بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Singapore Officially Takes Over ASEAN Chairmanship 2027 from the Philippines

The Philippines officially handed over the chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2027 to Singapore during the closing ceremony of the 49th ASEAN Summit in Pasay City. The handover of the leadership gavel was conducted by Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr to Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong.

Marcos expressed his confidence that as one of the founding countries, Singapore will lead ASEAN entering its 60th year with a clear, stable, and open vision. This handover also marks the end of the Philippines' leadership in 2026, which carries the theme "Navigating Our Future, Together" with a focus on maritime security, combating transnational crime, the digital economy, energy resilience, and progress in the Code of Ethics negotiations in the South China Sea.

In his speech, Lawrence Wong emphasized that Singapore will steer this regional bloc towards deeper integration and broader partnerships. These efforts include strengthening connectivity in the financial, digital technology, and energy sectors, while maintaining ASEAN's openness to continue building bridges of cooperation with global partners amid an increasingly polarized global situation.

International Court Finds Myanmar Guilty of Rohingya Genocide

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague issued a historic ruling declaring Myanmar guilty of genocide against the Rohingya Muslim ethnic minority. The 9–6 verdict, read by ICJ President Yuji Iwasawa, marked the first time a country was declared responsible for genocide by the UN high court.

The ICJ concluded that Myanmar security forces acted with "genocidal intent" during the brutal military operation in 2017 in northern Rakhine state. The operation killed at least 10,000 Rohingya people, accompanied by widespread sexual violence and extreme violence against children, forcing more than 730,000 people to flee to Bangladesh.

The court rejected Myanmar's defense, arguing that the actions were a response to the ARSA armed group attacks. Myanmar was also found to have violated its obligation to prevent genocide by allowing armed civilians to participate in the military campaign.

In response to these actions, Myanmar is required to provide reparations and restitution to the victims. These recovery steps include facilitating the safe and voluntary return of refugees, replacing damaged collective property, searching for missing victims, as well as physical and psychological rehabilitation for survivors. This ruling was welcomed by Gambia as the plaintiff, the UK, and various human rights organizations urging that real accountability be immediately enforced.

Myanmar Leader Min Aung Hlaing Reconsiders Relations with ASEAN

Myanmar's military-backed leader, Min Aung Hlaing, stated that his administration is reconsidering relations with ASEAN following pressure and exclusion from the regional bloc. Nevertheless, he emphasized that bilateral discussions with each member country will continue.

This disappointment surfaced after ASEAN leaders at the Manila Summit reaffirmed a gradual approach (*calibrated engagement*). ASEAN will only consider restoring full political representation for Myanmar if the country shows real progress in implementing the Five-Point Consensus agreed upon since the 2021 military coup.

Min Aung Hlaing considers ASEAN to be unfair by only putting pressure on Myanmar. Since taking office as president in April 2026 through an election that drew widespread criticism, he has made efforts to rebuild diplomatic engagement by visiting several member countries such as Thailand, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

Türkiye Denies Malaysia's Claims Regarding Resettlement of Rohingya Refugees

The Turkish government denies Malaysia's claims regarding the plan to resettle 10,000 Rohingya refugees from Malaysia to Turkish territory. Through the presidential disinformation counterpart department on the X platform, Türkiye asserts that the statement is "baseless" and urges the public not to believe false information.

Previously, Kuala Lumpur announced that thousands of refugees would be relocated to Türkiye through a structured skills training program to address refugee issues in a coordinated and humane manner. However, the announcement post was later removed from Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi's Facebook page without an official explanation.

This controversy has emerged amid increasing pressure felt by Malaysia due to the presence of refugees from Myanmar, which is considered both a financial burden and a security risk. According to data from the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR), there are around 193,000 registered refugees from Myanmar in Malaysia, with two-thirds of them being of Rohingya ethnicity. Meanwhile, since January, Malaysia has recorded the repatriation of around 10,000 Myanmar nationals to their home countries.