

### [Laos, China to begin border inspections next year](#)

**Asia News Network, 1 October 2009**

Laos and China are expected to begin inspections along their shared border in 2010 with the goal of maintaining peace, friendship and fruitful cooperation between the two countries. The implementation of the overall project is expected to be completed by 2012, after preparations began earlier this year.

<http://www.asianewsnet.net/news.php?id=8031&sec=1>

### [US hopeful from first talks with Myanmar](#)

**Channel News Asia, 1 October 2009**

WASHINGTON: A senior US official said Wednesday he was hopeful after the highest-level talks with Myanmar in nearly a decade but warned against lifting sanctions until the military government moves on democracy.

[http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp\\_asiapacific/view/1008541/1/.html](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_asiapacific/view/1008541/1/.html)

### [Government forces arrest suspected bomber in S Philippines](#)

**Xinhua, 5 October 2009**

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines, Oct. 5 (Xinhua) -- Government forces arrested a suspected bomber in Zamboanga City on Sunday afternoon, police said on Monday. Troops from the Task Force Zamboanga under Col. Santiago Baluyot nabbed Arnel Nunez, who was caught having in his possession a live 600 mm mortar howitzer fixed with wiring.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-10/05/content\\_12183162.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-10/05/content_12183162.htm)

### [Malaysian maritime agency arrests suspected pirates](#)

**Xinhua, 5 October 2009**

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct. 5 (Xinhua) -- The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency has arrested a gang of pirates in an early-morning operation in southern Malaysia, local newspaper The Star reported on Monday. The agency intercepted a suspicious fishing boat about seven nautical miles from Tanjung Tohor, a port in southern Malaysia's Johor State, at 4 a.m. on Sunday, and detained six fishermen aboard, according to the report.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-10/05/content\\_12182773.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-10/05/content_12182773.htm)

### [Bombings kill 2, wound 42 in Thai south](#)

**Reuters, 6 October 2009**

YALA, Thailand, Oct 6 (Reuters) - Three bomb attacks by suspected separatist rebels killed two people and injured at least 42 in Thailand's restive Muslim south on Tuesday, police said. Gunmen on a motorcycle fired bullets and threw a home-made bomb at a group of people in a packed restaurant around noon in Narathiwat, killing a civilian and a policeman and wounding 12 others.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/BKK546901.htm>

### [Thai 'Yellow Shirts' founder elected party leader](#)

**Channel News Asia, 6 October 2009**

BANGKOK: The founder of Thailand's "Yellow Shirt" protesters, an arch-rival of fugitive ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra, was Tuesday voted leader of the

movement's new political party, the group said. Sondhi Limthongkul, who led a blockade of Bangkok's airports last year to drive Thaksin's allies from government, was elected unopposed to lead the New Politics Party at its first general meeting, the group announced.

[http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp\\_asiapacific/view/1009617/1/.html](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_asiapacific/view/1009617/1/.html)

### [Malaysia's Anwar offers insights on dealing with Muslim world](#)

**Channel News Asia, 7 October 2009**

WASHINGTON: Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim offered some insights on Tuesday for the United States on dealing with the Muslim world: highlight successes, fund education, and do not fear openly debating radicals. But Anwar said that Muslim nations must also initiate reforms in response to US President Barack Obama's landmark June 4 speech in Cairo extending a hand to the Islamic world.

[http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp\\_asiapacific/view/1009761/1/.html](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_asiapacific/view/1009761/1/.html)

### [Security Act to be imposed during Asean Summit](#)

**Asia News Network, 7 October 2009**

The Cabinet on Tuesday (October 6) approved the use of Internal Security Act during the upcoming East Asian Summit in Cha-am and Hua Hin from October 12-27. The tough measure is aimed at preventing a repeat of last April's events when anti-government mobs stormed the Pattaya summit, forcing several world leaders to flee by boat and helicopters.

<http://www.asianewsnet.net/news.php?id=8095&sec=1>

### [Hun Sen questions summonses](#)

**The Straits Times, 8 October 2009**

PHNOM PENH - CAMBODIA'S premier on Thursday questioned why a UN-backed Khmer Rouge war crimes court had summoned six top government and legislative officials as witnesses, describing the move as 'strange'. In a move opposed by Cambodia's administration, French investigating judge Marcel Lemonde has called the officials to testify in the court's second case against Khmer Rouge leaders for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

[http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/SE%2BAsia/Story/STIStory\\_439745.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/SE%2BAsia/Story/STIStory_439745.html)

### [Another new party, another rally in Thailand](#)

**Asia News Network, 8 October 2009**

The right-wing pressure group People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) Wednesday (October 7) flexed its muscles with a rally in the capital - a day after one of its principal ideologues was installed as the head of its new political party. Some 5,000 PAD supporters dressed mostly in black, observed religious rituals and marched to mark the first anniversary of a police crackdown on the group's protesters, in which one person was killed and several others injured.

<http://www.asianewsnet.net/news.php?sec=1&id=8118>

### [Dhaka goes for UN arbitration over maritime boundary](#)

**Daily Star, 8 October 2009**

The government has decided to submit the maritime boundary dispute to compulsory

arbitration under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to settle dispute over maritime boundary with India and Myanmar. "We have decided to go for arbitration as the issue was not resolved through bilateral discussion with the two neighbours in the last 35 years," Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said at a press briefing at the ministry today. Foreign Secretary Mohammad Mizarul Kayas today handed over copies of the notification and statement of claim to the high commissioner of India and ambassador of Myanmar at the Secretariat.

[http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest\\_news.php?nid=19781](http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=19781)

### [Six Vietnamese activists jailed](#)

**BBC News, 9 October 2009**

A court in Vietnam has sentenced six democracy activists to up to six years in prison for "spreading propaganda" against the government. The six men are the latest to be tried in a clampdown that has seen dozens investigated or arrested for alleged anti-government activities.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/8299406.stm>

### [Burmese Dissident Meets With Foreign Envoys](#)

**New York Times, 9 October 2009**

BANGKOK — Myanmar's military government allowed Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the country's beleaguered democracy movement, to hold a rare meeting with foreign diplomats on Friday as part of what appear to be early but tentative signs of a détente between the junta and Western governments.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/10/world/asia/10myanmar.html?\\_r=1&ref=asia](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/10/world/asia/10myanmar.html?_r=1&ref=asia)

### [Obama to visit Nov. 12-13](#)

**Asahi Shimbun, 9 October 2009**

WASHINGTON--U.S. President Barack Obama will visit Japan from Nov. 12 to 13, the White House announced Wednesday. Afterward, Obama will fly to Singapore to attend the Nov. 14-15 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum summit. A visit by Obama to Hiroshima or Nagasaki is not on the itinerary. Despite repeated invitations from local authorities, no postwar U.S. president has visited the cities devastated by the U.S. atomic bombings in 1945.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200910090224.html>

### [India, ASEAN talks on opening services trade begin tomorrow](#)

**The Hindu, 11 October 2009**

Negotiators from India and ASEAN bloc are meeting here on Monday to broaden their free trade agreement to include services, an area of key interest for India as the sector accounts for over half of its GDP. India signed the free trade agreement (FTA) with the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on August 13 that committed to begin breaking duty barriers from January 2010 on goods. With services contributing 55 per cent of its economy, India is quite keen on tapping the growing services market in south east-Asia.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article32236.ece>

### [Malaysian govt scores much-needed victory in special vote](#)

**Channel News Asia, 12 October 2009**

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's coalition has ended an opposition winning streak with a thumping by-election victory, but critics said it had discredited itself by fielding a popular but graft-tainted candidate. The ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition had lost seven out of eight special votes held since disastrous 2008 national elections that saw it dealt its worst results in the half-century it has governed Malaysia.

[http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp\\_asiapacific/view/1010788/1/.html](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_asiapacific/view/1010788/1/.html)

**[ETimor lawmakers attack govt](#)**

**The Straits Times, 12 October 2009**

DILI -LAWMAKERS in East Timor shouted jibes at each other on Monday in a fiery censure debate over a government decision to free an Indonesian militia leader accused of crimes against humanity. Members of the opposition Fretilin party pushed the motion against the government of Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao, accusing it of breaking the law in an August decision to release militia leader Martenus Bere.

[http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/SE%2BAsia/Story/STIStory\\_441213.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/SE%2BAsia/Story/STIStory_441213.html)

**[India may soon grant market economy status to Vietnam](#)**

**The Hindu, 12 October 2009**

The Union Cabinet is expected to take up the issue of granting market economy status to Vietnam soon, a move that will see the south east Asian nation joining the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement. "...it is under active consideration...The Cabinet is likely to take up the issue soon," an official said. Vietnam, a member of Association of South East Asian Nation (ASEAN) bloc, had not signed the free trade pact with India on August 13, in Thailand.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article32945.ece>

**[Indonesia, Timor Leste agree to set borderline to settle territory disputes](#)**

**Xinhua, 13 October 2009**

JAKARTA, Oct. 13 (Xinhua) -- Indonesia and Timor Leste are trying to workout disputes over their territory by agreeing on an exact border between the two nations, the Jakarta Globe reported here on Tuesday. "We are now in the process of finalizing border lines between Indonesia and Timor Leste," Saut Situmorang, Home Affairs Ministry spokesman said.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-10/13/content\\_12222188.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-10/13/content_12222188.htm)

**[Timor Leste's government survives no-confidence vote](#)**

**Channel News Asia, 13 October 2009**

DILI: Timor Leste's government survived a raucous no-confidence vote in parliament over its decision to free an Indonesian militia leader accused of crimes against humanity, officials said on Tuesday.

[http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp\\_asiapacific/view/1011011/1/.html](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_asiapacific/view/1011011/1/.html)

**[Cambodia to raise border spat](#)**

**The Straits Times, 14 October 2009**

PHNOM PENH - CAMBODIA'S foreign minister said on Wednesday that premier Hun Sen will raise the Thai border spat at an upcoming regional summit despite opposition from Thailand, which is hosting the meeting.

[http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/SE%2BAsia/Story/STIStory\\_442106.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/SE%2BAsia/Story/STIStory_442106.html)

### [Ex-Philippine leader Estrada to run for president again in 2010](#)

**Channel News Asia, 14 October 2009**

MANILA, Philippines - Former Philippine leader Joseph Estrada, ousted in a popular uprising in 2001 and later convicted of graft, said Wednesday he would run again for president in next year's elections. The announcement by the charismatic action movie star will excite his loyal fans, but observers said it was also likely to create constitutional controversies and dilute opposition efforts to oust the ruling coalition.

[http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp\\_asiapacific/view/1011227/1/.html](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_asiapacific/view/1011227/1/.html)

### [Lee Plans Southeast Asia Tour Next Week](#)

**Chosun Ilbo, 15 October 2009**

President Lee Myung-bak is planning a tour of Southeast Asia next week, according to the presidential office in Seoul. The President and First Lady Kim Yoon-ok are scheduled to fly to Vietnam next Tuesday where he is expected to discuss ways to strengthen Korea-Vietnam ties with his Vietnamese counterpart. The heads of the two countries will focus their attention on Korean companies' participation in Vietnam's government-led plant projects, sharing natural resources and promoting cultural exchanges.

[http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html\\_dir/2009/10/15/2009101500782.html](http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/10/15/2009101500782.html)

### [Int'l involvement too smelt in Bangabandhu killing](#)

**Daily Star, 15 October 2009**

Counsel for Bangabandhu murder convicts, Barrister Abdullah-al Mamun today told the Supreme Court (SC) that national and international conspiracy was involved in the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Bangabandhu is the Father of the Nation, and if he would be alive now, Bangladesh would have been turned into a country like Singapore or Malaysia. It cannot be imagined that anybody can enter Bangabandhu's house to kill him without wearing any mask, he said.

[http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest\\_news.php?nid=19917](http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=19917)

### [King's health worries Thai market](#)

**BBC News, 15 October 2009**

Share prices have fallen sharply in Thailand amid concern about the health of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who has been in hospital for nearly four weeks. In the latest trading session, the Stock Exchange of Thailand fell 8%, its biggest one-day drop since the height of the global financial crisis in 2008.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/8309050.stm>

### [Myanmar rejects troop mobilisation reports](#)

**Daily Star, 16 October 2009**

Myanmar government has rejected the reports of military mobilisation along its borders with Bangladesh, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement today. Myanmar Foreign Minister Nyan Win made the claim after Foreign Minister Dipu Moni met him on the sidelines of an international conference in Colombo. "No such event has taken place," a Bangladesh foreign office statement quoted him as telling Moni during the meeting on the sidelines of the 8th Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue in the Sri Lankan capital.

[http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest\\_news.php?nid=19954](http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=19954)

### [Indonesia's Yudhoyono works to form new Cabinet](#)

**Channel News Asia, 16 October 2009**

JAKARTA : Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono will begin informing potential candidates for his new Cabinet on Thursday evening. The process is expected to end on Sunday after selected candidates undergo their medical check-ups. President Yudhoyono is due to officially announce his new line-up next Wednesday - the day after he is sworn in for his second term in office.

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/southeastasia/view/1011637/1/.html>

### [China, Laos set up liaison office to fight human trafficking](#)

**People's Daily, 18 October 2009**

China and Laos have set up a liaison office for law enforcement cooperation in southwest China's Yunnan Province to crack down on the abduction and trafficking of women and children in border areas. The office, set up at the Mohan branch of Mengla County Public Security Bureau, will promote the exchange of crime information, investigation and evidence collection, suspect search and victim repatriation between the two countries, said Yuan Xiaoyin, an official with the criminal investigation department of the Public Security Ministry.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6786061.html>

### [China to continue its assistance to Cambodian infrastructure: FM](#)

**People's Daily, 18 October 2009**

China said it will continue to provide financial assistance to Cambodia to develop projects of infrastructure in the country, Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said on Saturday. "Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen met Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao for bilateral talks and China will continue to support Cambodia to push economic, social and infrastructure development," Hor Namhong told reporters at Phnom Penh International Airport after the delegation led by Prime Minister Hun Sen returned home from China.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6786060.html>

### [Thai south blast wounds 24](#)

**The Straits Times, 19 October 2009**

YALA (Thailand) - A BOMB attack on Monday on a crowded market in Thailand's troubled south wounded 24 people including three soldiers, local police said. The device, hidden in a motorcycle parked in front of the market in Yala town, went off at 7.30am (8.30am Singapore time) as customers were shopping for food.

[http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/SE%2BAsia/Story/STIStory\\_443924.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/SE%2BAsia/Story/STIStory_443924.html)

**[Thailand's anti-govt protesters won't disrupt Asean summit](#)**  
**Asia News Network, 19 October 2009**

A few thousand anti-government red-shirted supporters of the United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD) staged a rally outside Government House in Thailand's capital Bangkok on Saturday (October 17) to denounce Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva - and promise not to disrupt the upcoming Asean summit.

<http://www.asianewsnet.net/news.php?id=8272&sec=1>

**[China, Vietnam vow to deepen ties and properly handle South China Sea issue](#)**

**People's Daily, 19 October 2009**

China and Vietnam on Monday vowed to further cooperation and properly settle the South China Sea issue so as to promote the stable development of bilateral ties. The remarks were made while Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang and Vietnamese Permanent Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Sinh Hung met before attending the five-day annual China-ASEAN Expo, which starts from Tuesday.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90783/91300/6787514.html>

**[Philippine principal abducted](#)**

**The Straits Times, 20 October 2009**

ZAMBOANGA (Philippines) - SUSPECTED Muslim extremists abducted a school principal on the southern Philippine island of Jolo, scene of the recent killing of two US soldiers, a military spokesman said on Tuesday. About a dozen gunmen stopped a minibus carrying officials of the local school in Patikul town on Monday and took principal Gabriel Canizares, 36, Major Ramon David Hontiveros said.

[http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/SE%2BAsia/Story/STIStory\\_444296.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/SE%2BAsia/Story/STIStory_444296.html)

**[Indonesia leader starts new term](#)**

**BBC News, 20 October 2009**

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has been sworn in for a second five-year term as president of Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation. Mr Yudhoyono won a resounding victory at the polls in July, in part because he had clamped down on corruption.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/8315624.stm>

**[Asean appeal blocked](#)**

**The Straits Times, 21 October 2009**

SINGAPORE - MYANMAR has scuttled a plan by fellow Asean members to issue a public appeal seeking amnesty for detained pro-democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi, a

diplomatic source said Tuesday. 'They rejected it two months ago. They rejected the idea,' the South-east Asian diplomat told AFP just days before the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) leaders hold their annual summit in Thailand this weekend.

[http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/SE%2BAsia/Story/STIStory\\_444726.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/SE%2BAsia/Story/STIStory_444726.html)

**[China-Asean cooperation going wider, deeper](#)**  
**People's Daily, 21 October 2009**

Two months ahead of the establishment of the China-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) free trade area (CAFTA), the cooperation between China and the ten ASEAN countries has already shown signs of going much wider and deeper. Exchanges between China and ASEAN is expected to be expanded to more fields including finance and to be deepened in some traditional areas including agriculture, science and technology as more special conferences were held during the sixth annual trade and investment event opened Tuesday in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6790063.html>

**[Korea, Vietnam Pledge Greater Cooperation](#)**  
**Chosun Ilbo, 22 October 2009**

President Lee Myung-bak and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Minh Triet on Wednesday agreed to study the feasibility of a bilateral free trade agreement. Meeting in Hanoi, the two leaders also agreed to expand cooperation in economy, trade, development, science and technology, including doubling bilateral trade from US\$10 billion in 2008 to \$20 billion by 2015.

[http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html\\_dir/2009/10/22/2009102200294.html](http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/10/22/2009102200294.html)

**[Chinese premier arrives in Thailand for ASEAN summits with partners](#)**  
**People's Daily, 23 October 2009**

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao arrived in Hua Hin, Thailand on Friday evening to attend the summit meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) with its partners. The meetings, scheduled for this weekend, are expected to promote regional integration and strengthen cooperation.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6792629.html>

**[India looks east amidst changing Asian equations](#)**  
**The Hindu, 23 October 2009**

Amidst renewed debate on the future structure of cooperation in East Asia, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh arrived at this beach resort on the Gulf of Siam Friday for back to back regional summits carrying one big message: the evolving Asian economic community should be based on "an open and inclusive regional architecture". But in a part of the world where China has risen, India is rising, Japan has declined and the United States is looking to reprise its Cold War role as a leading 'Asian' power, everything hinges on the question: how open should open be? As of now, there is little clarity on the matter.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/national/article37747.ece>

**[Yangon unhappy over Dhaka's bid for UN arbitration](#)**

**Daily Star, 23 October 2009**

Myanmar is disappointed as Bangladesh decided to take the maritime boundary delimitation issue to arbitration at the United Nations. As India and Myanmar have started developing their offshore resources, Bangladesh government opted for UN arbitration. "When Bangladesh has decided to take the issue of delimitation of maritime boundary to arbitration at the UN, we were a little (bit) disappointed," Myanmar Ambassador in Dhaka Phae Thann Oo told UNB in an interview.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=111084>

**[Chinese, ASEAN leaders meet to boost regional cooperation](#)**

**People's Daily, 24 October 2009**

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states started a regular meeting here Saturday in a bid to boost regional cooperation amid the global financial crisis and to promote common development. Wen arrived at the central Thai seaside resort Friday evening for a series of meeting related to ASEAN, which groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6792749.html>

**[Brahmaputra dam, Arunachal, visas on table, Singh meets Wen today](#)**

**Indian Express, 24 October 2009**

The most anticipated meeting of the ASEAN and East Asia Summit will take place at the Thai beach resort town of Hua Hin tomorrow. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will meet with Chinese premier Wen Jiabao at 9 am India time — 10.30 am in Thailand — at the club room of the luxurious Dusit Thani Hua Hin Hotel. Immediately afterward, at 11.30 am, Singh is scheduled to meet with Yukio Hatoyama, the Prime Minister of Japan. He will be accompanied by Secretary (East) N Ravi and Joint Secretary (East Asia division) Vijay Gokhle — who handles the China-Japan desk in the Ministry of External Affairs and speaks fluent Mandarin — at the talks with Wen and Hatoyama.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/brahmaputra-dam-arunachal-visas-on-table-singh-meets-wen-today/532651/>

**[Vietnam-Sri Lanka trade to reach US\\$100m by 2012](#)**

**Daily News, 24 October 2009**

Vietnam and Sri Lanka have agreed to promote cooperation in economy, trade and investment to raise a two-way trade path which is at US\$ 65 million to US\$100 million by 2012. President Mahinda Rajapaksa congratulated the Vietnamese leadership and its people for the impressive economic development achieved during the past two decades. Being present in Vietnam with a delegation of several ministers and a business group from Sri Lanka, the President noted that the business group

would be keen to interact with the Vietnamese business circle to forge a bilateral partnership for the betterment of trade and economy of both nations.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/10/24/news02.asp>

**[China expects Myanmar to safeguard peace, stability on border: Wen](#)**  
**People's Daily, 25 October 2009**

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said on Saturday that he believed Myanmar could properly handle problems and safeguard peace and stability in the China-Myanmar border region. "To develop good-neighborly China-Myanmar relations with mutually beneficial cooperation conforms with the fundamental interests of the two countries and will be conducive to regional peace and stability," Wen told his Myanmar counterpart Thein Sein on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summits.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6792909.html>

**[China proposes strengthening ASEAN Plus Three cooperation to combat global financial crisis](#)**  
**People's Daily, 25 October 2009**

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Saturday proposed strengthening cooperation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China, Japan and South Korea to combat the global financial crisis. "Tackling the global financial crisis should remain the top priority for countries in the region at present," Wen said at the 12th summit between ASEAN and China, Japan and South Korea (ASEAN Plus Three) at the Thai beach resort of Hua Hin.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6792904.html>

**[China, ASEAN pin hope on Free Trade Area with new opportunities](#)**  
**People's Daily, 25 October 2009**

China and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) are looking forward to great opportunities brought about by the Free Trade Area (FTA) to be established on Jan. 1 next year, as both sides have witnessed closer trade and investment ties. The 6th China-ASEAN Expo, a key platform to promote mutual exchanges and cooperation, closed with fruitful results here Saturday in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6792899.html>

**[No Asia without us, India reminds Asean, Japan](#)**  
**The Hindu, 25 October 2009**

Seeking to up the level of engagement with Asean, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday proposed the establishment of a joint task force that could ensure a "substantive outcome" for India's 10th summit with the South-east Asian grouping in

2012 and also offered to play host to the bilateral gathering that year. In a further reminder of the centrality of India to the emerging institutional arrangements in Asia, he also urged Japan's new Prime Minister, Yukio Hatayama, whom he met on the sidelines of the Asean summit, to use the existing East Asia Summit platform — which includes India — as the building block for his proposed East Asian Community.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/article38277.ece>

#### [M'sia, NZ sign FTA](#)

**The Straits Times, 26 October 2009**

KUALA LUMPUR - MALAYSIA and New Zealand signed a free trade deal on Monday after four years of negotiations, in an agreement Malaysia hopes will see it become a gateway to investment in Southeast Asia.

[http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/SE%2BAsia/Story/STIStory\\_446834.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/SE%2BAsia/Story/STIStory_446834.html)

#### [China, Japan, S. Korea to mull FTA](#)

**People's Daily, 26 October 2009**

China, Japan and South Korea agreed Sunday to begin joint research by academic, government and private-sector representatives on the possibility of forging a trilateral free-trade agreement. The accord was struck by the economic and trade ministers of the three countries in a meeting on the sidelines of the series of summits involving the three countries and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean). A tripartite working-level meeting will study ways on how to proceed with the joint research early next year.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6793394.html>

#### [Three summits aim for better Asian relationship](#)

**JoongAng Daily, 26 October 2009**

HUA HIN, Thailand - South Korea cemented ties with Asian neighbors over two days of regional summits here, promising to better represent the region's interests in the international community and pushing for a pan-Asian trade bloc. President Lee Myung-bak attended the East Asia Summit yesterday and the Korea-Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit and the Asean Plus Three summit on Saturday. "It is first time that Lee attended the Asean Plus Three and the East Asia summits," said Kim Eun-hye, Lee's spokeswoman. "The president is expanding Korea's diplomatic horizon to the member countries of Asean to promote his New Asia Initiative."

<http://joongangdaily.joins.com/article/view.asp?aid=2911733>

#### [Pakistan, Turkey agree to upgrade strategic ties](#)

**The News, 26 October 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Turkey on Sunday decided to upgrade their comprehensive strategic partnership and intensify political, economic and trade cooperation, besides renewing their commitment to jointly counter terrorism. "Our discussions were marked by unanimity of views on all issues of mutual interests and concerns and we reiterated our unwavering resolve to defeat this menace that continues to claim innocent lives," said Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, while addressing a joint press conference with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the Prime Minister House here on Sunday after holding talks for almost 90 minutes, which included one-on-one meeting for 30 minutes.

[http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top\\_story\\_detail.asp?id=25195](http://thenews.jang.com.pk/top_story_detail.asp?id=25195)

[Philippine defense secretary says MILF rebels kidnap priest](#)

**Xinhua, 28 October 2009**

MANILA, Oct.28 (Xinhua) -- Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. said Wednesday that rogue Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels are holding Irish priest Michael Sinnott who was seized from his house in Pagadian City last Oct. 11.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-10/28/content\\_12348124.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-10/28/content_12348124.htm)