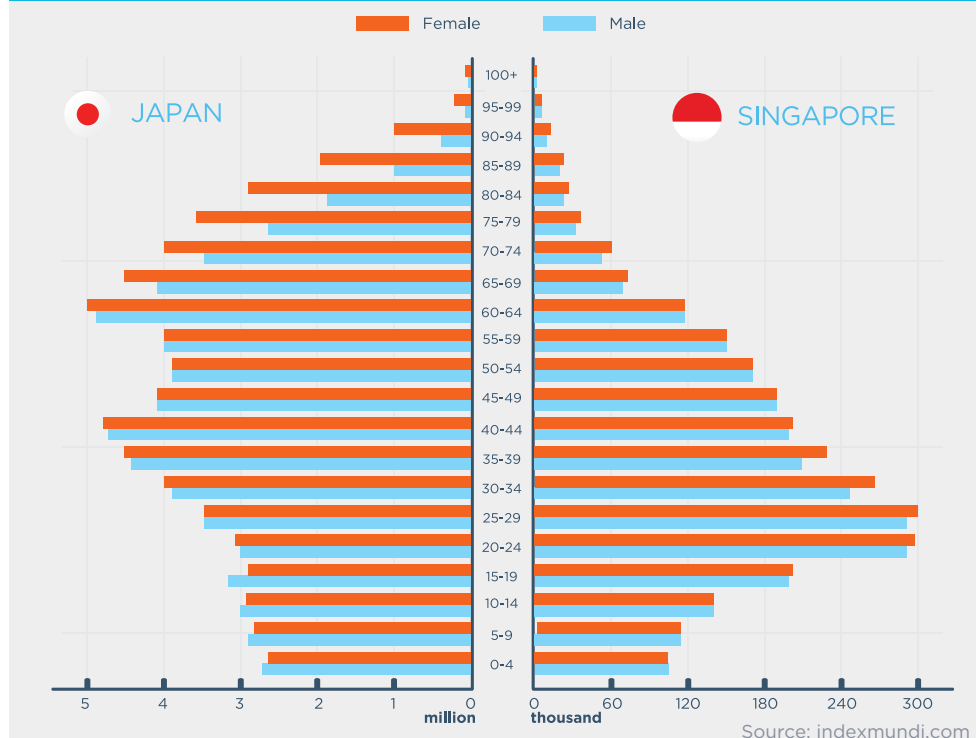


Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong recently declared that issues relating to Singapore's ageing population should be addressed as per the Japanese government's strategic policies.

- ▶ PM Lee said Singapore can learn a lot from Japan as the ageing issue is more advanced there. Japan has more experience in making arrangements for the elderly. He added, Japan can take direction from Singapore on the island's experience in managing population growth
- ▶ "I think that in terms of population overall, we have been grappling with the issues of immigration, of foreign workers and there are difficult issues there. Japan has taken the view that that is too difficult and has been very, very tight on immigration, even on foreign workers. But if you are at some point able to consider that as a politically feasible option, then maybe our experience may be interesting for you to look at," said Mr Lee

[ChannelNewsAsia \(21 May 2014\)](#)

2013 Japan vs Singapore Population Age Group



PRESIDENT AQUINO RECEIVES COURTESY CALL FROM THE ASEAN BUSINESS CLUB

• CARI ON THE GO •



President Aquino called for active interaction among business leaders; and urged both political and business captains to prioritise the betterment of the people. “Our operations function more smoothly when we are given the chance to interact and work together—to exchange best practices, and even coordinate efforts towards achieving inclusive and sustainable prosperity and progress. ... Whether we are leaders of a company or a country, is it not true that our driving force must be the betterment of people whose lives we are responsible for?” “These are the very same truths that have ignited the resurgence of our country,” Aquino said

▶ The event hosted by Ayala Corporation and Bank of the Philippine Islands, the ABC delegation coincides with the World Economic Forum East Asia Summit, which is also being held in the Philippines. The delegation was also held in conjunction with Ayala Corporation’s 180th founding anniversary. Its Chairman and CEO, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala prioritised greater investment from ASEAN in the Philippines to ensure continued progression in the lead up to the formation of ASEAN Community by 2015.

- ▶ The ABC delegates visiting the country are chief executives of Asean’s biggest businesses, from various group of industries. Led by Group Chief Executive of CIMB Group, Datuk Seri Nazir Razak, the 50-member delegation included AirAsia’s Tony Fernandes, Patrick Walujo of the Northstar Group, Chew Gek Khim of Straits Trading Company, Thura Ko of YGA Capital in Myanmar and James Riady of Lippo Group
- ▶ “We have much to contribute to support the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) to give our perspective as many of us are already operating across the region. All of us are ASEAN multinational companies. Collectively, we have some concerns about the AEC time frame as there is so much still to do in the short time to the start of AEC, on 31 Dec 2015. We as a business community are ready and willing to help,” said Nazir emphasizing on intensifying integration efforts
- ▶ As part of this event, a unique roundtable discussion was held with senior members of the Philippine public sector, focusing mainly on the trade and investment landscape within the context of Philippines and ASEAN. The lead panelists at this roundtable included Hon. Cesar V. Purisima, Secretary of Finance, Hon. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade & Industry and Bangko Sentral Governor, Amando Tetangco Jr.

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