

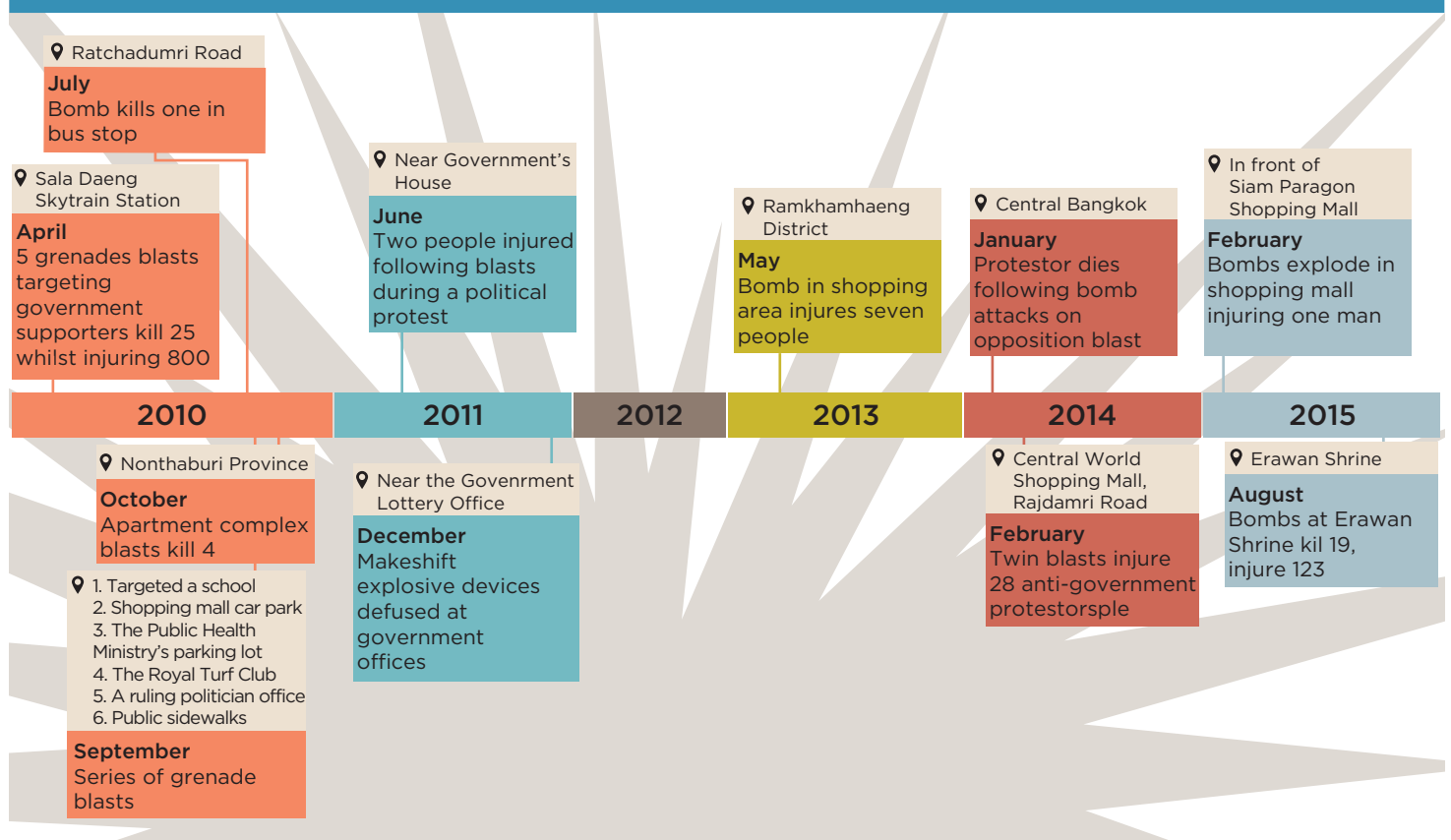
CARI CAPTURES



01 BANGKOK BLASTS KILL 19



Timeline of Past Bombings



[Straits Times](#)

A bombing at the Erawan Shrine in Bangkok on the 17 August killed 19 whilst injuring 123, marking the largest terrorist bombings in Thailand's capital.

- ▶ According to Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwon, the bombers targeted foreigners in a bid to damage tourism and the economy; this seems to be evidenced by the targeted tourist attraction which resulted in the deaths of two confirmed foreigners
- ▶ Bangkok police have stated that 3kg of TNT had been stuffed in a pipe inside the shrine and that an electronic circuit suspected to have been used in the attack was found 30 metres from the scene

▶ Whilst in the past, national political turmoil has prompted some low, level bomb attacks by rival factions, nothing on this scale has occurred; there also seem to be few, if any, links between Thai militants and groups like the so-called Islamic State

[BBC News \(17 August 2015\)](#)

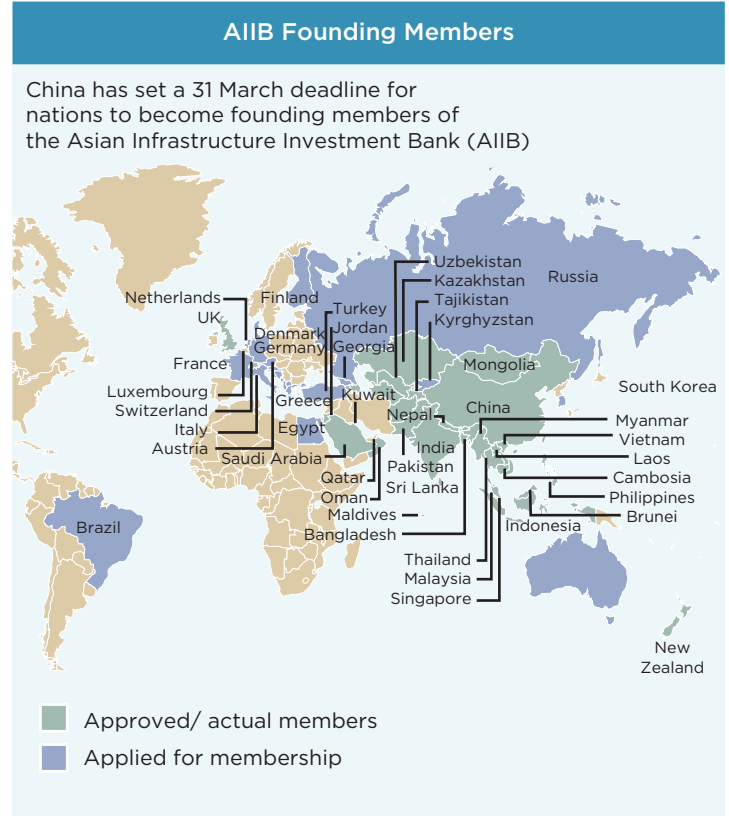
02 SINGAPOREAN PARLIAMENT LEGITIMISES AIIB MEMBERSHIP



Singapore's parliament passed legislation approving the nation state's involvement as a founding member of China's Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

- ▶ By passing the bill, Singapore is set to contribute US\$250 million towards the bank, whilst gaining 0.48% of the total voting share within the AIIB; the nation's contributions will also allow local businesses to participate in the bank's transport, water, logistics, and urban development projects
- ▶ US\$50 million of Singapore's US\$250 million contribution is to be paid in five equal annual instalments; the remaining 80% of Singapore's pledged contribution will not be called upon until extraordinary circumstances are decided to be in effect by the bank
- ▶ A total of 50 countries have signed the Bank's Articles of Agreement, including countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations which have joined as prospective founding members; other members include major economies from Asia, the Middle East and Europe

[Channel News Asia \(17 August 2015\)](#)



[Ministry of Finance, China](#)

03 MALAYSIA, BRUNEI REACH AGREEMENT ON OVERLAPPING BLOCKS



Malaysia and Brunei agree on the way to implement an agreement on oil and gas exploration in the overlapping area offshore Blocks CA1 and CA2.

- ▶ The agreement was a follow up to the Exchange of Letters, signed by both countries in 2009 to resolve the issue of overlapping area in the two blocks as the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and the Sultan of Brunei Hassanal Bolkiah decided on the interpretation of its content during the 19th Malaysia-Brunei Annual Leaders' Consultation at Istana Nurul Iman on 11 August
- ▶ Malaysian national oil company Petroliam Nasional Berhad (PETRONAS) and Petroleum BRUNEI entered into a Production Sharing Agreement for Blocks CA1 and CA2 in 2010

[Rigzone \(12 August 2015\)](#)

04 VIETNAM AND LAOS POLICE SEIZE RECORD DRUG VOLUME



The Viet Nam Department of Drug Prevention and Control and soldiers in this northern province, along with their Lao partners, have smashed a drug-smuggling ring operating across the Viet Nam-Laos border.

- ▶ The drug bust was facilitated by the efforts of the department's partners from the Laos Ministry of Security and the bordering Houaphanh Province authority
- ▶ Besides the Ecstasy pills, the police also seized 200g of heroin and cash sums of US\$30,000 and 13 million Lao Kips
- ▶ The arrest, including the seizure of the largest volume of Ecstasy discovered to date, was hailed as a success by the two countries' anti-narcotics police forces, who said they were expanding their investigation into the ring
- ▶ Vietnamese police have handed over the smugglers and all the relevant documents to the Laos authorities for prosecution

[Vietnam News \(13 August 2015\)](#)



05 INDONESIA CELEBRATES 70TH INDEPENDENCE DAY NATION-WIDE



The people of the Republic of Indonesia celebrate the country's 70th anniversary of its independence on 17 August. President Jokowi has instructed national and provincial leaders to hold ceremonies and encouraged other activities to keep the celebratory mood all around.

- ▶ In other parts of Jakarta, cabinet ministers will hold flag raising ceremony in their offices. Governor Basuki 'Ahok' Tjahaja Purnama, city mayors and lower-level administrators will hold same ceremonies at their respective offices
- ▶ The celebration is also taking in many other forms in all other provinces in Indonesia

[Global Indonesia Voices \(17 August 2015\)](#)

06 Indonesian Plane Crash: Debris Spotted in Mountains



Indonesian searchers found the located debris from an airliner that crashed in a mountainous area with 54 people on board.

- ▶ The ATR42-300 turboprop aircraft operated by Trigana Air Service was carrying 44 adult passengers, five children and five crew members when it went missing during a short domestic flight Sunday. All of those on board were Indonesian
- ▶ The flight lost contact with air traffic control in Papua on Sunday afternoon, the search and rescue agency said on Twitter. It had left Sentani Airport in Jayapura at 2:22 p.m. and was scheduled to land in Oksibil at about 3:16 p.m
- ▶ However, the plane was lost contact at about 2:55 p.m

[CNN \(17 August 2015\)](#)

07 CLMV PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUND IN DEVELOPMENT



A total of 213 companies have set up offices and factories within Lao's Specific Economic Zones (SEZs) in anticipation of the region's upcoming economic integration.

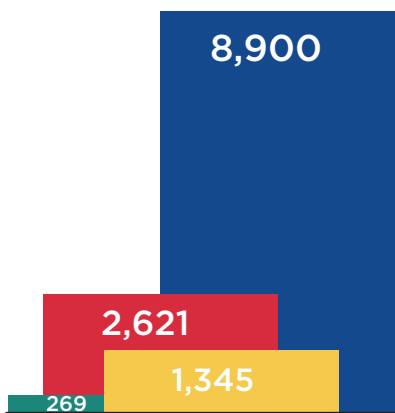
- ▶ The fund will be aimed at aiding Indian businesses in developing opportunities within the CLMV region through a variety of activities including feasibility studies, acquiring land, getting clearances and permits
- ▶ According to a report drafted by Ram Upendra Das, who works with Delhi Based think tank RIS, the most important way to capitalise upon the CLMV's economic space would be to set up manufacturing units within the region; this in turn will also aid in generating exports to China

- ▶ A potential of US\$100 billion in additional exports could be used to address the trade deficit between India and China through such investments within the CLMV region; furthermore, a focus on agro-processing, oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, wood and timber, light engineering, garments, automobiles, education, IT, small & medium enterprises, tourism and skill development will aid in advancing synergies within the region

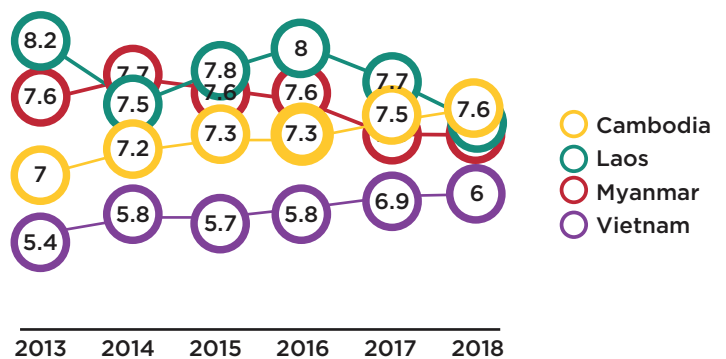
[The Hindu Business Line \(16 August 2015\)](#)

Market Growth

Total Foreign Direct Investment (USD Million) For Year 2013



Estimated GDP Growth Rate (%)



[Gulf News Philippines \(18 August 2015\)](#)



08 MYANMAR MONITOR



POLITICS

- ▶ Myanmar has banned political parties from criticising the army or the military-dominated constitution in state media during campaigning for the 8 November elections. Parties standing in the elections will be allowed to broadcast 15-minute speeches in state television and radio, and publish them in state owned newspapers, but the addresses will be vetted by the Union Election Commission and the Ministry of Information and could be rejected if they are found to violate the rules.

[South China Morning Post \(30 August 2015\)](#)

- ▶ Myanmar's government has approved the country's first-ever national minimum wage, state media reported on 29 August, after months of negotiations with labour groups and employers. The wage has been set at 3,600 kyat (US\$2.80) for a standard eight-hour work day and takes effect from 1 September. The minimum wage applies to workers across all sectors and industries but small businesses employing less than 15 people will be excluded.

[Business Insider \(29 August 2015\)](#)

- ▶ As peace negotiators continue to insist that a nationwide ceasefire is within reach, clashes reportedly broke out again last week in Shan and Kachin states ahead of a planned meeting between a handful of ethnic armed groups, President Thein Sein and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

[The Irrawaddy \(28 August 2015\)](#)

- ▶ At least 41 members of the National League for Democracy (NLD), have been expelled over the last month, officials confirmed, revealing discord among the party's leadership. Several of those dismissed cited reasons including "causing dissent" within the party.

[The Irrawaddy \(27 August 2015\)](#)

ECONOMY

- ▶ The economic opening of Myanmar has been a let-down for some investors—especially Americans. Many have already pulled out after opportunities failed to materialize. Holloman Corp., a Houston oil & gas services firm, shut its country office this year after it took longer than expected for the government to open more natural gas to foreign players. Holloman also worried about local safety standards, said Ryan Manicom, a head of business development for the company.

[Wall Street Journal \(28 August 2015\)](#)

- ▶ The government's ambitious plan to build a new airport to serve Yangon has been set back yet again, with the completion of the project now not expected until the year 2022. The delay is down to problems with funding, according to an official from the Department of Civil Aviation.

[The Irrawaddy \(29 August 2015\)](#)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- ▶ A ground-breaking ceremony was held on 30 August for the second Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge that will play a key role in the East-West Economic Corridor traversing continental Southeast Asia. The bridge is expected to cost the Thai government US\$17.8 million and to be completed in 2017.

[Bangkok Post \(30 August 2015\)](#)

09 MALAYSIA AND AUSTRALIA HONOUR WW2 FALLEN



AUSTRALIA



MALAYSIA

Both nations jointly commemorated the sacrifices wrought by combatants in the 70th memorial service of WW2.

- ▶ Specifically, the memorial service honoured the 2,500 Australian and British Prisoners of War (POWs) who were forced to march over 250 kilometres in Sabah; only six survived the trek from Sandakan to Ranau towards the end of the war
- ▶ According to Governor General of Australia Sir Peter Cosgrove at the Sandakan Memorial Service at the Sandakan Memorial Park, Australia is forever grateful to the support Malaysians showed to those in captivity, which extended to the provision of shelter and assistance to those managing to escape
- ▶ Sabah was represented by Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Raymond Tan Shu Kiah at the service, affirming the friendship between Australia and Malaysia which in part has been shaped by the common and bitter experience of war

[Thai News \(7 August 2015\)](#)

Sandakan Death March



[Australian War Memorial](#)

10 ASEAN EYES JOINT WORLD CUP



ASEAN

Asean is marching towards its one-community idea at the end of this year by introducing two major sports projects to encourage participation and commitment of member nations.

- ▶ AKP Mochtan, Deputy Secretary General of Asean for Community and Corporate Affairs said Asean had reached an agreement to conduct a feasibility study in its bid to jointly host the 2034 World Cup.
- ▶ Before making a formal bid, Asean would need thorough preparation for financing and selecting the hosting countries.
- ▶ The World Cup is hosted every four years and the next competition is in 2018 in Russia.

[Nation Multimedia \(16 August 2015\)](#)