

PHILIPPINES SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: October 29, 2026 - November 05, 2026

This report was produced using open-source intelligence analysis. The assessment is grounded in publicly available reporting and should be cross-referenced with primary sources. RSS feed articles are listed in the annex for reference.

Executive Summary

The Philippines experienced a dynamic security landscape from October 29 to November 05, 2026, marked by heightened diplomatic exchanges with China over the South China Sea, significant advancements in defense cooperation with the United States and Japan, and a series of notable cybersecurity incidents. Diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalating maritime tensions with Beijing were pursued, even as China accused Manila of obstructing its participation in regional defense talks. Concurrently, the Philippines secured increased US defense funding and a commitment for a Japanese warship transfer, bolstering its military modernization efforts. Cybersecurity threats emerged as a critical concern, with major data breaches affecting government agencies and a prominent cryptocurrency exchange. Counter-insurgency operations continued to yield results against communist rebel groups, while international scrutiny on their support networks intensified.

Key Security Developments

- Defense Acquisitions and Arms Deals

The Philippines received commitments for increased defense modernization program funding from the United States and the fast-tracked transfer of a decommissioned warship from Japan on October 29, 2026. US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth announced an increase in security cooperation funds to accelerate the Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) modernization and enhance interoperability along the "First Island Chain," a strategic arc stretching from Japan through Taiwan to the Philippines. This funding is separate from the $100 million in Foreign Military Financing appropriated for Fiscal Year 2026, and the 2026 US National Defense Authorization Act allows up to $500 million annually from 2026 to 2030, plus up to $1 billion in direct loans. Philippine and Japanese defense chiefs also confirmed their intention to deepen comprehensive cooperation, including the transfer of the first Abukuma-class destroyer to the Philippine Navy.

- Diplomatic Relations and South China Sea Tensions

On November 5, 2026, China warned the Philippines to be cautious over the South China Sea dispute, with Foreign Minister Wang Yi alleging "malicious interference" by certain Filipino politicians in their bilateral relationship. This followed a phone call on November 3 between Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, where both sides agreed to keep diplomatic

channels open and manage their differences based on mutual respect. The call came after a diplomatic dispute where China's ambassador to Manila had previously stated that Beijing could "easily win" a conflict with the Philippines, remarks that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. described as sounding like a threat.

- ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and ADMM-Plus

The Philippines concluded its chairship of the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and ADMM-Plus, handing it over to Singapore in Cebu province on October 29, 2026. During the meeting, Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. rejected "the threat or use of force" in addressing regional challenges, including those in the South China Sea. China, however, accused the Philippines of "erecting multiple obstacles" to its participation in the ADMM-Plus, claiming it only received an invitation after pressure from other Southeast Asian states. Australia's Defence Minister, Richard Marles, also used the ADMM-Plus platform to accuse China of the "biggest conventional military build-up" since World War II, creating a "condition of pressure" across Southeast Asia.

- Military Activities and Exercises

The Philippines and the United States are on track to execute more than 500 defense activities in 2026. Exercises such as Balikatan, Salaknib, and Kamandag are increasingly emphasizing coastal defense, anti-ship tactics, area denial, and air defense. Multinational cyber training at Balikatan has also expanded to protect shared critical infrastructure against sophisticated digital threats. In October 2026, the Philippine Coast Guard and Navy, along with the United States Navy, conducted a maritime cooperative activity within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

- Maritime and Border Security

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reported on November 3, 2026, that 80 Chinese vessels were monitored at various features in the West Philippine Sea in October 2026, a decrease from 101 vessels in September. Key locations included Ayungin Shoal (11 China Coast Guard, 13 PLA Navy vessels), Bajo de Masinloc (30 CCG, 11 PLAN vessels), Escoda Shoal, and Pag-asa Islands. The Philippines is also advocating for a more risk-based, data-driven, and intelligence-led approach to maritime safety, as discussed at the Marine Accident Investigators' International Forum on October 5, 2026.

- Cybersecurity Incidents and Threats

The Office of the Vice President (OVP) allegedly suffered a data leak of approximately 10 gigabytes of documents on November 5, 2026, reportedly from its scheduling platform. Separately, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) experienced a significant data breach where nearly 69 gigabytes of sensitive information, including 27 backup databases related to migrant workers, were exfiltrated around October 28, 2026. Cryptocurrency exchange Binance also

addressed a $6.34 billion hacking incident, with Filipino users currently unable to access its services due to pending regulatory and technical requirements. Cybersecurity researchers also identified "uCreator," a commercial Android spyware platform, on October 29, 2026, which targets financial apps like GCash and messaging platforms, with a primary focus on users in China and Southeast Asia.

- Counter-terrorism and Internal Security

The National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) reported on November 4, 2026, that nearly 1,500 members of the Communist Terrorist Group (CTG) were neutralized nationwide in 2026, comprising 1,227 surrenders, 48 arrests, and 79 killed in military operations. On November 5, 2026, NTF-ELCAC welcomed reported FBI scrutiny of CPP-NPA (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army) networks in the United States, following alleged FBI inquiries involving an American activist detained in the Philippines. Reports also indicated that Negros Island has allegedly become a training ground for new NPA recruits, including young people from Metro Manila and foreign nationals.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

The Philippines' recent security developments significantly impact regional stability, particularly in the context of the South China Sea dispute. The ongoing diplomatic friction with China, highlighted by Beijing's warnings and accusations of obstruction at the ADMM-Plus, underscores the persistent challenges in managing the territorial claims. Despite these tensions, the agreement to maintain diplomatic dialogue between Manila and Beijing, following a direct phone call between their foreign ministers, indicates a mutual desire to prevent further escalation, albeit with underlying disagreements remaining. This delicate balance reflects the Philippines' strategy of asserting its sovereign rights while seeking peaceful resolutions and avoiding inflammatory rhetoric.

The deepening defense cooperation with the United States and Japan is a critical component of the Philippines' strategy to bolster its security posture and contribute to a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." The increased US defense funding and the commitment for a Japanese warship transfer signal a strengthening of alliances and a collective effort to deter aggression in the region. The emphasis on interoperability through over 500 defense activities with the US in 2026, including advanced coastal defense and anti-ship tactics, demonstrates a robust commitment to enhancing collective security capabilities. This growing alignment with major powers like the US and Japan, alongside Australia's strong stance against China's military buildup at the ADMM-Plus, reinforces a multilateral approach to regional security, potentially creating a more unified front against unilateral actions in disputed waters.

The Philippines' role as ASEAN chair in 2026, culminating in the handover to Singapore, provided a platform to advocate for international law and peaceful dispute resolution. However, China's reported obstruction of its participation in the ADMM-Plus highlights the deep divisions within the regional security architecture, particularly concerning Beijing's influence and its approach to multilateral forums. The Philippines' proactive engagement in maritime security dialogues and its push for data-driven governance also underscore its commitment to upholding a rules-based international order, which is crucial for regional stability and freedom of navigation in vital waterways.

Military and Defense Analysis

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is actively pursuing a modernization program, significantly bolstered by external support. The commitment of increased US defense funding, alongside the fast-tracked transfer of a decommissioned Japanese warship, directly addresses the AFP's need for enhanced capabilities, particularly in maritime domain awareness and territorial defense. The US funding, potentially reaching up to $500 million annually in Foreign Military Financing from 2026 to 2030, is crucial for overcoming the AFP's current P50-billion modernization budget constraints. This financial injection and equipment transfer are vital for the Philippines to strengthen its presence and response capabilities in the West Philippine Sea, where Chinese vessel activities remain a persistent concern.

The focus of joint military exercises with the United States, such as Balikatan, Salaknib, and Kamandag, has strategically shifted towards coastal defense, anti-ship tactics, area denial, and air defense. This evolution reflects a clear intent to counter potential threats in the maritime domain and protect the Philippines' exclusive economic zone. The expansion of multinational cyber training within these exercises also indicates a growing recognition of the importance of cybersecurity in modern warfare and the protection of critical infrastructure. The establishment of "Task Force-Philippines" in late 2025 as a coordinating mechanism for all Philippine-US defense activities further streamlines cooperation and enhances military readiness. The planned transfer of an Abukuma-class destroyer from Japan, coupled with cooperation in vessel operations, logistics, human resource development, and information sharing, will significantly upgrade the Philippine Navy's capabilities and interoperability with key allies.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months):

In the immediate future, tensions in the South China Sea are likely to remain elevated, characterized by continued diplomatic exchanges and potential maritime encounters. While both the Philippines and China have agreed to maintain dialogue, the underlying disputes and China's assertive posture will persist. The Philippines will likely continue to leverage its alliances with the US and Japan to bolster its defense capabilities and assert its territorial claims. We can expect further announcements regarding the implementation of US defense funding and details on the Japanese warship transfer. Cybersecurity will remain a critical concern, with government agencies and private entities needing to enhance their defenses against sophisticated attacks, especially given the recent high-profile breaches. Counter-insurgency efforts against the CPP-NPA will continue, potentially with increased international cooperation following the reported FBI scrutiny of support networks.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas:

The West Philippine Sea, particularly around features like Ayungin Shoal (Second Thomas Shoal) and Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal), remains the primary flashpoint. Any further assertive actions by Chinese vessels, such as water cannon incidents or blockades, could quickly escalate tensions. The diplomatic rhetoric surrounding these areas will continue to be a sensitive indicator. Another risk area is the cyber domain, where state-sponsored or criminal groups could launch further attacks on critical infrastructure or government systems, potentially disrupting essential services or compromising national security. The ongoing counter-insurgency operations in regions like Negros Island also present a risk of localized armed clashes and human rights concerns, particularly with the alleged recruitment of new members.

Indicators to monitor:

Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and nature of Chinese vessel presence and activities in the West Philippine Sea, particularly around disputed features. Any new defense agreements, joint exercises, or significant defense acquisitions by the Philippines, especially those involving advanced military hardware, will be important. The tone and outcome of diplomatic engagements between the Philippines and China, as well as with the US and other allies, will provide insights into the geopolitical trajectory. Domestically, the success of cybersecurity reforms and the ability of government agencies to prevent future breaches will be crucial. The progress of counter-insurgency campaigns and any shifts in the operational capabilities or tactics of the CPP-NPA will also be vital to track.

Strategic recommendations:

The Philippines should continue its multi-pronged approach of strengthening alliances while maintaining diplomatic channels with China. It is recommended to expedite the modernization of the AFP, focusing on maritime domain awareness, anti-access/area

denial capabilities, and robust cybersecurity defenses. Enhancing interoperability with allies through regular and complex joint exercises is paramount. Domestically, a comprehensive review and upgrade of government cybersecurity infrastructure and protocols are urgently needed, coupled with public awareness campaigns against cyber threats. Furthermore, sustained efforts in counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency, combined with socio-economic development programs in affected regions, are essential to address the root causes of internal conflicts. The Philippines should also continue to advocate for a rules-based international order in regional and international forums, leveraging its diplomatic influence to garner broader support for its positions.

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: GMA Network

• Marcos names Rodil Zalameda as new Supreme Court chief justice (2026-11-05 05:59)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has named Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda as the new Supreme Court (SC) chief justice.

• Defense lists initial witnesses in Sara Duterte impeachment trial (2026-11-05 05:54)

The defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte has listed at least 24 initial witnesses it intends to present upon the resumption of the impeachment trial next week.

• PH to flag all shipments from Laos after P1.36-B shabu seizure -- DILG (2026-11-05 05:05)

The Philippines will flag all shipments originating from Laos following the seizure of some P1.36 billion worth of shabu at a Manila port, Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla said Thursday.

• Thomas Markle's son now a person of interest in child sex abuse probe, Jonvic Remulla says (2026-11-05 04:51)

Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla said Thursday that authorities are looking into the possible involvement of Thomas Markle Jr. in alleged child sexual abuse activities linked to his father, Thomas Markle Sr.

• Jonvic Remulla denies claims Martin Romualdez sneaking out of QC jail (2026-11-05 04:06)

Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Thursday denied allegations that Leyte Representative and former House Speaker Martin Romualdez had been sneaking out of Quezon City Jail.

• Mon Tulfo admits mistake in Romualdez report: 'I was fed the wrong report' (2026-11-05 03:17)

Columnist Ramon Tulfo apologized on Thursday for reporting that Leyte Representative and

former House Speaker Martin Romualdez had snuck out of prison, saying he was given the wrong information.

• BJMP: Romualdez has 'personal staff' while in detention; lawmaker never left jail (2026-11-05 02:58)

A personal staff of former Speaker and Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez is staying with the lawmaker in his cell in the New Quezon City jail, the jail warden of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) on Thursday.

• DOF endorses $20-M UAE grant for Pasig River rehab to OP (2026-11-05 02:50)

The Department of Finance (DOF) said Thursday it endorsed a proposed $20-million, or approximately P1.2 billion, grant from the government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the Office of the President (OP) for the rehabilitation of the Pasig River.

• PH holds nationwide earthquake drill for Q4 2026 (2026-11-05 01:34)

The Philippines on Thursday conducted its Fourth Quarter Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED) featuring a magnitude 8.5 earthquake and tsunami scenario.

• Law professor Dean Ralph Sarmiento declines to testify in Sara Duterte impeachment trial (2026-11-04 23:52)

Law professor Dean Ralph Sarmiento has declined to testify as a witness for Vice President Sara Duterte's defense team in her impeachment trial.

• Sara Duterte's defense team lists law professor as its first witness (2026-11-04 17:06)

The defense team for Vice President Sara Duterte has listed law professor Dean Ralph Sarmiento as its first witness in the unexplained wealth charges against her.

• ICC prosecutors cite Kian, Parojinog killings in bid to challenge police self-defense claims (2026-11-04 16:48)

International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutors are seeking to introduce additional testimony citing several high-profile killings to challenge Philippine National Police (PNP) claims that officers acted in self-defense during former President Rodrigo Duterte"s drug war

• Menarco CEO Carmen Jimenez-Ong: Healthy homes should not be a luxury (2026-11-04 15:18)

In the Philippines, a housing shortage has forced many families to live in unsafe and high-risk areas.

• Vince Dizon invites Gabriel Go to join DOTr (2026-11-04 14:34)

Newly reinstated Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon said he has invited Manila Development Authority"s (MMDA) Gabriel Go to join the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

• PCSO Lotto Results: No winners of P333M Grand Lotto jackpot on Nov. 4 (2026-11-04 14:09)

No bettors took home the Grand Lotto 6/55 prize of over P333 million after no winners were announced in any of the major lotto jackpot draws on November 4, 2026, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said Wednesday.

• ICC may still hold confirmation of charges vs. Bato despite absence --counsel (2026-11-04 13:56)

The ICC could still hold its confirmation of charges against Senator Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa despite his still being on the run, a lawyer for Duterte-era drug war victims said.

• Over 100 more dead pets found dumped in San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan (2026-11-04 13:56)

More than 100 additional dead pets have been found dumped at various locations across San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

• PH Police find child abuse imagery on devices tied to Thomas Markle (2026-11-04 12:35)

Philippine police told AFP on Wednesday that three memory cards and a cell phone turned over by the son of Meghan Markle's estranged father contained child sexual abuse material.

• 79 alleged rebels killed in military ops in 2026, says NTF-ELCAC (2026-11-04 11:52)

More than 1,000 alleged communist terrorist group members have been neutralized so far in military operations this year, the NTF-ELCAC said.

• DA admits submitting wrong coordinates for 8 proposed 2027 farm-to-market roads (2026-11-04 11:38)

The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Wednesday admitted that eight farm-to-market road (FMR) projects included in its proposed 2027 budget contained incorrect coordinates due to encoding and geotagging errors.

• Very strong El Niño now present in tropical Pacific, says PAGASA (2026-11-04 10:30)

The El Niño phenomenon from the latter part of 2026 to the first half of 2027 is expected to be record-breaking in terms of heat, with temperatures across the Philippines expected to rise by 2C.

• DepEd launches unified audit program to assess school safety (2026-11-04 10:21)

The Department of Education (DepEd) is launching an audit system to assess campus safety measures following three fatal school shootings that shocked the country.

• DA to engage in bilateral talks during agri mechanization meet in Manila (2026-11-04 09:32)

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is expected to hold bilateral discussions with representatives from other countries during a global meeting of agricultural leaders and experts in Manila aimed at strengthening agricultural mechanization.

• Senate impeachment court asks SC to dismiss Go, Padilla voting threshold petition (2026-11-04 09:09)

The Senate impeachment court, through the Office of the Solicitor General, has asked the Supreme Court to dismiss a petition filed by Senators Robin Padilla and Bong Go seeking to declare null the ruling on the voting threshold for Vice President Sara Duterte"s conviction.

• In new study, think tank raises several red flags over expanded oil exploration in Palawan (2026-11-04 08:54)

Palawan"s marine biodiversity and food system are at risk amid expanded oil exploration around the island, according to a new study published by non-government organization Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED).

• SC amends e-rules for child witnesses; allows video conference, recorded interviews (2026-11-04 08:47)

The Supreme Court (SC) has approved the use of video conferencing and other means of

technology to protect children if they need to recount traumatic experiences.

• Supreme Court finds Martin Romualdez's bid to halt Ombudsman's probe moot (2026-11-04 08:39)

The Supreme Court (SC) has junked the bid of former Speaker and Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez to stop the Ombudsman"s preliminary investigation against him for being moot.

• Ombudsman suspends 8 DPWH personnel amid Surigao del Norte flood control probe (2026-11-04 08:23)

The Office of the Ombudsman has issued a suspension order on eight personnel of the Department of Public Works (DPWH) in Surigao del Norte amid the ongoing Ombudsman probe on the flood control projects in the area.

• Sandiganbayan orders BJMP officials to testify on Romualdez's detention status (2026-11-04 08:02)

Sandiganbayan Third Division Clerk of Court Dennis Pulma said the order was issued amid reports that the former Speaker, who is facing plunder charges in connection with alleged kickbacks from government funds, was being allowed to leave detention at the New Quezon City jail.

• Barbers: VP Sara's defense team unlikely to overturn prosecution's evidence (2026-11-04 07:58)

The defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte is unlikely to overturn the bank records and her other declarations under oath that the prosecution presented as evidence against her during the trial, House prosecution panel spokesperson Rep. Robert Ace Barbers said Wednesday.

• Win Gatchalian pushes for law banning public officials kin from getting gov't contracts (2026-11-04 07:40)

Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian on Wednesday stressed the need to pass into law the measure seeking to prohibit relatives of public officials from entering into government contracts.

• DFA: China, PH stress need for dialogue, mutual respect (2026-11-04 06:41)

The Philippines and China have emphasized the need to maintain diplomatic dialogue and

mutual respect despite their differences, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro said on Wednesday.

- Marcos to name new chief justice this week -- Palace (2026-11-04 05:52)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is set to name the new Supreme Court (SC) chief justice this week, succeeding outgoing Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo, Malacañang said Wednesday.

- DOTr deploys buses to augment influx of LRT-2 commuters (2026-11-04 05:50)

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) on Wednesday launched a bus augmentation program to mitigate the large volume of commuters using the LRT-2.

- ERC issues show cause orders vs. 13 power firms over outages in Visayas, Mindanao (2026-11-04 05:33)

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) has issued 24 show-cause orders (SCO) against 13 power generation companies over power outages that hit the Visayas and Mindanao.

- Tito Sotto seeks clear rules on prolonged unauthorized absences of senators (2026-11-04 04:09)

Senate President Pro Tempore Vicente “Tito” Sotto III has filed a resolution seeking to institutionalize guidelines addressing the prolonged unauthorized absence of members of the Senate.

- Shabu worth P1.36B from Laos seized at Manila port -- PDEA (2026-11-04 04:09)

Authorities seized some 200 kilograms of shabu worth P1.36 billion from a shipment originating from Laos at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) in North Harbor, Manila on Wednesday.

- PNP vows Bato dela Rosa ties won't affect manhunt (2026-11-04 01:30)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Wednesday said that personal relationships and former positions would not influence its efforts to arrest Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa.

- PhilSA engineers finish rocket training for 2027 demonstration launch (2026-11-04 01:09)

Ten engineers from the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) have completed hands-on rocket training in South Korea ahead of the country's planned demonstration launch in early 2027.

• 250 complaints filed vs. Bacoor pet crematorium, says mayor (2026-11-03 17:04)

At least 250 pet owners have filed complaints against Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium before the Bacoor City Police Station in connection with alleged irregularities in its handling of deceased pets, authorities said.

• QC aligns heat-related class suspension rules with DepEd, Marcos EO (2026-11-03 16:11)

The Quezon City government is aligning its heat-related class suspension guidelines with a Department of Education (DepEd) directive and an executive order signed by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., allowing schools to independently suspend in-person classes during bad weather and under hazardous conditions.

• ICC prosecutors cite 'fabricated' PNP drug war accounts in testimony bid (2026-11-03 15:33)

International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutors ask Trial Chamber III to admit another set of prior recorded testimonies of witnesses against former President Rodrigo Duterte - this time, those who provide proof of the alleged pattern of crimes during his administration"s drug war.

• PCSO Lotto Results: No winners of P478-M Ultra Lotto jackpot on Tuesday, Nov. 3 (2026-11-03 14:08)

There were no winners of the P478 million Ultra Lotto 6/58 jackpot drawn by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

• Kingfisher School of Business and Finance graduate tops October 2026 CPA licensure exam (2026-11-03 10:52)

A graduate of Kingfisher School of Business and Finance has been named the topnotcher of the October 2026 Certified Public Accountants (CPA) Licensure Examination, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) announced.

• Sherwin Gatchalian: Senate to cut P8.836B in unsupported infra projects (2026-11-03 10:14)

Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian on Tuesday said the Senate would remove infrastructure projects worth P8.836 billion from the proposed 2027 national budget because of missing documentation from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

• SC announces suspension of court operations on Wednesday, November 4, 2026 (2026-11-03 10:00)

The Supreme Court announced that operations in some courts in the country are suspended on Wednesday, November 4, 2026 due to power interruption and local holidays.

• Sara Duterte defense challenges prosecution evidence in impeachment trial (2026-11-03 09:19)

Vice President Sara Duterte"s defense panel has questioned the admissibility of evidence presented by the prosecution in her impeachment trial, arguing that the documents were neither cited in the Articles of Impeachment nor attached to the original complaints.

• Objection of VP Sara's lawyers vs offer of evidence not based on truth - Ridon (2026-11-03 08:36)

The objection made by Vice President Sara Duterte"s defense team on the House Prosecution"s offer of evidence in relation to her impeachment trial is not based on the truth, said House prosecution team member Representative Terry Ridon on Tuesday.

• No date yet on Pax Silica legal framework signing, says BCDA chief (2026-11-03 08:08)

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) said Tuesday there is is no specific date yet when the legal framework for the planned Pax Silica initiative will be signed, originally targeted this November --the same month that US President Donald Trump is in the Philippines for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit.

• 80 Chinese vessels spotted in WPS in October -- AFP (2026-11-03 07:50)

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Tuesday said a total of 80 Chinese vessels were monitored at a number of key features in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) in October 2026.

• DepEd, Anak TV to launch nationwide educational media summit (2026-11-03 07:43)

The Department of Education (DepEd) and Anak TV have partnered to launch a joint media summit for media literacy, digital safety and youth empowerment.

• DA, civil society groups find coordinate discrepancies in 8 of 1,669 proposed 2027 FMR projects (2026-11-03 07:37)

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has tightened its review of project documents, including

those for farm-to-market roads (FMRs), to prevent errors in project information.

• 'Walang pasok' powers amid site-specific conditions given to schools by Marcos EO (2026-11-03 07:20)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has signed an executive order (EO) that gives schools an authority to independently declare onsite class suspensions during bad weather or hazardous conditions. Under EO No. 130, schools can impose granular suspension even when there is no suspension declared by national or local government.

• St. Luke's Medical Center probing data security incident on mobile app (2026-11-03 06:27)

Private healthcare provider St. Luke's Medical Center has said it is investigating a "data security incident" that it detected on its mobile application.

• PNP: No shoot-to-kill order vs Bato dela Rosa (2026-11-03 06:26)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Tuesday denied reports that it had issued a shoot-to-kill order against Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa.

• DOLE OKs minimum wage hike in Western Visayas, SOCCSKSARGEN (2026-11-03 06:21)

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has approved a minimum wage hike in Western Visayas and SOCCSKSARGEN, which will be implemented in November.

• Bato dela Rosa viral photo at cemetery was taken 3 years ago -- PNP (2026-11-03 06:08)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Tuesday clarified that a photo circulating on social media supposedly showing Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa at a cemetery in Digos City was taken three years ago.

• Budget watchdogs urged to report 'red flags' to Palace (2026-11-03 06:01)

Palace Press Officer Undersecretary Claire Castro on Tuesday urged civil society organizations (CSOs) to report “red flags” in the proposed 2027 national budget to Malacañang to help President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. review it before signing.

• DepEd secures 172,000 MacBooks, Apple's 'biggest education deal' for laptops (2026-11-03 05:41)

The Department of Education (DepEd) has secured over 172,000 units of Apple's MacBook Neo

laptops for Filipino teachers and staff, a landmark procurement which the global tech giant reportedly acknowledged as its "biggest education deal ever" for its MacBook line.

• Palace confident China's statement would not affect ASEAN meeting in November (2026-11-03 05:23)

Malacañang expressed confidence Tuesday that China's recent statement would not affect the attendance of leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at the upcoming summit in the Philippines in November.

• JV Ejercito: Nov. 3 budget meeting to tackle bicam schedule, not realignment (2026-11-03 04:29)

The Nov. 3 meeting on the proposed 2027 national budget will focus on coordination and scheduling rather than the alleged realignment of funds, Senate finance committee chairperson JV Ejercito said Tuesday.

• Ombudsman files charges vs 6 DPWH personnel over alleged P491.9-M right-of-way 'scam' (2026-11-03 04:20)

The Office of the Ombudsman has filed graft and malversation charges against six Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) officials at the Sandiganbayan over their alleged involvement in a P491.9 million “Road Right of Way Scam.”

• PDP-Laban submits letter urging SC to resolve Duterte, Dela Rosa petitions (2026-11-03 04:09)

Political party Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban) on Tuesday submitted its open letter to the Supreme Court urging magistrates to resolve pending petitions on the arrest warrants against former president Rodrigo Duterte and Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa in connection with their case at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

• PDP-Laban holds indignation rally outside SC for Rodrigo Duterte, Bato dela Rosa (2026-11-03 00:58)

Despite rainy weather, members and supporters of political party Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban) gathered outside the Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday morning.

• ICC prosecutors want to admit 3 pre-recorded testimonies on Duterte's 'narco-list' (2026-11-03 00:18)

PRAGUE, Czech Republic - To expedite the proceedings in Rodrigo Duterte"s case before the International Criminal Court (ICC), the Office of the Prosecutor seeks to admit three pre-recorded witness testimonies regarding the former president"s “narco list”.

• EXPLAINER: ICC Rules 68.2 and 68.3: How prior witness testimonies may be used in Duterte trial (2026-11-02 22:04)

THE HAGUE -- Rules 68.2 and 68.3 of the International Criminal Court's (ICC) Rules of Procedure and Evidence were mentioned during the fifth and final status conference in the case of former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte on Monday.

• Duterte ICC trial: Victims face language barriers, concerns over scope of charges (2026-11-02 16:54)

Drug war victims face challenges in participating meaningfully in the ICC trial, including language barriers, witness protection concerns, and questions over the scope of charges.

• PH, Indonesia seek to deepen ties under 5-year action plan (2026-11-02 16:11)

The Philippines and Indonesia reaffirmed their commitment to boost bilateral ties, including cooperation on maritime security, economic relations and border management.

• PCSO Lotto Results: Lone Megalotto 6/45 winner gets P15M in November 2 draw (2026-11-02 14:00)

A Megalotto 6/45 bettor is P15 million richer after the November 2 draw, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) announced on Monday evening.

• P459B worth of DPWH projects awarded to firms with questionable capacity --COA (2026-11-02 13:31)

The Commission on Audit (COA) has flagged 11,391 Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) projects worth P459 billion, which were awarded to contractors with questionable financial capacity.

• ICC adopts 1-hour trial blocks with 30-minute breaks for Duterte trial (2026-11-02 12:30)

The ICC Trial Chamber III has adopted a trial schedule of one-hour blocks separated by 30-minute breaks for the crimes against humanity case against former President Rodrigo Duterte.

• ICC rejects victims' request to use Tagalog in parts of opening statement in Duterte trial (2026-11-02 10:43)

The International Criminal Court (ICC) Trial Chamber III that will hear the crimes against humanity charges against former President Rodrigo Duterte has rejected the counsel for the victims' request that portions of their opening statement be delivered in Tagalog.

• BI nabs alleged JP Dragon crime syndicate leader in Cabanatuan (2026-11-02 09:36)

A Japanese fugitive, reportedly among the leaders of the transnational criminal syndicate JP Dragon, was arrested during an operation in Cabanatuan City on October 31, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) said Sunday.

• Rodrigo Duterte's final ICC status conference set ahead of November trial (2026-11-02 08:35)

The International Criminal Court (ICC) Trial Chamber III is set to hold its fifth and final status conference on Monday for the case against former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, ahead of the start of his trial proper on November 30, 2026.

• PNP: Over 40.7M visitors recorded in cemeteries nationwide so far for Undas 2026 (2026-11-02 06:28)

An estimated 40.7 million people visited cemeteries, memorial parks, and columbaria nationwide from October 30 to November 2 amid the observance of Undas 2026, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said Monday.

• MNLF denies protecting Bato dela Rosa (2026-11-02 06:16)

The Moro National Liberation Front denied speculations that it is coddling embattled Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, who is believed to be under the protection of an “armed and powerful group.”

• US envoy reaffirms PH alliance 'stronger than ever' after ASEAN defense meet (2026-11-02 05:16)

United States Ambassador to the Philippines Lee Lipton on Monday reaffirmed Washington"s commitment to Philippine security, describing it as “ironclad” and the two countries" alliance as “stronger than ever.”

• End of Sara Duterte impeachment trial 'possible' in November, says prosecution (2026-11-02 05:02)

The impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte could wrap up by the end of November if the defense presents its evidence within 10 full trial days, House lead prosecutor and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said.

• PH Red Cross attends to over 8,700 patients during Undas 2026 (2026-11-02 04:48)

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) on Monday said it has attended to 8,721 patients nationwide since October 29 amid the observance of Undas 2026.

• PNP conducts operation vs Bantag at Ifugao poultry farm (2026-11-02 03:29)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday said an operation was conducted to arrest former Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) chief Gerald Bantag at a poultry farm in Barangay Pugol, Lamut, Ifugao on Sunday. However, Bantag was not found at the location during the operation.

• Bicam talks on 2027 budget to be opened to CSOs -- JV Ejercito (2026-11-02 02:31)

Senate finance committee chairperson JV Ejercito has committed to inviting civil society organizations (CSOs) to observe the bicameral conference committee deliberations on the proposed P7.2-trillion national budget for fiscal year 2027.

• Nearly 1.2 million passengers monitored at ports so far amid Undas 2026 --PCG (2026-11-02 00:03)

The Philippine Coast Guard has monitored nearly 1.2 million passengers at ports nationwide as of Monday morning, November 2, amid the influx of travelers during the Undas 2026 long weekend.

• LIVE UPDATES: Undas 2026 (Nov. 2, 2026) (2026-11-01 22:41)

Filipinos observe All Souls' Day on November 2, Monday, by going to cemeteries to remember their departed relatives. Here are the latest news and updates.

• Animal welfare group seeks nationwide probe into pet crematorium services (2026-11-01 16:04)

Animal welfare advocates have urged government agencies and organizations to investigate the operations of pet cremation services across the country.

• Some cemeteries flooded during Undas 2026 (2026-11-01 15:51)

Some cemeteries in Bulacan and Pampanga failed to escape the brunt of flooding, as parts of their grounds remain submerged during Undas this year.

• No winners of major lotto games as Ultra Lotto jackpot hits P468.9 million (2026-11-01 15:02)

There were no winners of either of the major lotto games played by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office on Sunday, November 1, 2026, with one jackpot now nearly P470 million.

• NFA: One-ton bag use cuts palay handling time from 1 hour to just 15 minutes (2026-11-01 07:39)

The National Food Authority's (NFA) pilot test on the use of one-ton flexible bags has showed significant results, slashing the handling time of palay (unhusked rice) from an hour to only 15 minutes.

• Lacson: Majority bloc backs purging 'pork' in 2027 budget (2026-11-01 07:18)

The majority bloc is supporting efforts to remove questionable allocations from the proposed 2027 budget and ensure transparency in the budget-making process, Senator Panfilo Lacson said Sunday.

• Is spiritual warfare real? Exorcist explains (2026-11-01 06:26)

There is a battle that no one can see because it takes place in the spiritual realm, a priest said on Sunday.

• VP Sara Duterte visits memorial for Super Typhoon Yolanda victims (2026-11-01 05:17)

Vice President Sara Duterte paid respects to the victims of Super Typhoon Yolanda, which hit Tacloban City in 2013, a few days before All Saints' Day.

• Marcos visits dad, sends flowers to Cory, Noynoy on Undas (2026-11-01 04:13)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. visited the tomb of his late father and namesake as the country observes the annual Undas in remembrance of departed loved ones.

• No P20/per kilo rice for sale on All Souls' Day, November 2 (2026-11-01 03:48)

There will be no sale of the government's P20 per kilo rice on Monday, November 2 in observance of the All Souls' Day.

• Light traffic seen on NLEX, SLEX; almost 70K passengers at PITX on morning of Nov. 1 (2026-11-01 03:05)

Light traffic was seen on the North Luzon Expressway and the South Luzon Expressway on Sunday morning, November 1, as Filipinos visited the tombs of their departed loved ones in cemeteries on All Saints' Day (Undas).

• CHR urges child-centered emergency response, preparedness amid National Children's Month (2026-11-01 01:59)

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) on Sunday urged government and stakeholders to ensure that disaster preparedness and response measures are inclusive, accessible, and responsive to the needs of children.

• How to observe Undas in an eco-friendly way (2026-11-01 01:17)

As the public visits cemeteries for this year"s Undas, an environmental watchdog made an appeal to minimize waste and protect the environment while doing so.

• Filipinos flock early to cemeteries on All Saints' Day (2026-11-01 00:22)

Many Filipinos all over the country went early to visit departed loved ones in cemeteries on Sunday morning, November 1.

• Marcos on Undas 2026: Extend devotion for the departed to helping one another (2026-10-31 23:54)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Sunday called on the public to extend the same devotion they show in remembering their late loved ones to the way they treat other people.

• Rubio says Quad leaders meeting in Manila to be announced soon (2026-10-31 22:55)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Saturday that a Quad leaders meeting in Manila, Philippines, will "hopefully" be announced very soon.

• LIVE UPDATES: Undas 2026 (Nov. 1, 2026) (2026-10-31 22:29)

Filipinos traditionally visit the tombs of their departed loved ones on November 1, All Saints' Day (Undas). Here are the latest news and features on the observance of Undas today, Sunday, November 1, 2026.

- PCSO Lotto Results: Lotto 6/42 bettor wins P10-M jackpot (2026-10-31 14:44)

A Lotto 6/42 bettor from Quezon province clinched the P10-million jackpot in Saturday night's draw, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said.

- Undas 2026: Flooding hits Iloilo cemetery; flower prices surge in Cotabato (2026-10-31 11:44)

A day before All Saints" Day, Filipinos have begun visiting cemeteries across the country to pay their respects to departed loved ones, with some areas reporting flooding and higher flower prices ahead of the Undas observance.

- PH, Germany sign climate resilience agreement (2026-10-31 10:46)

The Philippines and Germany have signed an agreement for a project that focused on bolstering cooperation for climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and low-carbon development.

- Quiboloy counsel says Cendaña went beyond 'permitted commentary' (2026-10-31 08:34)

The counsel of detained preacher Apollo Quiboloy thumbed down Akbayan party-list Representative Percival "Perci" Cendaña's free speech defense against the libel and cyber libel complaint that the religious leader filed against the lawmaker.

- Undas 2026: PCG logs over 60K outbound, 54K inbound travelers on Saturday morning (2026-10-31 06:53)

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) reported 60,411 outbound passengers and 54,291 inbound passengers across all ports nationwide on Saturday morning ahead of All Saint's Day 2026.

- VP Sara, Velasco camps deny allegations of alias Chris (2026-10-31 05:59)

The camps of Vice President Sara Duterte and former House speaker Lord Allan Velasco have separately denied new allegations of cash deliveries.

- DA: Nearly 1M Filipinos benefited from P20/kg rice in Sept. 2026 (2026-10-31 05:46)

The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Saturday said almost 1 million Filipinos benefited from the Marcos administration's rice-for-all initiative last September.

• NTC lauds mobile networks' readiness for Undas 2026 (2026-10-31 04:40)

The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) on Saturday lauded readiness of the country's three major mobile network operators (MNOs) --DITO Telecommunity Corporation, Globe Telecoms Inc, and Smart Communications Inc.-- to provide reliable services during Undas 2026.

• Nearly 9,000 visitors flock to Manila North Cemetery on Saturday morning for Undas 2026 (2026-10-31 04:39)

Almost 9,000 people have already visited the Manila North Cemetery as of 10 a.m. on Saturday for Undas 2026, the Philippine National Police said.

• PDP LABAN urges SC to swiftly resolve Duterte, Bato cases (2026-10-31 04:03)

Partido Demokratiko Pilipino Lakas ng Bayan (PDP LABAN) on Saturday issued an open letter to the Supreme Court of the Philippines, urging the high tribunal to immediately resolve the cases involving former President Rodrigo Duterte and Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa.

• LOOK: Flowers laid for public personalities in Manila North Cemetery for Undas 2026 (2026-10-31 02:28)

The Manila City government has laid flowers for several popular personalities, including former presidents of the Philippines, at the Manila North Cemetery for Undas 2026.

• LIVE UPDATES: Undas 2026 (Oct. 31, 2026) (2026-10-30 22:36)

Here are the latest news and features as Filipinos prepare on Saturday, October 31, 2026, for the observance of All Saints' Day on November 1.

• Truth Commission: Probe doctors who signed drug war death certificates (2026-10-30 18:27)

The Truth Commission wants five doctors who signed drug war death certificates investigated after alleged inconsistencies -- some bodies with gunshot wounds were deemed to have died from natural illnesses.

• Rodrigo Duterte won't attend fifth ICC status conference ahead of trial (2026-10-30 17:25)

Former President Rodrigo Duterte will not attend the fifth status conference before the start of his crimes against humanity trial at the International Criminal Court (ICC) on November 30.

• EXPLAINER: What happens when Rodrigo Duterte's ICC trial opens on Nov. 30? (2026-10-30 17:19)

The International Criminal Court"s (ICC) trial of former President Rodrigo Duterte for crimes against humanity will open on November 30, with judges first asking him whether he admits guilt or pleads not guilty.

• PITX: Bicol-bound bus trips continue despite Mayon eruption (2026-10-30 16:51)

Despite Mayon Volcano's eruption on Friday morning, bus trips bound for Bicol from the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) remain uninterrupted.

• Akbayan's Cendaña invokes free speech in seeking dismissal of Quiboloy libel complaint (2026-10-30 15:07)

Akbayan party-list Representative Percy Cendaña on Friday asked the Pasig Office of the City Prosecutor to dismiss the libel and cyber libel complaint filed against him by detained religious leader Apollo Quiboloy.

• Who counts as a victim in Rodrigo Duterte trial? ICC Registry asks Trial Chamber's guidance (2026-10-30 15:05)

The Victims Participation and Reparation Section (VPRS) of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Registry is asking Trial Chamber III for guidance on reassessing the applications of drug war victims, following the approved scope of the case against former President Rodrigo Duterte.

• Over 436K passengers pass through NAIA ahead of Undas weekend (2026-10-30 14:11)

More than 436,000 passengers have passed through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport from Oct. 27 to Oct. 29 ahead of the long weekend for Undas, or the Philippines' observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day on Sunday and Monday.

• Fewer households biking in 2026 --SWS (2026-10-30 13:53)

The Social Weather Stations (SWS) found that the number of households that used bicycles has declined to 26% in 2026.

• Ombudsman suspends Bulacan DPWH engineers over P188M flood control projects (2026-10-30 13:35)

The Office of the Ombudsman has ordered the preventive suspension of five engineers of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Bulacan First District Engineering Office for six months.

• MIAA vows turnover of CCTV to NNIC in November after Dizon rebuke (2026-10-30 09:32)

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) on Friday promised to complete the turnover of the CCTV surveillance system to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's (NAIA) private management by November 2026.

• Undas 2026: Latest News, Traffic Updates, Guides, and Everything You Need to Know (2026-10-30 09:20)

Undas is the Filipino term for the observance of All Saints" Day on November 1 and All Souls" Day on November 2, when families remember and honor deceased loved ones.

• UNDAS 2026: When no one bids the dead goodbye (2026-10-30 09:06)

Historically, cultures all around the world have different ceremonies to commemorate their dead. These days, people typically bury their loved ones or cremate them, giving them final respects. But what happens when someone dies and there is no one left to claim their body, let alone bid them goodbye?

• Marcos to new Bangsamoro MPs: Serve with humility, good governance (2026-10-30 09:06)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Friday called on the newly elected members of the Bangsamoro parliament to serve the people with humility and honor those who fought for peace through good governance.

• Ombudsman suspends 2 QC brgy. execs over P22.28M unsettled disallowances, ghost projects (2026-10-30 08:12)

The Office of the Ombudsman has slapped a six-month preventive suspension against Quezon City Quirino 3B (Claro) Punong Barangay Ronald Tagle and Barangay Treasurer Richelle Ann Santillan over alleged unsettled audit disallowances and non-existent projects.

• PH Army division calls out AI image falsely showing troops' support for Bato dela Rosa (2026-10-30 07:43)

The Philippine Army's 10th Infantry Division (10ID) on Friday warned the public against an AI-generated image circulating on social media that falsely portrays its troops expressing support for Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa.

- NAPOLCOM probes Samar cop who allegedly kicked pregnant partner, causing miscarriage (2026-10-30 06:40)

The National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) on Friday said it is investigating allegations of physical abuse against a police officer after his former live-in partner filed a complaint.

- Dizon fumes at airport officials for not handing CCTV control to NNIC (2026-10-30 06:14)

Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon on Friday scolded Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) officials for failing to pass control over CCTV cameras to the new private management of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

- Men can also be victims of sexual violence, Supreme Court says (2026-10-30 04:55)

Men can also be victims of sexual violence, Supreme Court says

- LIVE UPDATES: Mayon Volcano eruption (Oct. 30, 2026) (2026-10-30 04:36)

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) on Friday reported a moderately explosive eruption of Mayon Volcano in Albay, prompting the raising of Alert Level 3. Here's the latest news and updates on Mayon.

- Ex-DA chief Montemayor's indictment for cyberlibel not persecution --PPI (2026-10-30 04:20)

The Planters Products Inc. (PPI) said the indictment of former Agriculture secretary Leonardo Montemayor for cyberlibel is not a persecution.

- PNP now on full alert for Undas 2026 (2026-10-30 04:06)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) has placed all its units nationwide on full alert status starting Friday as authorities prepare for expected influx of people visiting cemeteries and traveling during Undas 2026.

- LIVE UPDATES: Undas 2026 (Oct. 30, 2026) (2026-10-30 03:59)

Government agencies have intensified preparations for the expected influx of passengers traveling to their home provinces for Undas 2026. Here are the latest news and updates related to this year's Undas on Friday, October 30, 2026.

- PNP: Bato dela Rosa still in PH, manhunt intensifies (2026-10-30 03:48)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) said Friday its manhunt for Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa would be intensified following the expiration of the deadline for his voluntary surrender.

- Tiangco bares details of House-approved ₱2.2-B proposed budget for Navotas (2026-10-30 03:31)

At least P2.28 billion of infrastructure projects under the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) have been allocated to the lone district of Navotas under the House-approved P7.2 trillion proposed national budget for 2027, Navotas Rep. Tobias Tiangco said.

- Marcos assures gov't readiness for 'safe, orderly' Undas 2026 exodus (2026-10-30 03:18)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Friday said the government is making the necessary preparations to ensure the safe and orderly trip for Filipinos who will head to their respective provinces or travel elsewhere for this year"s Undas.

- PH braces for Undas 2026 rush (2026-10-30 01:44)

Government agencies have intensified preparations for the expected influx of passengers traveling to their home provinces for Undas 2026.

- PCSO Lotto Results: Lone Lotto 6/42 bettor wins over P21M jackpot on October 29, 2026 (2026-10-29 19:27)

A Lotto 6/42 bettor won more than P21 million in the draw on Thursday, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) announced.

- Foreign Affairs Secretary Lazaro conducts humanitarian mission in Myanmar (2026-10-29 14:47)

Foreign Affairs Secretary Theresa Lazaro on Thursday conducted a humanitarian mission in Myanmar and with Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe discussed expanding assistance delivered to affected and hard-to-reach areas.

• Who will be Bangsamoro's first elected Chief Minister? (2026-10-29 14:15)

Abdulraof Macacua and Ahod Balawag Ebrahim, the present and former interim chief ministers of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, have emerged as the top contenders for the post as first elected chief minister when members of the Bangsamoro parliament vote on Friday, October 30. Who will be BARMM's first elected chief minister?

• Safe access sought for PWDs in cemeteries during Undas (2026-10-29 14:05)

The National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) urged local government units (LGU) to ensure that persons with disabilities (PWD) have safe access to cemeteries during the Undas season.

• PCG probes object aboard vessel in Bajo de Masinloc (2026-10-29 14:04)

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is investigating the capabilities and purpose of unidentified equipment aboard a vessel spotted inside the lagoon of Bajo de Masinloc in the West Philippine Sea.

• Survey period didn't cover hearings on alleged unexplained wealth, says prosecutor (2026-10-29 12:56)

The House prosecution panel has no reason to be demoralized amid the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey showing that 35% of Filipinos are dissatisfied with the prosecution of the impeachment case against Vice President Sara Duterte, House prosecution panel spokesperson Zia Adiong of Lanao del Sur said Thursday.

• Southeast Asian defense ministers aim for proactive engagement amid security threats --Teodoro (2026-10-29 12:00)

Southeast Asian defense ministers have agreed to be more proactive in engaging as security threats become more unpredictable, said Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. on Thursday.

• 'More than courteous' for PH usec to meet China defense attache --Teodoro (2026-10-29 11:48)

DND Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. said it"s “more than courteous” that another department executive has welcomed China"s defense attache during the ADMM-Plus meeting in Cebu.

• Sandro's budget insertions? Palace says public funds must be utilized properly (2026-10-29 10:47)

The Palace emphasized that all of the projects to be funded by the 2027 national budget should have the proper details, saying that President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. will look at everything properly with no exception--including those linked to his son, House Majority Leader Sandro Marcos.

• SWS survey reflects Senate impeachment court's fair procedure --Tongol (2026-10-29 10:22)

The Senate impeachment court on Thursday committed to continue having a “transparent, rules-based impartiality” in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.

• Bernardo's ex-aide says he saw Jinggoy Estrada during delivery of boxes (2026-10-29 09:22)

A prosecution witness on Thursday said that he saw Senator Jinggoy Estrada when he delivered 12 boxes to him.

• UNDAS 2026: NLEX expects passenger surge on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026 (2026-10-29 09:14)

The North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) is expecting a surge in passengers starting Friday afternoon, October 30 as Filipinos go on exodus in observance of All Saints" Day and All Souls" Day this weekend.

• Bato dela Rosa's world getting smaller as authorities step up manhunt ops --Palace (2026-10-29 08:44)

Malacañang on Thursday defended anew the P50 million bounty set on Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa"s head, saying that his world has gotten smaller as authorities have stepped up efforts to arrest him.

• PNP reiterates call for Bato dela Rosa's surrender as deadline nears (2026-10-29 08:21)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Thursday reiterated its appeal for Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa to surrender as the deadline set by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) nears.

• EJK victims' families hold Mass for Undas 2026 (2026-10-29 08:16)

Families of the victims of extrajudicial killings during the Duterte administration gathered for a Mass in Quezon City on Thursday ahead of the Undas.

• DENR launches restoration program for wetlands, rivers amid El Niño (2026-10-29 07:38)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) launched a nationwide program to restore critical wetlands, rivers, and coral reefs to mitigate the impact of drought brought by the strong El Niño.

• Teodoro urges ASEAN, partner countries to uphold UNCLOS, reject use of force (2026-10-29 07:12)

Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. on Thursday called on ASEAN member states and partner countries to uphold the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and reject threat or use of force.

• JBC submits shortlist of chief justice, associate justice candidates to Marcos (2026-10-29 07:02)

The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) on Thursday submitted to President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. its shortlist of nominees for the position of Supreme Court (SC) chief justice and associate justice.

• HPG issues road safety reminders for motorists ahead of Undas 2026 (2026-10-29 06:53)

HPG issues road safety reminders for motorists ahead of Undas 2026

• Philippine island fights rising seas with nature, not concrete (2026-10-29 06:40)

For years, residents of a flood-prone Philippine island north of Manila have elevated their homes atop layer upon layer of concrete, only to see floodwaters threaten them again.

• Prices of farm goods likely to increase due to weaker peso -- DA (2026-10-29 06:22)

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said Thursday prices of farm goods are likely to increase as the Philippine peso reached a new historic low against the US dollar.

• SC orders Senate, House to comment on impeachment voting threshold petition (2026-10-29 05:15)

The Supreme Court has directed the Senate impeachment court and the House of Representatives to comment on a petition filed by Senators Robin Padilla and Bong Go seeking to declare null the ruling on the voting threshold for Vice President Sara Duterte"s conviction.

• LTO vows lawful license revocation for drunk drivers (2026-10-29 04:51)

The Land Transportation Office (LTO) on Thursday vowed proper implementation of license revocation for drivers caught driving under the influence of alcohol.

• Bernardo says Martin Romualdez did not ask him for DPWH projects, kickbacks (2026-10-29 04:38)

State witness and former Public Works undersecretary Roberto Bernardo on Thursday said that Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez did not ask him for a list of infrastructure projects in exchange of commitments or kickbacks.

• Business, advocacy groups call for removal of 'insertions' in proposed P7.2-T nat'l budget (2026-10-29 04:35)

Business and advocacy groups on Thursday called on Congress to remove alleged congressional insertions from the proposed P7.2-trillion national budget for 2027.

• Bato dela Rosa 'wanted' poster? PNP says no need for now (2026-10-29 04:20)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) has yet to issue a wanted poster for Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, saying it does not see the need to do so at this time amid ongoing efforts to locate and arrest him.

• NAPOLCOM eyes motu proprio complaint vs 3 cops over alleged media violence (2026-10-29 04:04)

The National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) is preparing to file a motu proprio administrative complaint against three police officers over alleged violence against media personnel covering a farmers" protest in Quezon City on October 19.

• Marcos: NLEX-C5 Northlink segment toll-free until year end (2026-10-29 03:28)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Thursday announced that the toll at the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) C5 Northlink Segment 8.2 Section 1A, which connects Quezon City and Valenzuela City, will be waived until the end of the year.

• Ex-BARMM MP Rimbang to appear before PDEA probe into Laos drug shipment on Nov. 5 (2026-10-29 03:26)

Former Bangsamoro parliament member Edrieza Hadji Nasser Rimbang is expected to appear

before the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) on November 5, the agency said Thursday.

- Talks to replace VP Sara Duterte amid impeachment trial 'premature' -spox (2026-10-29 01:28)

Discussions on possible replacements for Vice President Sara Duterte are premature and a distraction from serious issues surrounding the impeachment trial, her spokesperson said Thursday.

- US War Secretary Hegseth announces increased funding for AFP modernization (2026-10-29 00:03)

United States Secretary of War Pete Hegseth on Wednesday announced an increase in the US Department of War's security cooperation funds to accelerate the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Source: PhilStar Global

- Bomb threat hits Laguna university (2026-11-04 16:00)

A teacher was accused of threatening to bomb the Philippine Women’s University in Sta. Cruz, Laguna on Tuesday.

- In-fa intensifies into typhoon while outside PAR (2026-11-04 16:00)

Tropical cyclone In-fa has intensified into a typhoon while moving outside the Philippine area of responsibility, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

- 8 Philippines scops owls rescued in Baguio (2026-11-04 16:00)

Eight Philippine scops owls including four juveniles were rescued in separate areas in this city during the first half of the year.

- 2 Cavite shootout fatalities were former cops – PNP (2026-11-04 16:00)

Two of five robbery suspects killed in an alleged shootout with police officers in Bacoor, Cavite on Tuesday were former policemen, according to the Philippine National Police.

- 8 DPWH execs suspended over Surigao flood projects (2026-11-04 16:00)

The Office of the Ombudsman has suspended seven engineers and an accountant of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in connection with questionable flood control projects in Surigao del Norte. In a six-page order, the ombudsman said there is

sufficient ground to suspend the respondents without pay for six months, pending resolution ofadministrative cases filed against them.

• Campaign vs scam hubs launched (2026-11-04 16:00)

The National Capital Region Police Office has launched a campaign to dismantle scam hubs in Metro Manila by targeting not only their operators, but also the financiers, recruiters, property owners and financial networks supporting their illegal activities.

• Free rides rolled out for ASEAN Summit (2026-11-04 16:00)

The Department of Tourism will be offering free modern jeepney rides from Nov. 5 to 14 to promote the ASEAN Summit, DOT Secretary Dita Angara-Mathay announced yesterday.

• P1.36 billion shabu from Vietnam seized (2026-11-04 16:00)

Around 200 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride valued at P1.36 billion were intercepted at the Manila port, officials announced yesterday.

• Dizon wants MMDA's Go in DOTr (2026-11-04 16:00)

Department of Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon is recruiting Gabriel Go of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to lead the DOTr's road transport and infrastructure sector.

• 6 hurt as truck rams car in highland Cotabato town (2026-11-04 10:55)

A wayward truck rammed a car from behind at a stretch of a highway in the upland Makilala town in Cotabato province on Tuesday, November 3, seriously hurting its three passengers and driver, now confined to a hospital.

• Applicants for high positions in BARMM undergo extensive screening (2026-11-04 10:44)

Up to 22 applicants for high positions in the Bangsamoro government, now under a regular parliament, had been screened by a committee created early this week, a process that is entirely new to residents of the autonomous region.

• Rains seen over parts of Luzon, Visayas due to easterlies (2026-11-04 02:10)

Easterlies affect Quezon and Bicol while amihan prevails in the north.

• 6 suspects charged with murder in Batangas working student's death (2026-11-04 01:00)

The San Jose Municipal Police Station has filed a murder complaint against four identified suspects and two unidentified individuals in connection with the fatal shooting of working student Charles Rodriguez Usi in Batangas.

• 5 rob suspects killed in Cavite shootout (2026-11-03 16:00)

Five suspected members of a robbery and kidnapping group were killed in an encounter with police officers following an attempt to break into a house in Bacoor, Cavite yesterday afternoon.

• President Marcos approves promotion of PCG commandant (2026-11-03 16:00)

President Marcos has approved the promotion of Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Commandant Vice Admiral Rommel Supangan to the rank of admiral.

• Business group: No to private cars on EDSA busway (2026-11-03 16:00)

Business group Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) yesterday opposed a proposal allowing private vehicles to use the exclusive EDSA busway for two weeks.

• 2 dead in Quezon City fire (2026-11-03 16:00)

Two people died and around 200 families were left homeless after a fire razed about 100 houses in Barangay E. Rodriguez Sr. in Cubao, Quezon City on Monday night.

• No LTO leadership shakeup yet – Dizon (2026-11-03 16:00)

There is no decision yet if Land Transportation Office (LTO) chief Markus Lacalinao will be removed or reassigned to another post, Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon announced yesterday.

• US imposes travel restrictions due to Ebola virus (2026-11-03 16:00)

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has imposed additional travel requirements for US-bound travelers due to the Ebola outbreak in the Republic of the Congo, according to the Bureau of Quarantine.

• 159 foreigners rescued in parcel scam hub raid (2026-11-03 16:00)

Authorities rescued yesterday 159 foreign nationals and arrested three alleged operators of an international parcel scam hub in Pasay where fake police uniforms, handcuffs and a staged police station were used to deceive victims overseas.

• Intensify feeding programs for undernourished kids, LGUs told (2026-11-03 16:00)

Local government units (LGUs) have ben ordered to intensify supplementary feeding programs for undernourished children to prevent early childhood malnutrition, and physical and cognitive impairment.

• Soccsksargen workers get P41 in daily pay hike (2026-11-03 16:00)

Minimum wage earners in Soccsksargen will receive an increase of P41 in their daily pay after the National Wages and Productivity Commission approved their wage hike petition.

• Ex-vice mayor’s slay suspect nabbed after 16 years (2026-11-03 16:00)

After 16 years in hiding, the alleged gunman in the murder of a former vice mayor of Claveria in Masbate has been arrested in Sta. Rosa City, Laguna.

• BARMM parliament urged to prioritize El Niño impact mitigation (2026-11-03 11:13)

Two officials of a political party with eight representatives in the now duly constituted 80-member Bangsamoro parliament on Tuesday, November 3, urged regional lawmakers to focus on mitigating the effects of El Niño on communities across the autonomous region.

• Cebu Catholic school donates textbooks to Moro student (2026-11-03 10:54)

Army officials turned over 2,000 textbooks donated by the Sacred Heart School-Ateneo de Cebu in Mandaue City in Cebu, to a school in Talayan, Maguindanao del Sur, on Monday, November 2.

• Up to 43°C: Extreme heat disrupts classes in Western Visayas (2026-11-03 10:51)

More than 100 public schools in Western Visayas suspended in-person classes November 3.

• P555.75-M fine for motorcycle-taxi app not yet final, says LTFRB (2026-11-03 09:23)

The motorcycle taxi service is disputing a steep fine by transport regulator LTFRB.

• EDSA busway now open to private cars (2026-11-02 16:00)

To prevent traffic jams as students and workers return today from the provinces following the Undas break, the exclusive EDSA busway will be opened to private vehicles for two weeks, from Cubao, Quezon City to Mandaluyong.

• Desaparecidos' kin renew call for justice (2026-11-02 16:00)

Families of desaparecidos or victims of enforced disappearances renewed calls for justice and accountability on All Souls' Day, displaying photographs of their missing relatives during a gathering in Quezon City.

• Gatchalian eyes BARMM development (2026-11-02 16:00)

Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian wished the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao parliament well after its inaugural session on Friday, as he expressed hope it would lead to economic development in the BARMM.

• P17.8 billion set for 2027 public schools feeding program (2026-11-02 16:00)

The national government is set to spend P17.8 billion next year to provide nutritious meals to undernourished children in public schools and day care centers.

• PNP eyes link in Pangasinan, Cebu child exploitation cases (2026-11-02 16:00)

The Philippine National Police ordered the PNP regional intelligence units to intensify cross-jurisdictional monitoring and investigation of potential links among child exploitation cases in Pangasinan and Cebu to dismantle localized and foreign-led abuse syndicates.

• ‘Zero crime in Central Luzon during Undas’ (2026-11-02 16:00)

The Philippine National Police in Central Luzon recorded no major incident during the observance of All Saints’ and All Souls’ Days, which drew thousands of visitors to cemeteries and memorial parks.

• Fire guts 130 houses in Zamboanga (2026-11-02 16:00)

An unattended lighted candle triggered a fire that razed 130 houses made of light materials in Barangay Tugbungan here on Sunday, the Bureau of Fire Protection reported.

• Chinese fugitive nabbed for fraud (2026-11-02 16:00)

A Chinese fugitive wanted for telecommunications fraud in Beijing has been arrested in Parañaque by the Bureau of Immigration.

• BOC: Rolls Royce sold for P23 million (2026-11-02 16:00)

The Bureau of Customs has generated some P23 million from the auction of a seized luxury car, a 2021 Rolls Royce Cullinan.

• NCRPO: Millions visit Metro Manila cemeteries (2026-11-02 16:00)

With over 2.5 million Filipinos flocking to cemeteries in Metro Manila, the observance of All Saints’ Day was “generally peaceful,” according to the National Capital Region Police Office.

• Gun dealers linked to Dawlah Islamiya remnants arrested in Cotabato (2026-11-02 10:12)

Police arrested two alleged illegal gun dealers, both reportedly linked to remnants of the defunct Dawlah Islamiya, during an entrapment operation along a highway in Barangay Kayaga in Kabacan town, Cotabato on Monday, November 2.

• Business groups, MNLF to help BARMM parliament boost economy (2026-11-02 07:34)

Major business groups, peace-advocacy entities and the Moro National Liberation Front separately pledged support on Monday, November 2, for the socioeconomic objectives of the newly mandated Bangsamoro parliament, saying it is likely unlocking the region's investment potential.

• Inventory of seized, recovered vehicles ordered (2026-11-01 16:00)

The National Capital Region Police Office has ordered an inventory of all vehicles seized or recovered by the NCRPO amid reports that some of these are being used by lawmen for personal purposes.

• BOC holds export summit (2026-11-01 16:00)

The Bureau of Customs recently held its first-ever Export Summit to help exporters better understand customs procedures and navigate processes when transacting with the BOC.

• Taiwanese, Malaysian held for detaining 3 Philippine workers (2026-11-01 16:00)

Two foreign nationals have been arrested after allegedly illegally detaining three Filipino workers at a condominium in Malate, Manila where the three were made to memorize scripts for a suspected love scam and offshore gaming operations.

• Thai woman gets life for drug smuggling (2026-11-01 16:00)

A Pasay court has sentenced a Thai woman to life in prison for smuggling 13.16 kilos of cannabis worth P18.43 million in 2024.

• PNP: Undas generally peaceful (2026-11-01 16:00)

Police units should remain on heightened alert today despite the generally peaceful observance of All Saints' Day, according to the Philippine National Police.

• Over 1.4 million visit Manila cemeteries (2026-11-01 16:00)

More than 1.4 million people visited the two major cemeteries in Manila to remember their dead yesterday.

• Laguna governor's security men reduced (2026-11-01 16:00)

The number of police personnel assigned to protect and ensure the safety of Laguna Gov. Sol Aragones has been reduced, allegedly after a verbal directive from a top Philippine National Police official at Camp Crame.

• Cavite pet crematorium ordered closed (2026-11-01 16:00)

A pet crematorium was ordered closed by the Bacoor City government following the discovery of the remains of 29 pets in plastic bags dumped along a roadside in San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan.

• VP Sara visits mass grave of Ormoc flash flood victims (2026-11-01 16:00)

As the 35th anniversary of the Ormoc flash floods nears, Vice President Sara Duterte yesterday visited the city public cemetery mass grave memorial in Leyte where the victims of the 1991 tragedy were buried.

• Bantag eludes arrest anew in All Saints' Day operation (2026-11-01 16:00)

Former Bureau of Corrections chief Gerald Bantag once again eluded arrest, with a joint police operation failing to find him at a poultry farm in Barangay Pugol here yesterday.

• 6th ID troops, reservists train in emergency medical response (2026-11-01 08:41)

The training culminated in a simulation involving a Black Hawk helicopter for casualty evacuation.

• C5 flyover repairs, road crashes disrupt Undas traffic (2026-11-01 05:54)

Several early-morning incidents occupied lanes along C5 as motorists marked All Saints' Day.

• 2 vessels barred from sailing after Cagayan, Bohol mishaps (2026-11-01 05:21)

M/B Rose Marie 1 and MV Ocean Jet 788 are barred from operating pending safety inspections and technical assessments.

• BARMM stakeholders lauded for successful polls (2026-11-01 05:00)

A Catholic bishop has lauded all stakeholders for the peaceful and democratic election of Bangsamoro’s first chief minister and other BARMM officials under its regular parliamentary government.

• 8 crew rescued after banca partially submerges off Cagayan (2026-11-01 04:04)

All crew members were brought to safety after their banca partially submerged.

• Rainy All Saints' Day expected in parts of Luzon (2026-11-01 01:38)

Parts of Northern Luzon may see scattered rains and isolated thunderstorms on All Saints' Day.

• Batangas property declared part of special eco-zone (2026-10-31 16:00)

President Marcos has declared some property in Tanauan, Batangas as part of an existing special economic zone.

• Army welcomes 445 new recruits (2026-10-31 16:00)

The Philippine Army, the largest major service command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in terms of active service personnel, has 445 new recruits.

• Senior citizen killed in Pampanga gun attack (2026-10-31 16:00)

A senior citizen was killed while a minor was wounded in an attack by unidentified gunmen in Arayat, Pampanga on Thursday.

• Special holidays declared in 8 areas (2026-10-31 16:00)

Malacañang has declared special non-working days in eight areas of the country for the celebration of local festivals and founding anniversaries.

• Mayon eruption affects 785 schools (2026-10-31 16:00)

Up to 785 public and private schools in Albay were affected by the moderately explosive eruption that occurred at Mayon Volcano shortly before noon on Friday.

• 810,828 Undas travelers flock to seaports (2026-10-31 16:00)

Up to 810,828 people flocked to various seaports in the past three days to travel to the provinces for the observance of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day, according to the Philippine

Coast Guard.

• San Juan wins DILG award (2026-10-31 16:00)

For implementing locally funded infrastructure projects, San Juan was recognized as a top-performing city in the 2026 National Capital Region Subaybayani Awards of the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

• NPC probes data breach (2026-10-31 16:00)

The National Privacy Commission is investigating a report that 69 gigabytes of database backups of overseas employment systems were illegally copied, NPC spokesperson Roren Chin said.

• American, 62, nabbed for P17 million kush at NAIA (2026-10-31 16:00)

A 62-year-old American was arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 for attempting to smuggle into the country 17.46 kilos of marijuana kush on Thursday.

• MNLF veterans, non-Moro governors supports new BARMM parliament (2026-10-31 10:02)

Two Christian governors and a big group of now elderly members of the Moro National Liberation Front on Saturday, October 31, took turns assuring support for the peacebuilding initiatives of the now duly-mandated 80-seat Bangsamoro parliament.

• Police, military cited for securing inaugural BARMM parliament session (2026-10-31 09:55)

Local executives and regional officials lauded on Saturday, October 31, the Army’s 6th Infantry Division and the Police Regional Office-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region for together ensuring tranquility in this city during the first-ever session of the newly elected members of the Bangsamoro parliament.

• Mayon Volcano eruption displaces over 2,000 residents in Albay (2026-10-31 06:18)

A total of 2,041 people have been evacuated from parts of Albay following the moderately explosive eruption of Mayon Volcano on October 30, the provincial government said.

• Mayon Volcano emits ash plume; Alert Level 3 remains (2026-10-31 04:19)

Mayon Volcano emitted an ash plume that rose 200 meters above its summit crater early Saturday, October 31, as the volcano continued to show signs of heightened activity.

• Go turns over Super Health Center in Davao City (2026-10-30 16:00)

The opening of a Super Health Center in Barangay Tibungco marked a milestone in bringing accessible healthcare closer to residents of Davao City, according to Sen. Bong Go.

• 5 engineers suspended over Bulacan flood projects (2026-10-30 16:00)

The Office of the Ombudsman has suspended five engineers of the Department of Public Works and Highways-Bulacan in connection with alleged anomalous flood control projects worth

P188.9 million.

• Moderately explosive eruption occurs in Mayon (2026-10-30 16:00)

A moderately explosive eruption occurred at Mayon Volcano in Albay shortly before noon yesterday, producing a grayish ash plume that rose 3,000 meters above the crater, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

• PNP to deploy 16,823 security personnel for Asean Summit (2026-10-30 16:00)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) is deploying 16,823 police officers and force multipliers to secure world leaders and delegates to the 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit and Related ASEAN Summits in November.

• 58 rescued as roro vessel tilts off Quezon (2026-10-30 16:00)

Fifty-eight people including passengers and crewmembers were rescued when a roll-on roll-off vessel tilted near a port in this town shortly after midnight yesterday.

• Dead whale shark beached in Bacolod (2026-10-30 16:00)

A dead whale shark measuring between six to seven meters and weighing about four tons was found along the shore in this city yesterday morning.

• Vatican elevates 412-year-old Malabon church into minor basilica (2026-10-30 16:00)

The Vatican has elevated a 412-year-old church in Malabon as a minor basilica, the first in the Diocese of Kalookan to receive the designation.

• Isko to elderly: Visit cemeteries on off-peak days (2026-10-30 16:00)

With more than a million visitors anticipated for Undas at the Manila North Cemetery (MNC), Mayor Isko Moreno is advising senior citizens to consider coming on off-peak days to avoid health risks amid large crowds.

• Bettors seek NBI probe over unpaid online gambling pots (2026-10-30 16:00)

Five bettors in online gambling have asked the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to investigate an online gaming platform over what they claimed as unpaid jackpot winnings worth P5 billion.

• 2 preschoolers drown in South Cotabato irrigation ditch (2026-10-30 09:11)

Two preschool children drowned in an irrigation dike in Barangay San Vicente in Banga, South Cotabato on Thursday afternoon, October 29.

• PAGASA eyes installation of 22 Doppler radars (2026-10-29 16:00)

Twenty-two Doppler radars capable of providing faster and more precise weather information are being eyed for installation by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical

Services Administration.

• Be prayerful when visiting cemeteries, Catholics urged (2026-10-29 16:00)

Catholics have been urged to be prayerful and observe peace when visiting cemeteries on All Saints and All Souls' Days.

• Comelec resumes voter registration for 2028 elections (2026-10-29 16:00)

Voter registration for the 2028 general elections will resume on Nov. 10, according to the Commission on Elections.

• Cebu City mayor fined over night market operation (2026-10-29 16:00)

The Office of the Ombudsman has fined Cebu City Mayor Nestor Archival Jr. over irregularities in the operation of the Colon Street Night Market last year.

• 60 groomers in Tacloban school shooting identified (2026-10-29 16:00)

The National Bureau of Investigation has identified at least 60 people including minors and foreigners behind the online grooming of children in connection with the Tacloban school shooting.

• Journalist seeks transfer of cyberlibel case to Metro Manila (2026-10-29 16:00)

Citing safety concerns, journalist Philip Lustre wants his cyberlibel case transferred from Davao City to Metro Manila.

• PNP: Undas secured; travelers nearing 2 million (2026-10-29 16:00)

With over 141,000 police personnel and force multipliers deployed to cemeteries, major thoroughfares and places of convergence, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said yesterday security measures are in place for All Saints' and All Souls' Days.

• Rimbang to appear at PDEA over Laos drug haul (2026-10-29 16:00)

Former Bangsamoro parliament member Edrieza Hadji Nasser Rimbang, the alleged financier and mastermind in the aborted shipment of 521 kilos of shabu worth P3.54 billion from Laos to the Philippines, is expected to submit his sworn statement next week.

• Marcos opens NLEX-C5 link (2026-10-29 16:00)

As the government braces for the Undas travel surge, President Marcos yesterday opened a section of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) linking Quirino Highway in Quezon City to the Mindanao toll plaza in Valenzuela.

• BARMM parliament opening raises security concerns (2026-10-29 10:39)

All is set for the inaugural session of the 80-seat parliament of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao on Friday, October 30, in BARMM's capitol here, now guarded by no

fewer than a thousand policemen and soldiers.

• Drug den shut down, 5 shabu traffickers arrested in Mindanao (2026-10-29 10:33)

Agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency arrested five shabu peddlers, four of them together operating a drug den, in separate entrapment operations in this city and in Libungan town in Cotabato province on Tuesday, October 27.

• 2 soldiers arrested after shooting motorist in Cotabato (2026-10-29 10:22)

Two soldiers landed in jail after one of them had shot and wounded a motorcycle-riding civilian in a gun attack before dawn Thursday, October 29, in Barangay South Manuangan in Pigcawayan town in Cotabato province.

• ASEAN Summit in Metro Manila: Road closures, flight changes (2026-10-29 06:48)

What commuters and travelers need to know for ASEAN Summit

• NTC regional offices mobilized for Undas public assistance ops (2026-10-29 06:43)

The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) on Thursday directed the mobilization of all its regional offices nationwide to coordinate with relevant government agencies and key private sector stakeholders in support of public assistance operations for the country’s upcoming observance of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day, or Undas 2026, from October 31 to November 2, 2026.

• Stricter validation ordered for multiple SIMs under one user (2026-10-29 06:33)

The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) is directing mobile network operators (MNOs) to intensify its post validation of SIMs registered in unusually large numbers under a single individual.

• New NLEX C5 Northlink section toll-free until year-end (2026-10-29 03:14)

Marcos announces free passage on the newly opened NLEX C5 Northlink section through 2026.

Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer

• Unexpected chill brings frost to Benguet flowers despite El Niño (2026-11-05 13:47)

BAGUIO CITY — Frost on Thursday morning coated flowers grown at a farm tourism destination in Atok, Benguet, surprising its owner, who expected the cold to occur later in the Yuletide season amid a very strong El Niño. PJ Haight, proprietor of Haight’s Place in Barangay Paoay, shared photos of frost covering flowers at his

• Petition on voting rule fatally premature, says impeachment court (2026-11-05 13:45)

MANILA, Philippines – The Senate impeachment court has asserted that the petition filed by two of its members before the Supreme Court (SC) on the number of votes required to convict Vice President Sara Duterte is fatally premature. In a statement on Thursday, spokesperson for the court Atty. Reginald Tongol, shared the Senate's Nov. 3

• Marcos leads Malampaya Phase 4 ceremonial first gas flow (2026-11-05 13:26)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. led the ceremonial activation of the first gas flow from the Malampaya Phase 4 project at the Malampaya Onshore Gas Plant in Tabangao Ambulong, Batangas City on Thursday. The project adds an estimated 222 billion cubic feet of natural gas reserves to the country's indigenous supply following

• Tacloban university suspends uniform use amid extreme heat (2026-11-05 13:22)

TACLOBAN CITY — Students of Leyte Normal University (LNU) in this city are now allowed to wear appropriate civilian attire on campus following the temporary suspension of the university's prescribed uniform due to rising temperatures. The LNU Supreme Student Council (SSC) said that the adjustment took effect on Tuesday in response to the high heat

• Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda is new Supreme Court chief justice (2026-11-05 13:22)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has chosen Supreme Court Associate Justice Rodil V. Zalameda to serve as the next chief justice of the Supreme Court. Presidential Communications Office Secretary Lino Cayetano made the announcement on Thursday. He will succeed Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo, who is set to retire on Nov. 6. "Justice Zalameda brings

• 7 men missing after cargo boat capsizes off Jomalig, Quezon (2026-11-05 12:55)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – Authorities launched a search-and-rescue operation for seven men who went missing after their cargo boat capsized in the waters off Jomalig, Quezon, on Wednesday. In a report on Thursday, Quezon police said the wife of the 62-year-old boat captain notified the police station that the motorized vessel, identified as MV AC,

• Defense asks impeach court to keep sub judice rule on dropped cases (2026-11-05 12:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's defense team has asserted that the Senate impeachment court must still enforce the sub judice rule on articles dropped by the prosecution. Senate impeachment court spokesperson Atty. Reginald Tongol confirmed on Thursday that the defense counsel filed this manifestation. The move is in response to the court's previous

• Speaker Dy backs calls for greater budget transparency, public scrutiny (2026-11-05 12:27)

MANILA, Philippines — House Speaker Faustino "Bojie" Dy III expressed support on Thursday for proposals to make the national budget process more transparent, saying Filipinos have the right to know how public funds are allocated and spent. In a statement, Dy said the House is

open to disclosing supporting documents for government projects, making budget deliberations

• Road crash causes congestion in part of NLEx's Marilao exit (northbound) (2026-11-05 11:47)

MANILA, Philippines — A traffic buildup was observed at the Marilao northbound portion of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx) on Thursday morning due to a road crash, according to the NLEx Corporation. In its latest traffic update as of 11:20 p.m., the corporation said it saw about 4.7 kilometers of traffic buildup along the Marilao northbound

• Remulla dismisses claims Romualdez left jail as 'chismis' (2026-11-05 11:45)

MANILA, Philippines—Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Thursday dismissed as "chismis" (gossip) allegations that former House Speaker Martin Romualdez had been allowed to leave his detention facility, urging the media to review the closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage. "Chismis lang yan. I would like all of you to join me and view the CCTV footage for the

• Group formed to assert IP rights in development projects (2026-11-05 11:44)

BAGUIO CITY — Indigenous activists and policymakers on Thursday formally launched and organized a group to monitor and assert the right to free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) for ancestral land and ancestral domain holders across the Philippines amid encroaching developers and government projects. The FPIC Watch will also draft alternative mechanisms for government protection

• Defense in impeachment trial lists 25 witnesses for 'unexplained wealth' (2026-11-05 11:39)

MANILA, Philippines – Vice President Sara Duterte's lawyers have requested subpoenas for 25 defense witnesses in Duterte's impeachment trial, the Senate impeachment court confirmed on Thursday. The court said Duterte's defense team made the request on November 4, 2026 ahead of its presentation of exhibits from November 9 to November 13 on the vice president's

• Serving sovereignty: How local food is taking center stage in Bulacan (2026-11-05 11:28)

As climate change, global market disruptions, food import dependence and the homogenization of diets increasingly threaten Philippine food security, a growing number of Filipinos are rediscovering the strategic importance of local food systems. The Food and Agriculture Organization, in its 2024 report on the state of food security and nutrition, has underscored the continuing importance

• Joseph Sy skips Senate citizenship inquiry after ER visit (2026-11-05 11:23)

MANILA, Philippines – Businessman Joseph Sy, who is facing questions over his citizenship, snubbed the Senate panel on justice and human rights on Thursday, after he was taken to the emergency room earlier in the day. Sy's legal counsel, lawyer Alma Mallonga, told the panel that her client had a "genuine desire to participate" in

• South Cotabato gov: P1,000 budget ‘enough’ for simple Noche Buena (2026-11-05 10:52)

KORONADAL CITY — After last year’s brouhaha over a P500 budget for Noche Buena, the president of the League of Provinces of the Philippines, South Cotabato Gov. Reynaldo Tamayo Jr., now said that P1,000 is enough for that traditional midnight family feast on Christmas Eve. Tamayo, who also serves as president of the ruling Partido

• Luistro asks: Did defense fail to consult witness before seeking subpoena? (2026-11-05 10:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro has asked whether Vice President Sara Duterte’s lawyers failed to consult a former law school dean before asking for a subpoena to present him as a witness for the impeachment trial. Luistro posed the question as the academician begged off. She said on Thursday that she is surprised to hear

• Fire engulfs factory inside Subic Freeport (2026-11-05 10:15)

A fire broke out at the Jinboway facility inside Subic Gateway Park Phase II in the Subic Bay Freeport, raging for nearly eight hours before being brought under control at 5:45 a.m. on Thursday, according to the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA). SBMA Communications Head Armie Llamas said the fire spread rapidly, fueled by textile

• Stroke could cost Philippines ₱416.5B over 15 years (2026-11-05 10:14)

MANILA, Philippines — Acute ischemic stroke could impose an estimated ₱416.52 billion economic burden on the Philippines over 15 years, while the annual cost of managing survivors who need caregiver assistance could reach ₱739,000, according to an unpublished cost analysis cited by two organizations pushing for stronger stroke care in the country. The estimated annual

• Ramon Tulfo admits error in Romualdez exposé (2026-11-05 10:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Columnist Ramon Tulfo on Thursday admitted that his expose claiming that former House Speaker Martin Romualdez could go in and out of jail was erroneous. The retraction comes after Romualdez camp sent a letter to Tulfo on Wednesday. READ: Court to BJMP: Did you let Romualdez out? “I was fed the wrong

• OVP suffers alleged data leak – cybersecurity group (2026-11-05 10:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Vice President (OVP) allegedly suffered a data leak involving approximately 10 gigabytes (GB) of documents, a cybersecurity advocacy group said Thursday. READ: LTFRB probes data breach as platform goes offline According to Deep Web Konek, the alleged data leak surfaced in an underground cybercrime forum, where the hacker,

• BJMP allows Romualdez’s staff to attend to his needs, court told (2026-11-05 09:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) allowed former House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez's staff to attend to his needs inside his cell, its personnel told the Sandiganbayan Third Division. The Third Division is handling the plunder case against Romualdez stemming from alleged kickbacks from infrastructure projects worth P7.44 billion. During

• Marcos, MILF leaders meet in Malacañang (2026-11-05 09:42)

COTABATO CITY – President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. met with leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on Wednesday in Malacañang, Presidential Peace Adviser Sec. Mel Senen Sarmiento said Thursday. In a Facebook post, Sarmiento said he joined the President in the meeting with the MILF leaders, which was conducted after the President met with

• Sara Duterte's lawyers: We respect Sarmiento's refusal to testify (2026-11-05 09:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's lawyers in her impeachment trial said on Thursday that they respect former law dean Ralph Sarmiento's decision not to stand as a defense witness. Sarmiento declined the defense's invitation to testify, saying it was necessary "to preserve the independence of my constitutional law scholarship and the impartiality of

• 50 applicants vie for Cabinet, top BARMM positions (2026-11-05 09:24)

COTABATO CITY — At least 50 people have applied for Cabinet and other top-tier positions in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) headed by Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua. Macacua created a panel vetting the applicants for competence, integrity, and leadership as the first elected Bangsamoro Parliament gears up to fulfill its mandate until

• Modern jeepney rides free in parts of NCR from Nov. 5-14 (2026-11-05 09:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Free modern jeepney rides will be offered in select parts of Metro Manila from Nov. 5 to Nov. 14 as part of preparations for the 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit and Related Meetings, according to the Department of Tourism (DOT). The free jeepney rides are an initiative of the

• P6M in 'smuggled' cigarettes seized in Zamboanga del Sur (2026-11-05 08:52)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Authorities intercepted around P6 million worth of suspected smuggled cigarettes and arrested a 38-year-old man during a joint intelligence-driven operation in Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur, early Wednesday morning. Capt. Derf Jay Maquinta, spokesperson for the Zamboanga del Sur Police Provincial Office (ZSPPO), said operatives apprehended the suspect, a resident

• Heat index forecast to reach 43°C in Coron, Dipolog – Pagasa (2026-11-05 08:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Coron in Palawan and Dipolog in Zamboanga del Norte are forecast to record the highest heat index at 43°C on Thursday, Nov. 5, according to the state weather bureau. This is based on the latest heat index forecast issued by the Philippine Atmospheric,

Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Both areas are

• 2 dead as fire razes apartment in Iligan City (2026-11-05 08:33)

ILIGAN CITY — Two people were confirmed dead after a fire broke out in a two-storey apartment building in Purok 5, Barangay Pala-o here early Thursday morning, authorities said. Barangay Pala-o chairman Romeo Manzano confirmed the two fatalities following the incident, although he did not name the victims. Fire Officer 4 Julian Tablon of the

• Duterte impeachment: Ex-law school dean declines to testify for defense (2026-11-05 08:06)

DUMAGUETE CITY — Former University of St. La Salle (USLS) law dean Ralph Sarmiento has declined to testify as a defense witness in the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte. “Hindi po ako pwede tumestigo as a witness for either side,” he said. (I cannot testify as a witness for either side.) Sarmiento cited

• Rainy Thursday in parts of PH due to amihan, easterlies (2026-11-05 07:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon or amihan and easterlies will continue to bring rains to parts of the country on Thursday, Nov. 5, according to the state weather bureau. In its 5 a.m. weather forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said weather specialist Obet Badrina reported that amihan would affect

• OSG: Senate didn’t amend Charter in revised impeach rule (2026-11-05 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) argued that the Senate impeachment court did not amend the Constitution and acted within its bounds in lowering the number of votes required to convict or acquit Vice President Sara Duterte. In a comment filed on Wednesday, the OSG asked the Supreme Court to dismiss

• Court to BJMP: Did you let Romualdez out? (2026-11-05 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan’s Third Division on Wednesday summoned Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) officials over claims that a warden had allowed former House Speaker and Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez to leave the Quezon City jail. The antigraft court ordered Jail Supt. Maria Lourdes Pacion and medical officer Henry Fabro, both from

• Distribute Move It’s excess riders to other platforms – advocacy groups (2026-11-05 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Advocacy groups are urging regulators to distribute Move It’s more than 55,000 excess riders among other motorcycle taxi platforms to protect their livelihood. The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) earlier imposed a P555.75-million penalty on the company for exceeding its authorized allocation of 17,746 rider-partners in Metro Manila by more

• PH ‘Carving Capital’ cries foul over TV horror special (2026-11-05 05:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The municipal council of Paete, Laguna, demanded a public “clarification” from a TV production team over a Halloween feature that officials said associated the town’s centuries-old woodcarving tradition with curses and demonic forces. The show, GMA Network’s “Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho (KMJS),” later issued an apology, saying it did not intend to

• 250 pet owners file raps vs Bacoor crematory (2026-11-05 05:06)

MANILA, Philippines — At least 250 pet owners have filed complaints against a pet crematorium based in Cavite province over the alleged mishandling of animal remains entrusted to the facility, the Philippine National Police said on Wednesday. At a press briefing at Camp Crame, Col. Allen Rae Co, PNP spokesperson, said the complainants sought the

• Ilocos region needs P660M to address drought impact (2026-11-05 05:04)

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN, Philippines — The Ilocos region needs at least P660 million for the rehabilitation of agricultural lands that are vulnerable to the El Niño phenomenon, but a large portion of that proposed allocation remains unfunded, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA). Agriculturist Julius Briones of the DA Ilocos office said they are still

• Classes in Negros, Tacloban shift online due to heat (2026-11-05 05:02)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — Classes in 17 localities of Negros Occidental province shifted online on Wednesday as local governments ordered the suspension of in-person sessions to protect students, teachers and school personnel from the extreme heat. The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) said the heat index reached “dangerous” level as

• Four dead, 1 missing as firecracker factory caught fire in Pangasinan (2026-11-05 00:41)

CALASIAO, PANGASINAN, Philippines — A firecracker factory in Malasiqui town, Pangasinan went up in smoke in a fire that started around 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4. In a Facebook live broadcast after the fire, Malasiqui Vice Mayor Daria Dolores Mamaril said there were at least four persons, including a seven-year old child, who died, and

• Cops seize illegal diesel in Bacolod City (2026-11-05 00:33)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — Police seized around 1,420 liters of suspected illegally traded diesel fuel worth P120,700 and arrested a 56-year-old man during a buy-bust operation at Purok Nami-Nami, Barangay Banago here on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 3. The suspect, identified only by his alias “Panoy,” a resident of Barangay Banago, was apprehended at around

• Manila archdiocese orders safety checks on churches, schools (2026-11-04 23:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila (RCAM) has ordered churches, schools and other church-run institutions to immediately inspect their facilities for potential safety hazards, including unstable crucifixes, religious statues, hanging fixtures and electrical installations. In Circular No. 2026-101 dated Nov. 3 and released on Wednesday, Msgr. Reginald Malicdem, Vicar General and Moderator

• Dangerous heat index to persist in Iloilo in next 2 days, Pagasa says (2026-11-04 23:07)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — Dangerous heat index levels of up to 43 degrees Celsius are expected to persist in parts of Iloilo province on Thursday and Friday this week (Nov. 5 and 6), raising the risk of heat exhaustion and potentially fatal heat stroke, particularly among people exposed to prolonged outdoor heat. The Philippine Atmospheric,

• Negros Occidental to honor 2 national artists, top taxpayers (2026-11-04 22:47)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — Two Negrenses who were recently named National Artists will be honored as this year's Outstanding Negrenses at the Cinco de Noviembre rites at the Social Hall of the Provincial Capitol in Bacolod City on Thursday, Nov. 5, in commemoration of the 128th year after the Negrense revolt. President Marcos earlier named

• Groups seek transfer of 55,000 excess Move It riders to other platforms (2026-11-04 22:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Advocacy groups are urging regulators to distribute more than 55,000 excess Move It riders among other motorcycle taxi platforms to protect their livelihoods after the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) imposed a P555.75-million penalty on the company for exceeding its authorized rider allocation. Move It was authorized to operate with

• Police set to file parricide raps vs 15-year-old boy over ma's killing (2026-11-04 22:42)

PANGLAO, BOHOL, Philippines — A 15-year-old boy who admitted killing his own mother in Barangay Looc, Panglao, Bohol, is expected to face a parricide complaint before the prosecutor's office within the week, police said. Police Captain Kentbel Ceasar Parcon, chief of the Panglao Municipal Police Station, said investigators are rushing the preparation of documents needed

• NTF-Elcac: Nearly 1,500 CTG members neutralized in 2026 (2026-11-04 22:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Nearly 1,500 members of the Communist Terrorist Group (CTG) have been neutralized nationwide in 2026, the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) said Wednesday. During the 10th NTF-Elcac executive committee meeting in Malacañang, Executive Director Usec. Danilo Pamonag presented to President Marcos the task force's accomplishments in recent

• DSWD pours P884.7M in aid to sugarcane farmers, laborers in Negros (2026-11-04 22:36)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has released P884,778,900 under its disaster assistance program to support sugarcane farmers and laborers affected by red-striped soft-scale insect (RSSI) pest infestations in Negros Island. The amount released was as of Monday, Nov. 2. The Negros-wide financial relief distribution has reached

• Nov. 4 PCSO lotto results: P333.42M jackpot not won (2026-11-04 22:14)

MANILA, Philippines — No bettor won the P333.42 million Grand Lotto 6/55 jackpot or the P15 million Mega Lotto 6/45 jackpot in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) draws on Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2026. According to the PCSO results provided, the Grand Lotto 6/55 draw produced the winning combination 17-22-04-54-01-41, which carried a jackpot prize

• Manila Water repair works to affect NCR, Rizal areas (2026-11-04 21:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Several areas in Metro Manila and Rizal may experience water interruptions starting Wednesday evening, Nov. 4, due to emergency repairs and scheduled maintenance work of Manila Water. The Manila Water said the maintenance activities aim to help maintain and ensure 24/7 water supply to residential homes. “Manila Water is advising all residents

• Negros remembers Typhoon Tino that left 106 dead, 34 still missing (2026-11-04 21:20)

BACOLOD CITY – One year after Typhoon Tino struck Negros Island on Nov. 4, 2025, killing 106 residents and leaving 34 others missing, masses and prayer services were held across the region on Wednesday to honor the victims. The Negros Occidental provincial government held a Holy Mass at the Provincial Capitol in Bacolod City to

• Mark Villar calls for stronger food security measures for El Niño (2026-11-04 21:12)

MANILA, Philippines —Sen. Mark Villar called for stronger and more coordinated measures to safeguard the country’s food security amid the looming threat of Super El Niño, warning that prolonged dry conditions could disrupt food production and distribution, drive up prices, and put vulnerable Filipino households at risk. In a statement, Villar cited a report from

• INQToday: No power outage or Romualdez exit from QC jail – BJMP (2026-11-04 20:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Here are INQToday’s top stories for Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2026, as of 6 p.m. BJMP: No power outage or Romualdez exit from QC jail The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) said initial CCTV footage reviewed on Nov. 3 showed no power or CCTV interruption and no movement of former House

• Man in Zamboanga del Sur nabbed for P5.78-M smuggled cigarettes (2026-11-04 20:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) arrested a 38-year-old man in Zamboanga del Sur on Wednesday in connection with the suspected P5.78 million worth of smuggled cigarettes. According to the PNP, the suspect, identified as Romnick Fuentes, was

captured at around 1:25 a.m. during its anti-smuggling operation in Dumalinao, Zamboanga delSur. Authorities

• WALANG PASOK: Class suspensions on Thursday due to high heat index (2026-11-04 20:21)

[Updated Nov. 4, 2026, 9:54 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — Some schools suspended in-person classes on Thursday, Nov. 5, due to the expected extreme heat conditions. Below are the following educational institutions that suspended classes: READ: Western Visayas schools suspend classes due to 43°C heat index Iloilo City, Iloilo Roxas City, Capiz Mandaue City, Cebu Davao

• Arms cache unearthed in Isabela (2026-11-04 20:06)

ROXAS, Isabela – Police officers from various units in Isabela unearthed an alleged arms cache and found bullets, explosives and other war materiel in Barangay Sinamar in Roxas town on November 3. A rebel returnee tipped off the police about the buried weapons. READ: Police recover arms cache in Cagayan forest Found buried were two

• VP Duterte camp taps legal academic to counter unexplained wealth charge (2026-11-04 20:03)

MANILA, Philippines – Vice President Sara Duterte's defense lawyers will present a former law dean as its first witness to refute the prosecution's claims that Duterte amassed unexplained wealth in office when her trial resumes next week. Duterte's defense team Fortun Narvasa & Salazar law firm informed the prosecution team on Wednesday it intends to

• Tigson named new PTV general manager (2026-11-04 19:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Atty. John Benedict Teston Tigson has been named the new general manager of the People's Television Network (PTV), the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) announced on Wednesday. Tigson took his oath of office before PCO Acting Secretary Lino Cayetano on Wednesday afternoon at the PCO office inside the Malacañang compound. READ: Claire Castro stays; she's

• Naga steps up water conservation drive ahead of 'super' El Niño (2026-11-04 19:51)

LEGAZPI CITY — The city government of Naga has intensified its water conservation campaign in preparation for a potentially prolonged dry spell brought by the Super El Niño. The City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO) urged residents to conserve water early, warning that occasional rains may not sufficiently replenish underground water reserves. The

• Can Filipino MSMEs keep up with growing digital economy? (2026-11-04 19:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The digital economy contributed 9.8% to the Philippine economy in 2025, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), highlighting the growing role of digital technologies in the country's economic activity. For micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), digitalization offers opportunities to reach more customers, sell products

online and make business transactions easier.

• Zamboanga del Sur fisherfolk receive 11,000 kg of seaweed propagules (2026-11-04 19:25)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – A total of 25 fisherfolk beneficiaries in Margosatubig , Zamboanga del Sur received 11,000 kilograms of seaweed propagules Tuesday, Nov. 3, as part of government's efforts to boost local aquaculture production and coastal livelihoods. The formal turnover and distribution activity was held in Barangay Poblacion, organized by the Office

• Sara Duterte camp: Prosecution evidence 'inadmissible' in Senate trial (2026-11-04 19:23)

MANILA, Philippines – Vice President Sara Duterte's defense team has asked the Senate impeachment court to reject the documentary evidence presented by the prosecution, arguing that the records are inadmissible, irrelevant, and insufficient to establish her alleged impeachable offenses. In a 26-page comment filed on Oct. 30, Duterte's legal team challenged the prosecution's Offer of

• Solon backs call to scrap limits on motorcycle taxis (2026-11-04 19:05)

MANILA, Philippines — 1-Rider Rep. Rodrigo "Rodge" Gutierrez on Wednesday supported Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon's call to scrap the cap on motorcycle taxi riders, a regulation the lawmaker described as out of touch with urban transit demand. Dizon had previously urged expanding the pool of motorcycle taxi drivers, as the two-wheeled service has become a

• VP Duterte urged to show proof of business divestment (2026-11-04 19:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Z. Duterte should show documents proving that she had given up her business positions and interests after assuming office in 2022, former Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, House impeachment adviser and spokesperson, said in a press briefing on Wednesday. Barbers said Duterte should address discrepancies in her statements of assets, liabilities,

• Manila Water maximizes 6 water treatment plants for El Niño (2026-11-04 18:57)

MANILA, Philippines —Manila Water is strengthening its El Niño preparedness by maximizing its six active water treatment plants, which have a combined capacity of 1,980 million liters per day (MLD), and advancing two more major water treatment facilities that will further boost 24/7 service for customers in Metro Manila and Rizal. Under the Angat-Ipo-La Mesa

• AFP, PNP personnel cited for securing BARMM parliament inaugural session (2026-11-04 18:54)

COTABATO CITY – The Philippine Army's 6th Infantry (Kampilan) Division and Joint Task Force Central (JTFC) on Wednesday recognized soldiers and police officers who spearheaded security operations during the historic opening of the first elected Bangsamoro parliament and the

election of the region's first chief minister. The event was graced by President Ferdinand R. Marcos

• Brian Poe plans to file bill to regulate pet crematoriums (2026-11-04 18:45)

MANILA, Philippines — FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List Rep. Brian Poe expressed dismay over reports of dead pets being dumped in Bulacan as he announced his plan to file a bill to address the issue. In a statement, Poe said his bill will be called the proposed Companion Animal After-Life Care and Protection Act or the

• Cases of flu-like illnesses rise by 31% in two weeks – DOH (2026-11-04 18:26)

MANILA, Philippines – Cases of influenza-like illnesses (ILI) nationwide increased by 31 percent over two weeks, according to the Department of Health (DOH). The DOH recorded 15,042 cases from Oct. 1 to Oct. 14, up from 11,517 cases reported from Sept. 10 to Sept. 23, based on its latest Ulat ng Ahensya report. The department

• Teacher dies in Northern Samar highway crash (2026-11-04 18:24)

TACLOBAN CITY — A 59-year-old teacher died after the car he was driving collided with a passenger bus along the national highway in Barangay Burabod, Laoang, Northern Samar, Tuesday morning. The victim, identified only as "Rene," of Barangay Marubay in Laoang, was declared dead on arrival at G.B. Tan Memorial Hospital. Initial investigation by the

• ACT slams Marcos' class suspension policy as 'band-aid solution' (2026-11-04 18:19)

MANILA, Philippines—The Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) on Tuesday criticized Executive Order No. 130, a new class suspension policy, calling it a "band-aid solution" that burdens educators. This followed President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s signing of the order on Oct. 28, which allows schools to independently suspend or resume face-to-face classes in coordination with local chief

• Butuan experiences scorching 42-45°C heat index for second straight day (2026-11-04 18:07)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — A scorching heat index of 42 to 45 degrees Celsius was recorded in Butuan City since Tuesday, Nov. 3, triggering health advisories from local officials and widespread calls online for in-person class suspensions. Data released by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) Regional Services Division indicated

• Pagasa forecasts cloudy Thursday, rain showers due to 'amihan', easterlies (2026-11-04 17:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Light rains and overcast skies are expected in parts of the country on Thursday, Nov. 5, due to the persistence of the northeast monsoon or "amihan" and the easterlies, according to the state weather bureau. In its 4 p.m. weather advisory, the Philippine

Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that

• OSG counters Go, Padilla challenge to Senate impeach vote: No grave abuse (2026-11-04 17:28)

MANILA, Philippines—The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) asserted that the Senate impeachment court acted within the bounds of the Constitution in lowering the number of votes required to convict or acquit Vice President Sara Duterte. The OSG said this in asking the Supreme Court to dismiss the petition for certiorari and prohibition filed by

• Jonvic Remulla: Supply drop drives up shabu prices in PH (2026-11-04 17:22)

[Updated Nov. 4, 2026, 7:58 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — Interior Sec. Jonvic Remulla on Wednesday said the rising value of illegal drugs resulted in a decline of supply in the country due to the government's continued anti-drug operations. According to Remulla, the cost of "shabu" (crystal meth) was around P3,800 per gram in the previous

• Angara cites progress in learning recovery, tech upgrades (2026-11-04 17:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Despite significant gains made by the Department of Education (DepEd) in improving the performance of students, Education Secretary Sonny Angara pressed for more support for learning recovery efforts during his visit to the Visayas on Wednesday. Angara made the plea as he spoke before over 800 education leaders and local officials at

• Turtle nests found in La Union beach towns (2026-11-04 17:12)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan— Four sea turtle nests holding 435 eggs have been discovered along the shores of the La Union beach towns of San Juan and Bauang since the start of this year's nesting season in October. Local fishermen and residents played a key role in protecting the endangered marine animals. Three nests were found in

• Farmer killed by neighbor over goat grazing dispute in Bohol town (2026-11-04 16:57)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — A 56-year-old farmer was shot dead by his neighbor with an improvised shotgun following an alleged altercation over a goat that had grazed on the victim's crops in Barangay Quezon, Bilar, Bohol, on Tuesday afternoon. The shooting occurred shortly after 5 p.m., according to the initial investigation by the police. Investigators

• Man shot dead in broad daylight on Zamboanga City street (2026-11-04 16:50)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – A 40-year-old man was shot dead by still unidentified assailants in Barangay Malagutay, Zamboanga City, Wednesday morning. The victim, a resident of Barangay Lunzuran, Zamboanga City, was found lying on the ground beside his black single motorcycle with a gunshot wound to the head. Local police said they received

• Bangsamoro Parliament sets 100-day legislative agenda (2026-11-04 16:41)

COTABATO CITY – The newly convened first elected Bangsamoro Parliament has set its target legislation for the next 100 days. Deputy Majority Floor Leader Naguib Sinarimbo, a lawyer, said the Parliament will focus its attention on enacting the proposed revenue code and the 2027 regional budget. The revenue code was one of the major pieces

- Marcos confers Order of Lakandula on outgoing Chief Justice Gesmundo (2026-11-04 16:35)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday conferred the Order of Lakandula with the rank of Grand Cross (Bayani) on outgoing Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo. Gesmundo received the award two days before his retirement on Nov. 6. Under the Constitution, Marcos must appoint his successor within 90 days of the vacancy.

- Farm-to-market road errors ‘blown out of proportion’ – House rep (2026-11-04 16:30)

MANILA, Philippines —Concerns over incorrect farm-to-market road (FMR) coordinates had been blown out of proportion after the Department of Agriculture (DA) admitted that only eight of 1,669 projects in the proposed 2027 national budget contained errors. Camarines Sur 4th District Rep. Arnie Fuentebella issued that statement on Wednesday, pointing out that the eight projects represented

- SC dismisses Romualdez petition vs Ombudsman’s prelim probe (2026-11-04 16:24)

MANILA, Philippines – The Supreme Court (SC) has dismissed for being moot the petition filed by Leyte 1st District Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez challenging the preliminary investigation conducted by the Office of the Ombudsman regarding his alleged involvement in the flood control projects controversy. Romualdez filed the petition asking the SC to invalidate the Ombudsman’s

- Bulacan gov’t construction sites enforce El Niño health breaks (2026-11-04 16:02)

CITY OF MALOLOS—As many as 1,500 workers in various infrastructure projects of the provincial government will get daily health breaks during the hottest hours of the day to prevent heatstroke and other ailments amid the Super El Niño. Bulacan Provincial Engineer Glen Reyes has advised all building contractors with ongoing projects to adjust working hours

- Sandiganbayan summons BJMP execs over claims Romualdez left jail (2026-11-04 15:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Third Division on Wednesday summoned Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) officials following claims that former House Speaker Martin Romualdez is leaving his jail cell. The Third Division is handling Romualdez’s plunder case stemming from alleged kickbacks from infrastructure projects worth P7.44 billion. According to Third Division clerk of court

- 8 DPWH execs suspended over flagged Surigao Norte flood control project (2026-11-04 15:13)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Wednesday announced the suspension of eight Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) officials following a complaint that full payments were allegedly made for still-incomplete Surigao del Norte flood control projects. In a six-page order, the anti-graft body placed seven DPWH engineers and one accountant under

- 250 pet owners file raps vs crematorium over dumped remains in Bulacan (2026-11-04 15:11)

MANILA, Philippines – A total of 250 individuals have filed complaints against a pet crematorium based in Cavite, the Philippine National Police said on Wednesday, following the discovery of dumped pet remains in a vacant lot in Bulacan. “There were already a total of 250 who have come forward to file complaints,” said the PNP

- Monsoon rains give Pangasinan El Niño water buffer (2026-11-04 15:09)

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan — Heavy rains in August and September, brought by the long habagat rains (Southeast monsoon) and tropical cyclones, helped replenish Pangasinan’s water reserves, giving the province a buffer as it braces for the dry months and worsening El Niño. The rainfall filled the San Roque Multipurpose Project reservoirs and recharged underground water sources,

- DOTr will soon bid out LRT-2 under public-private partnership (2026-11-04 15:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Light Rail Transit 2 (LRT-2) will soon be bid out under a public-private partnership (PPP) before the end of the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Transport chief Vince Dizon made the announcement on Wednesday. During his inspection at the Antipolo station of the LRT-2, the secretary was asked if the

- Legarda calls for gov’t accountability as carbon market takes shape (2026-11-04 14:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Government agencies should examine their own carbon footprints and demonstrate how they are reducing emissions now that the Philippine Carbon Market Policy Framework is being developed, Sen. Loren Legarda said in a statement on Wednesday. “We are asking businesses to prepare for a more accountable, low-carbon economy. Government must be prepared to

- Agusan people’s summit adopts grassroots proposals into policies (2026-11-04 14:46)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — A people’s summit highlighted community-driven campaigns for sustainable farming and rural enterprise that were turned into municipal legislation. The two-day 6th Sibagat People’s Summit was held on Oct. 30-31 in Sibagat, Agusan del Sur, where civil society organizations (CSOs), sectoral leaders, Indigenous Peoples’ representatives, and municipal executives met to

- ‘Very strong’ El Niño now active in tropical Pacific, says Pagasa (2026-11-04 14:19)

MANILA, Philippines – A “very strong El Nino” event has formed in the tropical Pacific and is expected to peak by the end of the year, a state weather bureau official said on Wednesday, with lingering impacts likely to persist through mid-2027. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) is expected to issue

• House to agencies: Ensure P6.2-B El Niño aid reaches farmers, fisherfolk (2026-11-04 14:14)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives called on government agencies on Wednesday to ensure that P6.2 billion in El Niño assistance reaches affected farmers and fisherfolk as worsening droughts threaten agricultural production. The House Committee on Agriculture and Food, chaired by Quezon Rep. Mark Enverga, continued its inquiry under House Resolution No. 967, introduced

• Boholanos celebrate Carlos P. Garcia’s 130th birth anniversary (2026-11-04 14:12)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — Boholanos on Wednesday paid tribute to the late President Carlos P. Garcia on his 130th birth anniversary, honoring his legacy of patriotism and contributions to the country. The provincial government held a wreath-laying ceremony and commemorative program at the Bohol Provincial Capitol as part of its annual observance of the birth

• Gatchalian pushes OK of bill barring public execs’ kin from gov’t deals (2026-11-04 13:58)

MANILA, Philippines – Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian urged Congress to immediately pass a proposed measure prohibiting government officials’ relatives from securing government contracts to protect public funds and prevent corruption. “It is important that we enact this as soon as possible so that we can ensure that public funds go to programs and projects that

• Lacson: Upon arrest, dela Rosa must be brought to local court before ICC (2026-11-04 13:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa should first be brought before a Philippine court if arrested, before being transferred to the International Criminal Court (ICC), Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson said Wednesday. According to Lacson, this will allow dela Rosa to avail himself of legal remedies in the country, including seeking relief from the

• Palace to jail authorities: Uphold law amid Romualdez ‘jailbreak’ row (2026-11-04 13:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Wednesday reminded authorities to uphold their duties and refrain from violating the law following allegations that former House Speaker Martin Romualdez was allowed to leave jail with the help of a jail warden. Retired columnist Ramon Tulfo alleged that a jail warden had cut off the power supply, disabling CCTV cameras

• Vince Dizon says he is recruiting MMDA's Gabriel Go to join DOTr (2026-11-04 13:19)

MANILA, Philippines — Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon said on Wednesday that he is recruiting Gabriel Go of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to join the Department of Transportation (DOTr). He announced it more than a week after returning to the DOTr as its secretary. Go heads the MMDA's Special Operations Group-Task Force for Road

• 17 areas in Negros Occidental suspend classes due to extreme heat (2026-11-04 12:52)

BACOLOD CITY — Several local governments in Negros Occidental have announced the suspension of face-to-face classes on Wednesday, after a forecast heat index of 42 degrees Celsius, a level labeled "dangerous" by the state bureau. As of 5 p.m. on Tuesday, the state weather bureau measured the heat index in La Carlota City, Negros Occidental,

• 2 dead in creek after suspected Ilocos Norte motorcycle crash (2026-11-04 12:30)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur— Two persons, one of them a young boy, were found dead in a creek beside the National Highway near Barangay Lang-Ayan in Currimao, Ilocos Norte, in an incident believed to have involved a motorcycle crash. According to an initial police investigation, a passerby discovered a slipper along the roadside on Sunday,

• Sotto wants clear rules on prolonged unauthorized absences of senators (2026-11-04 12:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Pro Tempore Vicente "Tito" Sotto III has filed a resolution seeking to establish clear guidelines for addressing senators' prolonged unauthorized absences. According to Sotto, "such absenteeism and neglect of duty is deemed a waste of taxpayer funds and has caused public clamor over the past months." In Senate Resolution No.

• Lacson warns 'kapalmuks' testing public patience anew over 2027 budget (2026-11-04 12:13)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Panfilo "Ping" Lacson on Wednesday warned that public patience was once again being tested by individuals he described as "kapalmuks," (thick-faced) as scrutiny over questionable allocations in the proposed 2027 national budget continues. According to Lacson, the flood control scandal had barely settled when these individuals began testing the public's patience

• Fish prices up in parts of Northern Mindanao (2026-11-04 12:07)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Market-goers across Northern Mindanao are feeling the pinch of the rising cost of living at wet markets, as retail fish prices soar in late October amid mounting supply and production bottlenecks. Data from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Northern Mindanao (BFAR-10) showed prices of some fish significantly

• BJMP: No power outage or Romualdez exit from QC jail (2026-11-04 12:03)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) said initial CCTV footage reviewed on Nov. 3 showed no power or CCTV interruption and no movement of former House Speaker Martin Romualdez outside a Quezon City jail, following allegations of irregularities. “Initial CCTV verification by BJMP National Headquarters showed no recorded power or

• Authorities seize P1-M ‘illegal’ mineral ores in Zamboanga del Sur (2026-11-04 11:54)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Environment and police authorities intercepted over P1 million worth of alleged illegal mineral ores in separate law enforcement operations in Barangay Dulop, Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur since last week, police reported Wednesday. In the latest operation at around 2:50 p.m. on Tuesday, a joint team intercepted a 10-wheeler truck

• Dizon: Buses with discounted fares augment LRT-2 service starting Nov. 4 (2026-11-04 11:23)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Transportation (DOTr) will deploy 20 buses with discounted fares starting Wednesday, Nov. 4, to help accommodate excess LRT-2 passengers, Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon said. He announced it as he inspected the LRT-2 Antipolo station and noted the train line’s lack of carriages. The LRT-2 has 13 stations, running from

• Police hunt 2 suspects who escaped Bacoor shootouts (2026-11-04 11:10)

LUCENA CITY — Police are hunting two suspected members of a robbery group who escaped after five of their companions were killed in separate shootouts with law enforcers in Bacoor City, Cavite, on Tuesday afternoon. The two suspects, who reportedly fled on a motorcycle, remain at large, according to a Bacoor police report the Inquirer

• Paete council seeks correction from ‘KMJS’ over woodcarver feature (2026-11-04 10:59)

CALAPAN CITY — The Sangguniang Bayan of Paete has demanded a correction and a public “clarification” from GMA Network’s “Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho “over a Halloween feature that allegedly linked the town’s centuries-old woodcarving tradition to curses and demonic forces. However, the program has since apologized, saying it did not intend to undermine the reputation,

• `High-value’ trafficker with P1.4M in shabu busted in Calamba City (2026-11-04 10:41)

LUCENA CITY – Police anti-narcotics operatives seized P1,451,121 worth of shabu (crystal meth) from an alleged “high-value” drug trafficker in Calamba City, Laguna on Tuesday. A 38-year-old man was detained for selling P500 worth of shabu to an undercover police officer in Barangay Pansol at 6:15 p.m., said Lt. Col. Dennis de Guzman, Calamba City

• Taal Volcano logs 30 quakes in past 24 hours (2026-11-04 10:31)

LUCENA CITY — Volcanic earthquakes continue to shake Taal Volcano in Batangas province, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said in a bulletin on Wednesday

morning. The volcano registered 30 volcanic earthquakes over the past 24 hours. Phivolcsrecorded 28 quakes on Nov. 3, 22 on Nov. 2, and only three on Nov.

• PNP welcomes Palace challenge, vows no special treatment for dela Rosa (2026-11-04 10:29)

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine National Police (PNP) has welcomed Malacañang's challenge, vowing to pursue the arrest warrant against Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa saying his former position as police chief and personal ties will not stand in the way of law enforcement. "We welcome the challenge of Malacañang because it reinforces a fundamental principle of law

• Quezon vice gov urges youth to emulate Hermano Puli's patriotism (2026-11-04 09:57)

LUCENA CITY — Quezon Vice Gov. Anacleto Alcala III on Wednesday urged Filipinos to instill patriotism in the young generation as the province commemorated the 185th death anniversary of revolutionary hero Apolinario de la Cruz, popularly known as Hermano Puli. "Let us continue to raise awareness among the younger generation, not only across Quezon but

• Sara Duterte, Leni Robredo gap narrows in Octa presidential survey (2026-11-04 09:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The gap between Vice President Sara Duterte and her predecessor, Leni Robredo, in a hypothetical presidential race has narrowed by 7 percentage points, based on the results of a survey conducted by Octa Research. According to the survey, 40 percent of adult Filipinos said they would vote for Duterte if the May

• Bukidnon sugar planters reject US export quota (2026-11-04 09:36)

QUEZON, Bukidnon — Bukidnon sugar planters have strongly opposed further sugar exports after the United States granted an extra raw sugar export quota for fiscal year 2027. The pushback comes as local farmers navigate significant challenges, including pest infestations, volatile fuel prices, El Niño, and high costs of farm inputs. The majority are demanding better

• Free MRT-3, LRT-2 rides for minors on Nov. 4 (2026-11-04 09:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Metro Rail Transit 3 (MRT-3) and Light Rail Transit 2 (LRT-2) will offer free rides to children aged 17 and below on Wednesday, November 4, in celebration of National Children's Month. In separate advisories, the train lines said the free rides can be availed of from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

• 73 wanted persons arrested in Soccsksargen in one week (2026-11-04 09:13)

COTABATO CITY — Seventy-three wanted persons facing various charges were arrested in a weeklong police sweep across Soccsksargen (Region 12), authorities said on Wednesday. Police conducted the simultaneous law enforcement operations from October 26 to November 1, 2026. Brig. Gen. Alan Manibog, Police Regional Office (PRO-12) regional director, said the arrested individuals include 51 listed

• Behind the robes: Getting to know the Chief Justice contenders (2026-11-04 08:57)

Dimaampao, Marquez, Leonen, Zalameda, Caguioa MANILA – Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo will hang up his robe upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 70 on Nov. 6. He served in the Supreme Court (SC) for nearly a decade, including five years as the primus inter pares (first among equals) among the “gods of Padre Faura,”

• Minimum wage in Soccsksargen to reach P501 daily on January 1 (2026-11-04 08:54)

KORONADAL CITY — The daily minimum wage for private workers in the non-agriculture, retail, and service sectors in Soccsksargen (Region 12) will increase to P501 in January 2027 after a P41 wage hike benefiting 86,815 workers in the region. The National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC) said the increase under Wage Order No. XII (SOCCSKSARGEN)-26

• QC gov’t revokes class suspension memo to align with DepEd order (2026-11-04 08:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City government has revoked a memorandum circular it previously issued on heat-related class suspensions to “align” its policies with the Department of Education’s (DepEd) directive. Under Memorandum Circular No. 3, Series of 2025, classes in public Child Development Centers, kindergarten and Grades 1 to 12 would shift to limited face-to-face

• 77 scabies, chickenpox cases logged in 4 Bukidnon villages (2026-11-04 08:34)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — Officials here are alarmed by the sudden spike in scabies and chickenpox cases in four villages, prompting immediate barangay-level intervention alongside ongoing citywide disease surveillance operations. Rudy Guadalupe, barangay captain of Colonia, expressed grave concern after official City Health Office (CHO) surveillance figures showed that the number of infected residents reached

• Junk shop workers find suspected explosive in Sultan Kudarat (2026-11-04 08:10)

KORONADAL CITY — Police are investigating the discovery of a suspected improvised explosive fashioned from a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) among scrap metal delivered to a junk shop in Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat, on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 3. Police said a concerned citizen reported the discovery at about 2:30 p.m. at Quatro Scrap Metal Trading in

• Amihan, easterlies to bring rain to parts of Luzon on Nov. 4 (2026-11-04 07:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon or amihan and easterlies will bring rain to parts of Luzon, while the rest of the country will experience hot and fair weather, the state weather bureau said Wednesday. In its 5 a.m. weather forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the northeast monsoon will

• St. Luke’s Medical Center reports personal data breach (2026-11-04 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Privacy Commission (NPC) said on Tuesday that it is reviewing the personal data breach notification submitted by St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) about a cybersecurity incident that may have compromised the personal information of some patients and employees. NPC spokesperson and Deputy Privacy Commissioner Jose Belarmino II said the commission

• Marcos' order gives schools more say in class suspensions (2026-11-04 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Under a new executive order that seeks to minimize learning disruptions, schools in cities or provinces may continue to hold face-to-face classes—despite suspension orders handed down by local government officials—provided their areas are safe. Executive Order No. 130, which was signed on Oct. 28 but published only in the Official Gazette on

• DepEd: Over 172,000 teachers, staff to get Apple laptops (2026-11-04 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) has secured 172,654 Apple MacBook Neo laptops worth over P7.4 billion for public school teachers and administrative personnel, with a five-year warranty and a unit price lower than the devices' suggested retail price (SRP). The procurement forms part of the government's effort to equip educators with digital

• COA: P17-B infra works have 'visible defects' (2026-11-04 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Audit (COA) found 300 infrastructure projects across the country worth P17.3 billion to be riddled with "visible defects" as it advised the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to adopt "corrective measures." In its 2025 audit report, the agency flagged 71 projects costing P4.33 billion in the first

• Dole launches 24/7 hotline for El Niño-related work concerns (2026-11-04 05:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) has launched a new hotline called 15/30, as part of preparations for the El Niño phenomenon, which is expected to intensify this month until March next year. The nationwide hotline serves as a 24/7 help desk through which workers and their employers may raise job-related

• Latest DPWH stink: P491-M 'right-of-way scam'; 6 face graft raps (2026-11-04 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Tuesday filed graft and malversation charges in the Sandiganbayan against six former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) officials over their alleged involvement in the irregular acquisition of road right-of-way (ROW), worth at least P491 million, in General Santos City. The Ombudsman said it found

• Palace to police chief: Get Dela Rosa despite PNP past (2026-11-04 05:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday challenged the leadership of the Philippine National Police to ensure that Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa's past position as PNP chief

during the Duterte administration would not stand in the way of operations to serve him thearrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC). Palace press officer

• LTFRB fines Move It P555.75M over excess rider-partners (2026-11-04 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has imposed a P555.75-million penalty on motorcycle taxi platform Move It for exceeding its authorized number of rider-partners. Move It was authorized to operate only 17,746 rider-partners across Metro Manila, Cebu City, and Cagayan de Oro, but it exceeded this limit by 55,575 riders,

• Palace: Budget red flags can lead again to Marcos veto (2026-11-04 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos will not hesitate to exercise his veto power to remove questionable allocations from the proposed P7.2-trillion national budget for 2027, Malacañang said on Tuesday, after civil society watchdogs flagged more than P1 trillion in allegedly irregular spending and pork-barrel items in the House-approved version of the measure. Palace press officer

• Biz group to DOTr: Don’t open busway to private cars (2026-11-04 05:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) is pushing back against the Department of Transportation’s (DOTr) decision to temporarily allow private cars on the Edsa Busway, saying this would defeat the project’s very purpose. “Dedicated bus roadway and only regulated buses with high-volume capacity are the design imperatives for the Busway,” the

• BARMM chief minister speeds up Cabinet formation (2026-11-04 05:06)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — Bangsamoro Chief Minister Abdulraof “Sammy Gambar” Macacua has given the selection committee for top positions in the Bangsamoro government until 5 p.m. today to submit the possible appointees to his Cabinet. The positions to be filled include at least 15 ministers and deputy ministers, and a number of heads of

• Western Visayas, Soccsksargen workers to get wage hikes by Nov. 19 (2026-11-04 05:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Minimum wage earners in Western Visayas and Soccsksargen will receive higher pay starting Nov. 19, following the approval of new wage orders granting increases of up to P45 a day. Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino announced on Tuesday that the National Wages and Productivity Commission had approved the wage adjustments following consultations between

• Urdaneta City bids farewell to fallen pilot who inspired his village (2026-11-04 05:02)

URDANETA CITY, PANGASINAN, Philippines — He dreamed of bringing his family together under one roof and inspiring young people in his village. But Capt. Raymart Cabangcala came home not to fulfill those dreams, but to be laid to rest. A helicopter carrying the remains of the

30-year-old Philippine Air Force (PAF) pilot landed at Urdaneta

• PRO-12 campaign vs loose firearms nets 8 persons, 116 guns (2026-11-04 00:41)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — Police authorities in Soccsksargen or Region 12 announced that eight persons have been arrested and 116 firearms surrendered or recovered during simultaneous law enforcement operations from Oct. 26 to Nov. 1. During the weeklong period, police conducted 109 operations against loose firearms, Brig. Gen. Alan Manibog, Police Regional Office (PRO-12)

• Abra de Ilog develops ecotourism plan for Luyang Baga Cave (2026-11-04 00:34)

CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO, Philippines — The local government of Abra de Ilog in Occidental Mindoro is drawing up a sustainable ecotourism management plan for Luyang Baga Cave to ensure its future development protects the natural site while promoting community participation. The municipality conducted a three-day planning workshop from Oct. 27 to 29 in Sablayan,

• Refill vending machine tested in Baguio to reduce plastic waste (2026-11-03 23:35)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — A refill vending machine designed to reduce plastic waste, particularly single-use sachets, was pilot-tested along Session Road recently as part of efforts to encourage the use of reusable containers. In a statement on Tuesday (Nov. 3), the Baguio City Public Information Office said the machine, developed under the Circuflow, or Circuit

• 30-year-old man rescued from drowning at La Union beach (2026-11-03 23:18)

SAN ILDEFONSO, ILOCOS SUR, Philippines — Coast Guard personnel rescued a 30-year-old man swept into deeper waters by strong currents off Acapulco Beach in Barangay San Francisco, City of San Fernando, in nearby La Union on Monday, Nov. 2. The Coast Guard Station La Union Baywatch team brought the man ashore before transporting him via

• Solon wants informal economy workers granted health insurance (2026-11-03 23:17)

MANILA, Philippines — A lawmaker has asked his colleagues in the House to approve a measure that would grant health insurance to workers in the informal economy, to ensure that they will have a financial safety net during unanticipated health crises. In a statement on Tuesday, Quezon City Rep. Patrick Michael Vargas said he has

• Move It accountability, rider protection sought after P555.75M penalty (2026-11-03 22:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Advocacy and transport groups on Tuesday called for motorcycle taxi platform Move It to be held accountable for exceeding its authorized rider allocation, while urging regulators to protect the livelihoods of rider-partners affected by the company’s violations. The calls came after the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) imposed a P555.75-million

• PH-based parcel scam hub busted, 159 foreign nationals rounded up (2026-11-03 22:34)

MANILA, Philippines — At least 159 foreign nationals, including 128 Indonesians, were rounded up at an alleged “parcel scam hub” in Pasay City on Tuesday, Nov. 2, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said. According to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), the new scheme that has been operating for three months targeted Vietnamese, Chinese,

• Security guard in Bohol ignores injury, found dead the next day (2026-11-03 22:33)

PANGLAO, BOHOL, Philippines — A 36-year-old security guard was found dead inside a guardhouse at a construction site in Barangay Lourdes, Panglao, Bohol, on Tuesday morning, Nov. 3. The victim was identified as Eulalio Abandingo Jr., a resident of Barangay Looc, Panglao. Barangay Lourdes chairperson Eva Lorete received a call at around 7 a.m. informing

• 765 firearms surrendered, deposited in Bicol campaign (2026-11-03 22:23)

LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY, Philippines — Police in the Bicol region have accounted for 765 firearms with expired registrations, including 535 voluntarily deposited by their owners and 230 surrendered during police operations, the Police Regional Office 5 (PRO 5) said. The figures were reported on Tuesday (Nov. 2) during the launch of Project Kasurog: Bantay Baril

• La Union cops open to probe into alleged protection of illegal gambling (2026-11-03 22:17)

SAN ILDEFONSO, ILOCOS SUR, Philippines — The La Union Police Provincial Office (LUPPO) asserted on Monday (Nov. 2) that it does not tolerate corruption or the involvement of its personnel in illegal activities, adding that it takes seriously allegations that its officer-in-charge was protecting illegal gambling operations, including “peryahan” activities in some municipalities. In a

• 3 killed in separate shooting incidents in BARMM (2026-11-03 22:04)

COTABATO CITY – Three persons were killed in separate incidents of shooting in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao on Tuesday morning, police said. In Marawi City, according to Capt. Steffi Salanguit, police spokesperson for the Police Regional Office-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (PRO-BAR), a long standing land dispute led to a shooting incident involving four

• PCSO lotto results Nov. 3: No winner for ₱478.3M jackpot (2026-11-03 22:01)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the ₱478.3 million Ultra Lotto 6/58 jackpot in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) draw on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026. The winning combination for Ultra Lotto 6/58 was 16-55-01-06-27-14, which carried a jackpot prize of ₱478.3 million. No ticket matched all six numbers. The Super Lotto 6/49 jackpot also had no

• Nartatez says there is ‘secrecy’ in police operations (2026-11-03 21:47)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Tuesday said that it is working quietly and only gives information when necessary after Sen. Panfilo Lacson reminded

authorities to keep high-profile cases discreet. “There is always secrecy in our policeoperations. If there is a need for us to talk and or give the details,

• Manila Water releases November desludging schedule (2026-11-03 21:34)

MANILA, Philippines — As Filipino families return home after traveling to their respective provinces and visiting cemeteries to honor departed loved ones during Undas, Manila Water is encouraging customers to attend to household sanitation by availing themselves of the company’s scheduled desludging services this November. With families settling back into their regular routines, customers are

• Cordillera cops seize P110-M illegal drugs in week-long operations (2026-11-03 21:28)

BAGUIO CITY—Police seized more than P110 million worth of illegal drugs and arrested six suspected drug personalities during a week-long anti-illegal drug campaign across the Cordillera region from Oct. 26 to Nov. 1. In a statement, the Police Regional Office-Cordillera (PRO-CAR) said their operating units conducted 14 operations during the period, consisting of seven marijuana eradication operations,

• Dole OKs new wage order for W. Visayas, Negros Occidental (2026-11-03 21:21)

BACOLOD CITY – The National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC), chaired by Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino, has approved the P40 to P45 daily minimum wage increase for private sector workers in Western Visayas region and Negros Occidental province set by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) 6. RTWPB-6 chairman Sixto Rodriguez Jr. confirmed the

• Elevated heat level disrupted classes in Negros Occidental (2026-11-03 21:14)

BACOLOD CITY — Thousands of students in Negros Occidental province just stayed home on Tuesday, Nov. 3, with the cancellation of face-to face classes due to expected elevated heat levels. On Tuesday morning, the state weather bureau forecast the heat index in the province to reach 41 degrees Celsius. The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office said such heat

• Marcos wants safer online transactions for consumers, MSMEs (2026-11-03 21:04)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday called for stronger protection of digital systems and online services amid growing cybersecurity threats, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said. He made the call during his 11th meeting with the Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) Digital Infrastructure Sector Group at Malacañan Palace. READ: DICT: Low salary discourages

• Green sea turtle released into natural habitat in Candon City (2026-11-03 21:01)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — An approximately 80-kilogram female green sea turtle, locally known as pawikan, was released into its natural habitat by the city government of Candon in

this province as part of its Pawikan Development Project. In a statement on Tuesday (Nov. 3),the city government, led by Mayor Eric Dario Singson, said

• NCR prosecutors' group backs Zalameda as next chief justice (2026-11-03 20:50)

MANILA, Philippines – The National Capital Region (NCR) Chief Prosecutors Association Inc., has endorsed Supreme Court Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda to be the next chief justice. Zalameda began his career as a public prosecutor in Mandaluyong City in 1995 and rose through the ranks to become city prosecutor in 2002 before his 11 year stint

• 5 suspected members of robbery group killed in Bacoor shootout (2026-11-03 20:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Five suspected members of an alleged organized robbery group were killed in a shootout with police following a chase near the Molino 4 flyover in Bacoor City, Cavite on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 3, authorities said. According to initial reports, the suspects were planning to rob an exclusive subdivision along Molino Boulevard when

• Ilocos Sur police report no untoward incidents during Undas 2026 (2026-11-03 20:22)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — The Ilocos Sur Police Provincial Office (ISPPO) reported no untoward incidents during the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, as police personnel maintained security and assisted cemetery-goers across the province. In a statement on Tuesday, the ISPPO said its personnel conducted patrols and security checks, managed crowds,

• Mangroves now shield Balanga from floods, serve as fishing lifeline (2026-11-03 20:18)

MANILA, Philippines — For years, Balanga City's degraded coastlines exposed its communities to flooding, and fish catches declined, especially during storms. Among those who witnessed those times was Jaime Buenaventura, chair of the City Fishery and Aquatic Resources Management Council (CFARMC). "Before, many people would cut down and gather wood from our mangroves. Because of

• Lawmakers also 'denied' transparency in 2027 budget bill (2026-11-03 20:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Deputy Speaker Ronaldo Puno on Tuesday said budget transparency had been denied not only to the public but also to members of the House of Representatives, many of whom were allegedly unaware of the details of the allocations approved by the chamber. "Transparency has not only been denied by the House leadership

• Edsa busway still exclusive to buses amid temporary scheme in one stretch (2026-11-03 20:07)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on Tuesday clarified that the Edsa busway will remain exclusive to passenger buses, even as some lanes between Quezon City and Mandaluyong City will be temporarily opened to private vehicles. The DPWH said that private vehicles will only be allowed to pass through Lane

• Ridon: Senate unlikely to sustain Sara Duterte broad evidence objections (2026-11-03 19:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate impeachment court is unlikely to grant Vice President Sara Duterte's broad objections to the prosecution's formal offer of evidence, Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon said on Tuesday Ridon, an impeachment prosecutor, said Duterte's lawyers virtually objected to all evidence presented by the prosecution concerning the unexplained wealth charge, including her

• Active cop arrested in Pangasinan drug raid; P5.5M 'shabu' seized (2026-11-03 19:49)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan — Anti-drug authorities arrested an active police officer and seized more than 812 grams of suspected "shabu" (crystal meth) worth P5.5 million during a raid on his residence in Barangay Aserda, Mapandan town in this province. The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Region 1 identified the suspect as a chief master sergeant. READ:

• INQToday: Schools may suspend, resume classes under new EO (2026-11-03 19:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Here are INQToday's top stories for Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026, as of 6 p.m. WALANG PASOK: Schools may suspend, resume classes Schools may independently suspend in-person classes based on safety risks within their premises and seek to resume face-to-face learning even while a local government-ordered suspension remains in effect, under a new

• NUP expresses optimism over talks with budget watchdogs – Puno (2026-11-03 19:36)

MANILA, Philippines – Deputy Speaker Ronaldo Puno said on Tuesday the National Unity Party (NUP) is upbeat on meeting with the People's Budget Coalition (PBC) to discuss issues tied to the proposed P7.2-trillion national budget for next year. On Monday, the PBC said several lawmakers have invited them to meet and review the House approved

• Proposed P100-M Dinagat Islands sports complex gains traction (2026-11-03 19:07)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — The construction of the proposed P100 million sports facility in Dinagat Islands province has gained traction as Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chairman Patrick Gregorio led Monday the inspection of the proposed site. Dinagat Islands Gov. Nilo Demerey Jr. and local officials welcomed Gregorio and accompanied him for the survey

• El Niño alert: How a strong event could threaten Metro Manila's water supply (2026-11-03 18:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Metro Manila's water supply could come under increasing pressure as a strong El Niño brings prolonged dry conditions and reduces water inflows into reservoirs serving the capital region. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) describes El Niño as a climate phenomenon characterized by unusually warm sea surface temperatures in

• Edcom 2 welcomes new class suspension rules amid looming super El Niño (2026-11-03 18:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2) has welcomed President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s new policy allowing school-level decisions on class suspensions and resumptions, saying it could help minimize learning disruptions while ensuring the safety of learners and teachers as the country braces for a prolonged El Niño. In a statement on Tuesday,

• PCG logs over 83,000 passengers at ports after Undas (2026-11-03 18:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) recorded more than 83,000 passengers that have passed through ports nationwide on Tuesday, Nov. 3, after the observance of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day, or Undas. According to its latest tally, at least 44,720 outbound passengers and 38,738 inbound passengers were monitored between 6 a.m.

• Cloudy Wednesday, rain showers expected due to ‘amihan’, easterlies (2026-11-03 18:15)

(Satellite image from Pagasa) MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon or “amihan” and the easterlies are forecast to bring rains to parts of the country on Wednesday, according to the state weather bureau. In its 4 p.m. weather advisory, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that partly cloudy to cloudy skies

• Cagayan de Oro braces for ‘super’ El Niño water crisis (2026-11-03 17:59)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Facing a looming “super” El Niño, this city is confronting a critical vulnerability: its heavy reliance on a single river for bulk water supply. The impending dry spell, expected to strike hardest between November and December and persist into early 2027, has prompted local officials and a science watchdog to

• Mt. Guiting-Guiting climbing activities suspended for three months (2026-11-03 17:45)

CALAPAN CITY — All mountaineering activities at the Mount Guiting-Guiting Natural Park in Romblon have been suspended from Nov. 1 this year to Jan. 31, 2027, to allow the rehabilitation of the mountain’s flora and fauna. In a notice, the Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) said regular mountaineering operations would resume

• Cordillera records zero crime incidents during Undas weekend (2026-11-03 17:45)

BAGUIO CITY — No crime incidents were recorded in cemeteries, columbaria and memorial parks across the Cordillera during the observance of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day, the Cordillera police reported. In a statement following the Tuesday (Nov. 3) flag-raising ceremony at Camp Dangwa, Police Brig. Gen. Noel B. Vallo, Cordillera police director, said

• Gatchalian: Senate will axe P8.8B infra projects from 2027 budget (2026-11-03 17:21)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate will remove 295 unsupported infrastructure projects worth P8.836 billion from the proposed 2027 national budget, Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian said Tuesday. According to Gatchalian, the projects lack documentation, based on the evaluation conducted by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). “The Senate is committed unequivocally in

• Low gov’t pay deepens shortage of occupational, speech therapists (2026-11-03 17:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Low government salaries are making it difficult to attract and retain occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists in public hospitals, worsening the shortage of professionals needed to support learners with disabilities. The Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2) pointed to the pay disparity as it called for a review of the entry-level

• Soccsksargen workers to get P41 daily wage hike starting Nov. 19 (2026-11-03 16:49)

MANILA, Philippines – Private sector workers in Soccsksargen region will receive a P41 daily minimum wage increase in two tranches, with the first adjustment taking effect on Nov. 19, under a new wage order approved by the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole). Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino said on Tuesday that the National Wages and

• Businessman killed, 2 arrested in Marawi shooting (2026-11-03 16:41)

ILIGAN CITY — A businessman was killed in a shooting incident inside the premises of Haifa Palace in Barangay Gadongan, Marawi City, on Tuesday morning, while the two alleged suspects were arrested following a hot pursuit operation, police said. The victim was identified as Daud Ayo Ali, married and a resident of Barangay Gadongan. The

• Ombudsman files charges vs 6 DPWH execs over P491-M ‘right-of-way’ scam (2026-11-03 16:35)

[Updated Nov. 3, 2026, 7:21 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Tuesday filed graft and malversation charges before the Sandiganbayan against six former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) officials over their alleged involvement in a P491-million “road right-of-way scam” in General Santos City. In a statement on Oct. 25,

• Couple stabbed by son while asleep in Zamboanga City (2026-11-03 16:26)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — A 52-year-old man and his 51-year-old wife were rushed to the hospital after they were allegedly stabbed by their own son while asleep in their residence at Purok 6, Star Apple Drive, Barangay Sangali, Zamboanga City early Monday morning, Nov. 2. The Zamboanga City Police Station 3 (ZCPS3) identified

• LTO sets new renewal period for vehicle registrations, licenses that expired from July-Oct. 2026 (2026-11-03 16:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has implemented new renewal periods until February 2027 for motor vehicle registrations, driver's licenses, and other permits that expired from July to October this year. In an advisory on Tuesday, the LTO said that this new implementation is under the Memorandum Circular (MC) No. MVL-2026-5523, which lifted

• W. Visayas workers to get up to P45 daily wage hike starting Nov. 19 (2026-11-03 16:25)

MANILA, Philippines—Minimum wage earners in Western Visayas will receive daily pay increases of up to P45 starting Nov. 19, following the approval of a new wage order by the Department of Labor and Employment. Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino on Tuesday said that the National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC) approved Wage Order No. VI-30 following

• Defenseless defense: Ridon says VP camp insisting on wrong arguments (2026-11-03 16:19)

MANILA, Philippines — Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon has criticized Vice President Sara Duterte's camp for continuing to use what he described as disproven arguments in responding to the prosecution's formal offer of evidence, saying the defense panel could best be described as "defenseless." Ridon, a member of the House of Representatives' prosecution panel, said

• Mimaropa police logs zero crime incidents during Undas (2026-11-03 16:09)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The Mimaropa police recorded zero crime incidents across the provinces of Occidental and Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan during the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, according to Police Brig. Gen. Christopher R. Dela Cruz, regional police director, in a statement on Tuesday (Nov. 3). Beyond

• 6-hour power outage set in parts of Ilocos Norte on November 8 (2026-11-03 16:03)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur—Parts of Ilocos Norte will experience a six-hour power supply interruption on Sunday, November 8, as the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) conducts maintenance work on its transmission facilities. The scheduled power supply interruption will run from 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., affecting areas served by the Ilocos Norte Electric

• Palace wants budget watchdogs to scrutinize 2027 budget 'red flags' (2026-11-03 15:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday urged budget watchdogs to report any "red flags" they uncover in the proposed P7.2-trillion national budget for 2027. At a briefing, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. would take note of any alleged anomalies flagged by groups reviewing the proposed budget. READ: House to consult budget watchdogs "Sa

• DENR confirms 168-hectare peatland in Leyte town (2026-11-03 15:53)

TACLOBAN CITY — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has confirmed a new peatland covering a probable 168.34 hectares (ha) in Palo, Leyte, adding to the country's growing inventory of carbon-rich wetland ecosystems that play a role in climate change mitigation. The newly identified Palo, Leyte Peatland (PLP) spans parts of Barangays Barayong

• 39°C heat index grips Oriental Mindoro; public cautioned (2026-11-03 15:52)

CALAPAN CITY — Oriental Mindoro recorded a heat index of 39 ° at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, prompting authorities to remind residents to take precautions against heat-related illnesses. The heat index measures how hot the temperature feels to the human body when relative humidity is taken into account. The Provincial Information Office, citing the Philippine

• TransCo addresses Mindoro power outage, supply issues (2026-11-03 15:42)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) is stepping up efforts to reduce the duration of power outages in Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, through better grid monitoring and closer coordination with power generators and distribution utilities. Currently, consumers served by the Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative (ORMECO) experience two to three power interruptions

• Caraga cops log peaceful Undas; cemetery crowd tops 350,000 (2026-11-03 15:39)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — The observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day across Caraga (Region 13) was generally peaceful and orderly, with over 350,000 people visiting cemeteries and memorial parks, the Police Regional Office -13 (PRO-13) said Tuesday. Brig. Gen. Rolindo Suguilon, PRO-13 director, said no untoward or major peace and

• PNP backs Lacson: Secrecy key in hunt for Bato dela Rosa (2026-11-03 15:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) agrees with Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson that secrecy is key when handling the manhunt operation on Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa. "Tama ang sinabi ni Sen. Lacson na secrecy is key in our operation," PNP spokesperson Col. Allen Rae Co told reporters on Tuesday. (Sen. Lacson was

• Coast Guard rescues 34 passengers from distressed boat off Palawan (2026-11-03 15:21)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) rescued 34 persons after their motorized banca encountered engine trouble in Taytay Bay in Palawan on Monday. The passengers were aboard MBCA Kin J-Mar, which was traveling to Barangay Casian in Taytay, to visit the graves of their departed loved ones, the Coast Guard District

• PhilHealth warns public against scammers impersonating CEO for money (2026-11-03 15:17)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) on Tuesday warned the public against individuals impersonating its Chief Executive Officer, Beverly Lorraine

Ho, to solicit money and conduct unauthorized transactions. In an advisory, PhilHealth said thatsocial media posts, emails, or messages requesting money or donations in the name of theagency or its

• E-bike rider dies in Laguna mishap (2026-11-03 15:13)

LUCENA CITY — A 47-year-old e-bike rider was hit and crushed to death by a truck in San Pablo City, Laguna, on Monday night ,according to the local police. The e-bike rider stopped in front of the truck in Barangay San Roque at 10:50 p.m., based on security camera footage, the Calabarzon police said. The

• Suspected gunrunner wounded in Cotabato buy-bust (2026-11-03 14:54)

COTABATO CITY — An alleged gunrunner was wounded in a shootout with police operatives during a buy-bust operation in Kabacan, North Cotabato on Tuesday. The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), backed by personnel of the Kabacan Municipal Police Station, conducted the operation along the national highway in Barangay Kayaga at around 8:45 a.m. Lt.

• Palace challenges Nartatez: PNP must arrest Dela Rosa regardless of ties (2026-11-03 14:53)

MANILA, Philippines – Malacañang on Tuesday challenged the Philippine National Police (PNP) leadership to ensure that Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa’s former position as PNP chief would not stand in the way of enforcing his arrest warrant. Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said in a television interview last Saturday that the senator’s previous role as top

• Teodoro flags limited Army reach, gaps in PH defense infra (2026-11-03 14:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Army effectively covers only 40 to 50 percent of the country, and its limited reach is insufficient even for logistical operations, according to Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. Teodoro said the military needs additional strategic bases to address gaps in the country’s defense capabilities. “We also need to build our strategic

• LTFRB fines Move It P555.75M over excess riders; platform appeals (2026-11-03 14:44)

MANILA, Philippines – The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has imposed a P555.75-million penalty on motorcycle taxi platform Move It for exceeding its authorized number of rider-partners. Move It was authorized to operate only 17,746 rider-partners across Metro Manila, Cebu City and Cagayan de Oro but exceeded this limit by 55,575 riders, according

• Oriental Mindoro ports log over 30,000 passengers during Undas (2026-11-03 14:31)

CALAPAN CITY — More than 30,000 travellers passed through major seaports in Oriental Mindoro from Oct. 30 to early Nov. 3 during this year’s All Saints’ Day holiday weekend, according to the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO). The PDRRMO recorded a combined 37,358 inbound and outbound passengers at the ports of

Calapan,

• Lacson: Call for due process won’t shield Bato dela Rosa from ICC trial (2026-11-03 14:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson on Tuesday said that his call for due process for Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa does not mean shielding his colleague from facing trial before the International Criminal Court (ICC). According to Lacson, “due process means allowing Senator dela Rosa to face trial before the ICC rather than

• INQToday: ICC seeks more testimonies vs Duterte; Mayon emits ash plume (2026-11-03 14:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Here are the top stories for INQToday’s afternoon newscast: The prosecution at the International Criminal Court seeks to use three more recorded testimonies in the crimes against humanity case against former President Rodrigo Duterte. Meanwhile, 16 areas across the country are forecast to experience dangerous heat levels on Tuesday, according to Pagasa.

• PCID lauds Macacua, urges MILF, MNLF to sustain peace gains (2026-11-03 14:01)

COTABATO CITY — The Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID) has congratulated Member of Parliament Abdulraof “Sammy Gambar” Macacua on his election as chief minister of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) by the region’s first elected Bangsamoro Parliament. In a statement on Tuesday, the PCID called the transition “an important milestone

• Malaybalay warns against almsgiving ahead of Christmas influx (2026-11-03 13:54)

MALAYBALAY CITY, Bukidnon — The Malaybalay City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) has renewed its advocacy campaign discouraging public almsgiving to street mendicants, sparking mixed reactions among residents as the city prepares for the seasonal influx of beggars ahead of the Christmas holidays. Ivy Amor Urbina, City Social Welfare and Development Office chief, clarified

• PNP: Viral photo of Bato Dela Rosa at cemetery is ‘old’ (2026-11-03 13:33)

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine National Police (PNP) clarified that the circulating photo of Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa at a cemetery in Digos City, Davao del Sur, was taken three years ago, warning the public against spreading misleading information. “It was confirmed by our tech team that it was an old picture,” PNP spokesperson Col. Allen

• 2 motorcycle riders killed, 2 injured in Quezon road crashes (2026-11-03 12:38)

LUCENA CITY — Two motorcycle riders were killed while two others were hurt in separate road accidents in Quezon province on Monday, police said. A 39-year-old farmer and his female back rider were traveling along a road in Barangay Manggalang in Guinayangan town at 1:45 p.m. when the driver suddenly lost control of the motorcycle,

• Paws, AKF at NBI over improperly dumped deceased pets (2026-11-03 12:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Animal welfare organizations on Tuesday went to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to seek justice for the alleged dumping of dead dogs and cats by Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium. READ: NBI probes pet crematorium after 29 animals dumped in Bulacan According to the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (Paws), it went

• PNP rejects ‘shoot-to-kill’ calls vs. Bato Dela Rosa (2026-11-03 12:18)

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine National Police (PNP) rejects calls for a “shoot-to-kill” approach in serving an arrest warrant against Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, amid the circulation of fabricated quote cards attributing such a call to a lawmaker. “The PNP does not subscribe to a shoot-to-kill approach. Our mandate is to enforce the law, not to

• Bohol donates lot for new Hall of Justice in Tagbilaran City (2026-11-03 12:14)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — The Bohol provincial government has donated a province-owned lot at the foot of Mt. Banat-i in Tagbilaran City to the Supreme Court of the Philippines for a new Hall of Justice. Gov. Aris Aumentado signed the Deed of Donation on Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026, formalizing the province’s donation of the property

• NIA opens 6 solar-powered irrigation sites in Leyte amid El Niño (2026-11-03 12:00)

TACLOBAN CITY — The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in Eastern Visayas has inaugurated six solar-powered irrigation facilities in Leyte to strengthen water supply to farmlands and help farmers prepare for the possible effects of the looming Super El Niño. NIA Region 8, led by Regional Manager Jaime de Jesus, formally opened the Opong Solar Pump

• One of PH’s most wanted killed in Cavite shootout (2026-11-03 11:45)

LUCENA CITY — A man listed among the nation’s most wanted fugitives was killed in an alleged shootout with police while officers were serving an arrest warrant in Magallanes, Cavite, on Nov. 1, All Saints’ Day. The suspect reportedly ran behind a bamboo hut in Barangay Tua at 10:30 a.m. to elude approaching lawmen. The

• Is sugar in Negros still sweet? (2026-11-03 11:44)

For more than a century, Negros Occidental has been known as the Sugar Bowl of the Philippines. The province produces roughly two-thirds of the country’s sugar and has long been an economic anchor of Western Visayas. Sugar has shaped not only the landscape but also the livelihoods of generations of farmers, farmworkers, truck drivers, mill

• Pangilinan to gov’t: Stand with Kasibu farmers, not mining interests (2026-11-03 11:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan on Tuesday urged government officials to protect farmers opposing mining exploration activities in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya. According to the senator, government agencies should respect the rights of residents who have maintained

barricades for nearly six months to oppose the exploration project of North Luzon MineralResources Corp. (NLMRC).

• Army troops hone life-saving skills in Davao de Oro (2026-11-03 11:34)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Preparing for crises beyond the battlefield, troops of the Army's 10th Infantry Division underwent an intensive three-day medical training to boost their disaster response and frontline life-saving capabilities. The 10ID Station Hospital spearheaded the basic life support and standard first aid training at Camp General Manuel T. Yan Sr. in

• DFA opens authentication hub in Bohol (2026-11-03 11:21)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol— Residents of Bohol and neighboring provinces can now have their public documents authenticated without traveling to Cebu or Manila with the opening of a new Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Authentication Hub at Alturas Mall here on Oct. 30. The new facility, located on the mall's fifth floor, was formally opened to bring

• High heat index halts in-person classes in Tacloban public schools (2026-11-03 11:08)

TACLOBAN CITY — About 55,000 students in public elementary and secondary schools in Tacloban City will shift to distance learning on Tuesday and Wednesday after the city schools division suspended face-to-face classes due to a projected heat index of 40 degrees Celsius. Nilo Eder, spokesperson of the Department of Education (DepEd) Schools Division of Tacloban

• Undas 2026: Passenger decline seen in ports across PH – PPA (2026-11-03 11:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Fewer passengers were recorded at ports across the country during this year's Undas holidays compared to the same period last year due to higher fares and shorter vacation days, according to the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA). The PPA reported that a total of 1,362,454 passengers passed through ports managed by the agency

• P38-M water, road projects to benefit Manobo villagers in Surigao (2026-11-03 10:53)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Hundreds of indigenous residents and farming households in an upland village in San Miguel, Surigao del Sur, will gain reliable access to clean water. This became possible after a tripartite agreement was signed on Oct. 29 to fast-track vital rural infrastructure in the indigenous residents' ancestral domain, worth P38

• 4 Eastern Visayas most wanted suspects arrested in Undas ops (2026-11-03 10:21)

TACLOBAN CITY — Police arrested four of Eastern Visayas' most wanted suspects, including three facing rape and sexual assault charges, in separate manhunt operations on Sunday, the Police Regional Office 8 (PRO-8) reported. Brig. Gen. Romano Cardiño, PRO-8 Director, said the arrests were part of the police region's intensified campaign against wanted persons during the observance of

• Dole launches 15/30 hotline amid El Niño preparations (2026-11-03 10:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) on Tuesday, Nov. 3, launched a nationwide 24/7 hotline where workers, employers and other stakeholders can report workplace concerns and labor-related violations. Dubbed “15/30,” the hotline was introduced during the department’s flag-raising ceremony as part of its preparations for the expected El Niño, which could

- PNP urges pet owners to file raps vs crematorium over dumped remains (2026-11-03 10:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) urged pet owners who may have been defrauded by a pet crematorium in Cavite to file complaints after 29 dead dogs and cats were found dumped in a vacant lot in Bulacan. The deceased pets were reportedly taken to Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium in Bacoor City,

- Cops rescue 16-year-old girl allegedly held over debt in Leyte (2026-11-03 10:06)

TACLOBAN CITY — After responding to an emergency 911 call, police officers rescued a 16-year-old girl who was allegedly prevented from leaving her companions because of an outstanding debt in Barangay Guindapunan, Palo, Leyte, on Sunday. The Police Regional Office 8 (PRO-8) said personnel from the Palo Municipal Police Station and the Municipal Social Welfare

- Mayon emits ash plume on Tuesday morning (2026-11-03 09:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Mayon Volcano in Albay spewed an ash plume that rose more than 1,600 meters above its summit on Tuesday morning, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said. Phivolcs said the ash emission occurred from 8:22 a.m. to 8:25 a.m. “This event generated a plume that rose 1600 meters above the

- Western Visayas schools suspend classes due to 43°C heat index (2026-11-03 09:51)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — Schools across Western Visayas suspended classes or shifted to online learning on Tuesday as the heat index is forecast to reach 43 degrees Celsius in Iloilo City and 42°C in Roxas City, Capiz. The class suspensions and adjustments cover public and private educational institutions in Iloilo and Capiz, with some schools

- P3.1M in smuggled cigarettes seized, 3 busted in Negros Oriental (2026-11-03 09:27)

BACOLOD CITY — Police intercepted some P3.1 million worth of suspected smuggled cigarettes and arrested three men during a joint anti-smuggling operation in Barangay Nagbo-alao, Basay town, Negros Oriental, on Monday morning. The Police Regional Office Negros Island Region (PRO NIR) identified the suspects as “Lom,” 25, the truck driver; and passengers “Joe,” 41, and “Ben,”

- BARMM opens applications for top gov’t positions (2026-11-03 09:16)

COTABATO CITY — The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) has announced that it is now accepting applications for key leadership positions in the Bangsamoro

Government. In an official announcement released on Monday, the BARMM government asked all interested applicants for minister, deputy minister (DM), head of office, and deputy head of office positions

• Naval forces seize P398M in smuggled cigarettes off Sulu (2026-11-03 09:08)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Naval forces intercepted nearly P398 million worth of suspected smuggled cigarettes and motorized crafts off the coast of Sulu in three separate operations in the past four days, officials reported Tuesday. The successive operations conducted by the Naval Command Western Mindanao (NCWM) from Oct. 29 to Nov. 1 led

• OIL PRICE WATCH as of Nov. 3, 2026 (2026-11-03 09:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Motorists will face mixed fuel price adjustments Tuesday, Nov. 3, with gasoline prices increasing by as much as P3.50 per liter, while diesel and kerosene prices will go down by P1 and P1.90 per liter, respectively, according to the Department of Energy (DOE). The DOE said the latest changes reflect movements in

• 16 areas to experience dangerous heat levels Tuesday — Pagasa (2026-11-03 08:13)

MANILA, Philippines — Sixteen areas across the country are expected to experience dangerous levels of heat on Tuesday, with heat indices reaching as high as 43 degrees Celsius, according to the state weather bureau. In its latest heat index forecast issued on Monday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) identified Iloilo City,

• 3 ex-drug convicts arrested in Lucena buy-busts on All Saints' Day (2026-11-03 08:07)

LUCENA CITY — Three ex-drug convicts were arrested in separate anti-narcotics operations in Lucena City on Sunday, Nov. 1, during the observance of All Saints' Day, police said. Two of the suspects were arrested at 2:25 p.m. after they allegedly sold shabu (crystal meth) to an undercover police officer in Barangay Ibabang Iyam, according to

• Undas 2026: PITX logs over 1.68M passengers (2026-11-03 07:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) recorded more than 1.68 million passengers during the Undas exodus this year, the terminal said on Tuesday. In its latest data, PITX said a total of 1,686,201 passengers passed through the terminal from Sunday, Oct. 25, to Monday, Nov. 2. This figure was slightly higher than

• Two motorcycle riders die in Quezon crash (2026-11-03 07:44)

LUCENA CITY — Two motorcycle riders who were not wearing crash helmets died after their vehicle crashed into a concrete roadside barrier in San Francisco, Quezon, on Nov. 1. The 29-year-old male driver and his male back rider were traveling along a winding road in Barangay Nasalaan when the motorcycle suddenly went out of control

• Amihan to bring rains over parts of Extreme Northern Luzon on Nov. 3 (2026-11-03 07:09)

MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon, or amihan, will continue to bring rains over parts of Extreme Northern Luzon, the state weather bureau said on Tuesday. In its 5 a.m. weather forecast, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) weather specialist Veronica Torres said amihan would prevail until Friday. “We expect fair weather and

• Kin honor ‘desaparecidos’ on All Souls’ Day (2026-11-03 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Abner Hizarsa was on his way to his daughter’s school in Subic, Zambales, to bring her lunch when he was abducted by unidentified armed men riding a van on March 22, 2007. That day was the last time his partner, Cresencia dela Cruz, and their three children saw Hizarsa. Hizarsa was just

• Pangilinan: Tougher action needed vs profiteers amid El Niño (2026-11-03 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan on Monday urged the government to intensify its crackdown on hoarders, profiteers and cartels as the country braces for the impact of a strong El Niño, such as drought and water shortage, on food production and prices. “[Authorities should] gather evidence and pursue criminal and administrative cases against

• NBI to investigate pet crematorium (2026-11-03 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation will investigate the reported dumping of dead dogs and cats allegedly by Bacoor City-based Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium, following the discovery of their carcasses at a vacant lot in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. It was animal rescue service Luna and Furry Siblings which reported the

• House to consult budget watchdogs (2026-11-03 05:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Budget watchdogs said House lawmakers have asked to meet with them to review the lower chamber’s approved spending bill, amid growing scrutiny over public money allocation in next year’s proposed P7.2-trillion national budget. “We’re getting more and more feedback from various House members, from some parties, from the minority … who all

• Police vow to pursue Bantag following Ifugao raid (2026-11-03 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police on Monday vowed to pursue “every lead” until former Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) chief Gerald Bantag is captured after police officers failed to find him in a poultry farm in Lamut, Ifugao, on Sunday. “Every lead will be pursued, every lawful opportunity will be acted upon, and we

• MNLF faction says Dela Rosa not under its protection (2026-11-03 05:30)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — A faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) led by former Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema has denied protecting Sen. Ronald “Bato”

dela Rosa, saying there is no verified link between the former Philippine National Police chiefand the organization despite his ties to figures associated with the group.

• Mayon evacuees reel from water shortage in Tabaco City (2026-11-03 05:06)

TABACO CITY, ALBAY, Philippines — Mayon evacuees staying at a temporary shelter in Barangay Buang here are struggling with an erratic water supply, forcing them to ration water for their daily needs. The evacuees said water rarely flowed from the faucets, and drums placed near the toilets were often empty. “Drinking water is what we

• Antimining group in N. Vizcaya hits court extension of ban on barricades (2026-11-03 05:04)

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA, Philippines — An antimining group in this province condemned a regional trial court’s decision to extend a temporary ban on protest barricades blocking public roads leading to mining exploration sites in Kasibu town, saying the order could further restrict residents’ opposition to the project. The court extended the prohibition until Nov. 17.

• Family refuses to light a candle for missing loved one (2026-11-03 05:02)

MANTICAO, MISAMIS ORIENTAL, Philippines — For nine years now, Evelyn Powao has been selling flowers outside cemeteries to support her family, but there is one grave she has never been able to visit and one candle she refuses to light. Her husband Joseph, a construction worker, went missing during the five-month battle between government forces

• Walang Pasok: High heat index prompts class suspensions on Nov. 3 (2026-11-02 23:13)

MANILA, Philippines — Some schools and local governments have announced the suspension of face-to-face classes for Tuesday, Nov. 3, because of expected high heat indices. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said a heat index of 42°C to 51°C is already dangerous, pointing out that with this level of heat, “heat cramps and

• Lone player wins ₱15-M 6/45 Mega Lotto jackpot (2026-11-02 21:52)

MANILA, Philippines—A lone ticket holder won the ₱15 million MegaLotto 6/45 jackpot on Monday, November 2, 2026, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. No player bagged the Grand Lotto 6/55 jackpot. Mega Lotto 6/45 draw result: 11-02-26-07-44-05 Jackpot prize: 15 million Grand Lotto 6/55 draw result: 45-43-07-53-25-48 Jackpot prize: ₱326.05 million Minor games The

• Garin: VP camp resorting to delaying, diversionary tactics in impeach trial (2026-11-02 21:38)

MANILA, Philippines – The prosecution’s decision to withdraw three of the four impeachment charges against Vice President Sara Duterte was partly driven by concerns that the defense would prolong the proceedings by presenting an extensive lineup of witnesses. House Deputy

Speaker and Iloilo 1st District Rep. Janette Garin said Duterte's defense lawyers seems pursuing procedural

• Prosecution: Bank records prompted dropping of 3 impeachment charges (2026-11-02 21:17)

MANILA, Philippines – The prosecution could not have decided at the beginning of Vice President Sara Z. Duterte's impeachment trial to concentrate exclusively on unexplained wealth because the financial documents that ultimately convinced prosecutors to narrow down the case became available only after lengthy legal disputes and compliance with court-issued subpoenas. House private prosecutor and

• 'Undas' generally peaceful, orderly; 40.7M visit cemeteries nationwide (2026-11-02 21:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) reported a generally peaceful and orderly observance of Undas 2026 nationwide, recording more than 40.7 million visitors in cemeteries, memorial parks, and columbaria nationwide from Oct. 30 to Nov. 2 "Based on reports from the ground, this year's Undas was generally peaceful and orderly, reflecting the discipline

• Dead pets dumping in Bulacan: Senators seek tougher measures; probe set (2026-11-02 21:08)

MANILA, Philippines – Several senators are seeking to strengthen existing laws against animal cruelty as they condemned the dumping of the remains of several animals in San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan. They are also conducting an inquiry into the incident involving Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium in Bacoor City, Cavite, which was allegedly behind the

• DOTr issues Nov. 4 -7 Ortigas-Shaw area traffic alert over subway project (2026-11-02 20:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Vehicular traffic in the Shaw-Ortigas area from Wednesday, Nov. 4, to Saturday, Nov. 7. is expected to affected by the transportation of one of the Metro Manila Subway Project's tunnel boring machines. The Department of Transportation (DOTr) announced on Facebook on Monday, Nov. 2, that the possible gridlock is due to the

• Families of 'desaparecidos' honor missing kin on All Souls' Day (2026-11-02 20:41)

MANILA, Philippines—Abner Hizarsa was on his way to his daughter's school in Subic, Zambales, to bring her lunch when he was abducted by unidentified armed men in a van without a license plate on March 21, 2007. Until today, his common-law wife, Cresencia dela Cruz, and his three children have yet to find out where

• WATCH: Undas brings families together to honor departed loved ones (2026-11-02 20:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Beyond honoring departed loved ones, Undas also offers families an opportunity to reunite and spend time together, as relatives return to their hometowns and gather for the annual tradition./dp READ: MPD: Manila South Cemetery generally peaceful during Undas 2026

• Bukidnon 'Undas' peaceful overall; 1 dead in road crashes (2026-11-02 19:49)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — The annual All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day observances across Bukidnon were generally peaceful, though authorities recorded multiple highway vehicular accidents involving motorcycles and pedestrians, killing an individual. Capt. Leonila Vicente, newly-designated Bukidnon Police Provincial Office (BukPPO) information officer, told the Inquirer on Monday afternoon, November 2, that security operations

• Family, friends, fans pay tribute to Rene Baterbonia on Undas (2026-11-02 19:42)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur—Months after his untimely demise, outpourings of grief, love, and demands for justice continue to trail the late Agusan del Sur basketball standout Rene "Bobet" Baterbonia, as floral tributes and prayers flooded his gravesite in Talacogon, Agusan del Sur on All Saints' and All Souls' Day (Undas). Supporters, friends, and fans

• Manila North sees 660,000 visitors on All Souls' Day (2026-11-02 19:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Manila North Cemetery saw around 660,000 visitors on All Souls' Day as of Monday night, with some of them said they came this day to avoid the influx of millions of visitors on All Saints' Day in one of the biggest cemeteries nationwide. "We visited just now to avoid the huge

• Military says NPA leader killed in South Cotabato encounter (2026-11-02 19:21)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — A high-ranking communist instructor wanted for attempted homicide was killed in a legitimate law enforcement operation in South Cotabato last week, the military announced, directly contradicting rebel assertions that the man was an ailing, unarmed retiree allegedly executed by state forces. The conflicting narratives center on the October 30 death

• 44°C heat index recorded in 3 areas on Monday, Nov. 2 (2026-11-02 19:09)

MANILA, Philippines – The heat index peaked at 44°C in La Union, Aurora, and Occidental Mindoro on Monday, Nov. 2, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Based on its five-day computed heat index, the highest were recorded in its stations located in Bacnotan, La Union, Baler, Aurora, and San Jose,

• Naia expects Undas season passenger count to exceed 1 million (2026-11-02 19:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The New NAIA Infra Corp. (NNIC) is anticipating at least 144,000 passengers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) on Monday, All Souls' Day. This is on top of the 868,423 passengers recorded from October 27 to November 1, which will push the total number of travelers using the country's primary airport

• Police recover 5,700 liters of alleged pilfered diesel in GenSan (2026-11-02 18:49)

KORONADAL CITY — The police recovered about 5,700 liters of suspected illegally obtained diesel fuel in General Santos City, following a report received through the government's 8888 hotline. The Police Regional Office 12 (PRO-12) said its operatives responded to a report of alleged diesel pilferage and illegal distribution at around 3:37 p.m. on Thursday, Oct.

• Romblon State U: Home work, study setup from Nov. 3-5 (2026-11-02 18:24)

CALAPAN CITY — Romblon State University (RSU) will implement a three-day work-from-home arrangement for its faculty and staff from Tuesday (November 3) to Thursday (November 5) to promote economic efficiency and work-life balance. In an advisory, the state university said the arrangement would be implemented under Office of the University President Memorandum No. 154-00, series

• Salceda pursuing scheme to revive Lucena-Matnog railway project (2026-11-02 18:14)

LEGAZPI CITY — Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO) Secretary Joey Salceda is pursuing an alternative financing scheme dubbed "Operation Peñafrancia" to revive the long-delayed Philippine National Railways (PNR) South Long Haul project, which aims to restore train services between Lucena City in Quezon and Matnog, Sorsogon. In a radio interview with radio station DZGB on

• PTFOMS: Arrests alone not enough to end impunity in media attacks (2026-11-02 17:52)

MANILA, Philippines — The Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFOMS) has called for sustained efforts to resolve attacks on journalists and hold perpetrators accountable, as the Philippines joined other nations in observing the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists on Monday, Nov. 2. In a statement on Monday, the PTFOMS stressed

• Police chief denies tagging 'prominent personality' in Batangas shooting (2026-11-02 17:50)

LUCENA CITY — San Jose, Batangas police chief Maj. Florencio Caisip Jr. denied reports attributing to him a description of one of the suspects in the killing of a 22-year-old working student as a prominent personality in the province. The victim, a musician, was riding a motorcycle when suspects aboard a car shot him in

• Manila Memorial Park logs over 140,000 visitors on All Souls' Day (2026-11-02 17:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Over 140,000 visitors flocked to the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City on Monday, All Souls' Day, according to the memorial park administration. The figure was based on the cemetery's visitor count as of 3 p.m. on Nov. 2, with 13,658 more heading into the cemetery, bringing their total crowd estimate for

• NUJP to gov't: End impunity for crimes vs journalists (2026-11-02 17:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) on Monday demanded that the government help end impunity for crimes against journalists and take decisive action to protect media workers. The call came as the world observed the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists on Nov. 2. READ: NUJP seeks

• Oriental Mindoro logs 18 Undas season untoward incidents (2026-11-02 17:01)

CALAPAN CITY — Eighteen untoward incidents were reported nd recorded across Oriental Mindoro during the Undas season, according to the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO). Fifteen vehicular accidents, one maritime incident and two cases involving injured or ill individuals were logged from October 30 to November 2, the PDRRMO reported in its

• Over 9,000 passengers monitored in S. Tagalog ports on Nov. 2 – PCG (2026-11-02 16:48)

CALAPAN CITY — The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has monitored 9,643 passengers at ports across the Southern Tagalog provinces during a six-hour period on Monday, All Souls' Day, as authorities maintained heightened security during the Undas season. The Coast Guard District Southern Tagalog recorded 6,750 outbound passengers and 2,893 inbound passengers from 6 a.m. to

• MPD: Manila South Cemetery 'generally peaceful' during Undas 2026 (2026-11-02 16:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The situation at the Manila South Cemetery remained generally peaceful during this year's Undas observance, the Manila Police District (MPD) said on Monday, Nov. 2. Sta. Ana Police Station commander Richard Villanueva gave the assessment on All Souls' Day, the final day of the long weekend. "Okay naman po yung situation dito,

• Prisoners not charged for water – NBP (2026-11-02 16:06)

MANILA, Philippines — New Bilibid Prison (NBP) Superintendent Gary Garcia on Monday maintained that persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) are provided with free water supply. Garcia denied allegations that no water was available at the national penitentiary for the past two weeks and that PDLs were required to pay for supplied water. "I held a

• NBI probes pet crematorium after 29 animals dumped in Bulacan (2026-11-02 15:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will conduct a comprehensive investigation into incidents involving Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium in Bacoor City, Cavite, following the discovery of 29 deceased dogs and cats allegedly dumped at a vacant lot in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, NBI Director Melvin Matibag said Monday. The 29

• Iligan folk offer Mass for Typhoon Sendong victims on All Saints' Day (2026-11-02 15:32)

LINAMON, Lanao del Norte – Families, friends and village officials offered a Holy Mass and lit candles on All Saints' Day for victims of Typhoon Sendong in Barangay Hinaplanon in Iligan

City. The Holy Mass, which was officiated by Reverend Father Rolando “Dodong” Cantina of the Diocese of Iligan, was dedicated to the dead and

• PNP steps up security as post-Undas travel rush begins (2026-11-02 15:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) maintained heightened security at major transport terminals and key roads as millions of Filipinos began returning home following the Undas holidays. “As travelers make their way back to their homes, schools, and workplaces, the PNP remains fully mobilized to keep roads secure, maintain public order, and respond

• NUJP seeks arrest of mastermind in Cagayan de Oro radioman’s murder (2026-11-02 15:25)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Philippines — More than four years after gunshots silenced radio broadcaster Federico “Ding” Gempesaw right on his own doorstep, the triggerman is behind bars, but the most crucial question remains unanswered: who ordered the hit? Marking the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists on Monday, Nov. 2, this

• Desaparecidos’ kin urged to continue loved ones’ fight for justice (2026-11-02 15:15)

MANILA, Philippines — On All Souls’ Day, families of enforced disappearances (desaparecidos) were urged to continue to fight for justice and carry on the causes their missing loved ones championed, even with no bodies or graves to visit. The families, together with members from the groups Desaparecidos Philippines, Karapatan, and Hustisya, gathered at Claret School

• Pamalakaya slams demolition of Bacoor fishermen’s floating houses (2026-11-02 15:12)

MANILA, Philippines—The fishermen’s group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) on Monday condemned the recent demolition the of more than 100 floating houses along the coast of Bacoor City, Cavite, saying the clearing would displace fishing families to make way for reclamation projects in Manila Bay. In a statement, Pamalakaya said the Bacoor

• LOOK: QC sanitation department cleans Bagbag, Novaliches cemeteries (2026-11-02 15:04)

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City’s Department of Sanitation and Cleanup Works conducted cleanup operations at the Bagbag Cemetery and Novaliches Public Cemetery on Monday, Nov. 2, as people continued to visit the graves of their departed loved ones on All Souls’ Day. In a Facebook post, the local government said the cleanup drive aims

• Embracing the brighter side of life after niece’s miscarriage (2026-11-02 15:01)

MANILA, Philippines – An unexpected loss did not faze Lilia Vargas when her balikbayan niece arrived from Ireland on Monday after suffering a miscarriage. On Monday, All Souls’ Day, Vargas waited for the arrival of her niece and three nephews at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3. The four of them work in Ireland.

• MNLF-Sema faction denies sheltering Bato dela Rosa (2026-11-02 14:44)

COTABATO CITY — The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) faction chaired by Muslimin Sema has denied that the group is protecting Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague over the deadly war on drugs during the Duterte administration. In a statement entitled “The MNLF is

• Estrada seeks Senate probe into killings of environmental defenders (2026-11-02 14:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Jinggoy Estrada has filed a resolution seeking an inquiry into the killings of environmental defenders in the country. He filed Senate Resolution No. 697, urging the appropriate Senate committees to look into the recent Global Witness 2026 report, which named the Philippines, for the 13th consecutive year, as the deadliest country

• Legislator denies pushing ‘shoot-to-kill’ resolution vs Bato Dela Rosa (2026-11-02 14:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Cagayan de Oro Rep. Loran Suan has denied calling for a resolution that would urge a shoot-to-kill order against Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa should he fail to properly surrender to authorities, saying such claims were fabricated. In a statement on Monday, Suan said he had neither threatened to call a House committee

• Aquino family, visitors remember Ninoy, Cory, Noynoy on All Souls’ Day (2026-11-02 13:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Members of the Aquino family and other Filipinos visited the Aquino family mausoleum at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City on Monday, All Souls’ Day. Civil society leader Kiko Aquino Dee, with his parents, Viel Aquino Dee and Richard Dee, lit yellow candles and offered prayers at the mausoleum to remember

• 5,825 Bilibid inmates receive vegetables donated through Pangilinan (2026-11-02 13:21)

MANILA, Philippines — More than 5,800 persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) at the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) received fresh vegetables from Nueva Vizcaya through a donation facilitated by Sen. Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan, according to the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor). In a statement on Sunday, BuCor said the NBP received 144 bags of assorted vegetables on

• Despite economic problems, Undas flower vendors strive to survive (2026-11-02 13:09)

MANILA, Philippines — For some vendors outside the Manila South Cemetery, selling flowers for the departed during Undas has been part of their livelihood for years already. And despite problems with the economy, for them, this year’s profit is enough to make ends meet. With arranged flowers lined up in the sidewalk, Bryan Amoyan is

• Pangilinan: Intensify crackdown on hoarders, profiteers amid El Niño (2026-11-02 13:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan on Monday urged the government to intensify its crackdown on hoarders, profiteers, and cartels as the country braces for the impact

of a strong El Niño on food production and prices. He also called on the Department of Tradeand Industry (DTI), Department of Agriculture (DA), Price Coordinating

• Manila North Cemetery logs nearly 1.4M Undas visitors (2026-11-02 12:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The number of visitors at Manila North Cemetery reached nearly 1.4 million on Nov. 1 as All Saints' Day fell on a weekend, the Manila Police District (MPD) said on Monday. MPD spokesperson Maj. Philipp Ines said the figure covered visitors recorded from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. "We expect that because

• Old man drowns after falling into Quezon river (2026-11-02 12:34)

LUCENA CITY — A 71-year-old fisherman drowned after falling into a river in the town of Tagkawayan, Quezon, on Sunday evening, Nov. 1, police said. The victim, who was allegedly under the influence of alcohol, was walking along Aloneros Bridge in Barangay Cabugwang at around 6:30 p.m. when he accidentally fell into the river, according

• Fire destroys 13 houses in Samar; cemetery incidents reported in Leyte (2026-11-02 12:33)

TACLOBAN CITY — A fire that destroyed 13 houses and displaced 19 families in Catbalogan City, Samar along with a smaller cemetery fire in Tanauan and a structurally damaged mausoleum in Jaro, both in Leyte, were among the incidents reported in Eastern Visayas during the observance of Undas. In Catbalogan City, a fire hit Barangay

• Undas 2026: Rising fares, port fees deter travelers to Oriental Mindoro (2026-11-02 12:29)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Higher transportation costs and increased terminal fees at the Batangas International Port have been cited as reasons for the drop in vacationers visiting the province for All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day this year. Montenegro Shipping Lines, Inc. reported that passenger volumes this year were significantly lower than in

• Marcos recounts eerie childhood experiences at Baguio's The Mansion (2026-11-02 12:18)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has recalled sensing an unexplained presence during his childhood visits to the Baguio Mansion House. Also known as the official summer residence of the Philippine president, the mansion is shrouded in eerie tales of unexplained encounters shared by visitors and its caretakers. READ: Mansion House in Baguio City

• PNP vows to continue manhunt for ex-BuCor chief Bantag (2026-11-02 12:09)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) vowed to continue its pursuit of former Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) chief Gerald Bantag following an unsuccessful operation to arrest him in Ifugao. "We will not allow the passage of time or repeated attempts to evade arrest to weaken our resolve," PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez

• Nearly 4,000 remains still unclaimed at Tacloban's El Reposo Cemetery (2026-11-02 11:54)

TACLOBAN CITY — Nearly 4,000 human remains at the city's public Catholic cemetery, El Reposo, have yet to be retrieved by their families despite appeals by the local Catholic Church and the city government to transfer them to other burial grounds ahead of the cemetery's planned rehabilitation. The city government and the local Catholic Church

• PITX logs nearly 1.5 million passengers during Undas week (2026-11-02 11:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Over 1.4 million passengers have passed through the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) during the Undas week, the terminal said on Monday. PITX recorded a total of 1,499,454 passengers from Oct. 25 to Nov. 1. The termina is anticipating another 180,000 passengers on All Souls' Day, as the Undas winds down. As

• 18 receive medical aid during Undas observance in Iloilo City (2026-11-02 11:27)

ILOILO CITY — At least 18 people, including elderly cemetery visitors, received medical assistance during the observance of Undas, or All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, in Iloilo City. In a situational report released at 8 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 2, the Iloilo City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) said medical teams deployed to cemeteries

• Caraga police seize P448,249 worth of shabu in region-wide sweep (2026-11-02 11:05)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Seven drug suspects were arrested after police seized nearly half a million pesos worth of suspected shabu in anti-narcotics operations across the Caraga region on Oct. 31. Brig. Gen. Rolindo Suguilon, Police Regional Office 13 (PRO-13) director, said the operations conducted by city and municipal police units yielded a total

• Lanao del Sur to hold town halls for families of Marawi siege victims (2026-11-02 11:05)

MARAWI CITY — The provincial government of Lanao del Sur is gearing up to hold town hall meetings in three Mindanao cities to help families of victims who went missing during the 2017 Marawi siege obtain information and assistance in identifying their loved ones. The preparations were discussed during the 10th meeting of the Technical

• LOOK: Manila South Cemetery crowd reaches 2,200 on All Souls' Day (2026-11-02 10:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Despite the hot and humid weather, visitors continued to flock to the Manila South Cemetery on Monday, All Souls' Day. The Manila Police District recorded over 2,200 visitors inside the cemetery as of 10 a.m. on Monday, significantly lower than the 22,000 visitors recorded on Nov. 1. READ: LIVE UPDATES: Undas 2026

• Undas 2026: Valencia City braces for 20 tons of cemetery waste (2026-11-02 10:51)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — Environmental authorities in Valencia City urged cemetery-goers to practice proper waste management as cleanup crews brace for an estimated 20 tons of mixed garbage across local burial sites during the All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day holidays, or

Undas. Julius Parian, head of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office,

• Wanted man arrested at Rizal cemetery during Undas (2026-11-02 10:41)

LUCENA CITY — Police arrested a 26-year-old fugitive at a public cemetery in the Rizal town of Angono on Sunday night, Nov. 1. The suspect, who was on the most wanted persons list of the Rizal Police Provincial Office, was apprehended at the cemetery in Barangay Kalayaan. READ: Wanted persons for kidnapping nabbed in Cainta,

• 2 motorcycle riders killed, back rider hurt in Pangasinan road crash (2026-11-02 10:33)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan — Two motorcycle riders were killed while a back rider was injured in a head-on collision along the Manila North Road in Urdaneta City at around 6 p.m. on Sunday. A 55-year-old motorcycle rider from Nueva Ecija was piloting a Suzuki Raider 150, with a 35-year-old female canteen helper from San Manuel, Pangasinan,

• Gatchalian to CSOs, LGUs: Rally behind new BARMM administration (2026-11-02 10:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian has urged political blocs, civil society organizations and local government units to support the newly elected Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) administration to ensure stability and inclusive development in the region. In a statement on Monday, Gatchalian also expressed optimism that BARMM is now well on

• WATCH: Flooding hampers cemetery visits in Pampanga (2026-11-02 10:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Some families had difficulty visiting the graves of their departed loved ones at Holy Spirit Memorial Park in Masantol, Pampanga, during Undas 2026 due to persistent flooding in the area. Floodwaters continued to submerge portions of the cemetery, forcing visitors to navigate flooded pathways and making some graves difficult to reach. /dp

• PCG: Over 23,000 passengers at ports by All Souls' Day midnight (2026-11-02 10:02)

MANILA, Philippines – The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) logged more than 23,000 passengers at ports nationwide by Monday midnight, as thousands traveled for the annual observance of All Souls' Day. The PCG said it monitored 12,108 outbound passengers and 11,414 inbound passengers between midnight and 6 a.m. Monday. The Coast Guard District Western Visayas recorded

• Top 5 most wanted murder suspect in Caraga arrested in Agusan del Sur (2026-11-02 09:50)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Operatives arrested on Sunday Caraga region's fifth most wanted person, who is facing a murder charge, in Agusan del Sur. Police Col. Romeo Villalobos Jr., Agusan del Sur police provincial director, identified the suspect only by his alias, "Lando." He is 44 and a farmer residing in Barangay Bunawan

• Lanao del Sur farmers get climate-resilient rice farming training (2026-11-02 09:20)

MARAWI CITY — Around 200 rice farmers from Maguing and Poona Bayabao in Lanao del Sur received fertilizer assistance after participating in a training program on improving rice production and adapting to climate change, particularly the effects of El Niño. The Provincial Government of Lanao del Sur, through its Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAg),

• 15-year-old boy admits killing mother with hammer in Bohol (2026-11-02 09:12)

TAGBILARAN CITY — A 15-year-old boy has admitted killing his 46-year-old mother with a hammer following an argument at their home in Panglao, Bohol, before dragging her body to an abandoned septic tank, police said Sunday, Nov. 1. Police Major Joseph Lopena, spokesperson for the Bohol Police Provincial Office (BPPO), said Panglao police initiated contact

• Manila North Cemetery logs over 1.3 million visitors on All Saints' Day (2026-11-02 08:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Manila North Cemetery recorded more than 1.3 million visitors on Sunday, All Saints' Day. Based on the cemetery's crowd monitoring update, an estimated 1,326,800 people visited their departed loved ones before it closed for the day on Nov. 1. This was despite the high heat and a sudden downpour around noon.

• Rillo open to dropping cyber libel, but PGMN host Hirro won't apologize (2026-11-02 08:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Quezon City Rep. Marvin Rillo said he is willing to drop the seven counts of cyber libel he filed against Peanut Gallery Media Network (PGMN) host CJ Hirro if she apologizes, but the accused said she has no intention of saying sorry. This came after the Quezon City Regional Trial Court

• Private vehicles get temporary busway access from Nepa Q-Mart to Boni (2026-11-02 08:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Private vehicles will be temporarily allowed to pass through the Edsa Busway from Nepa Q-Mart to Boni Avenue stations starting Monday, Nov. 2, Transportation Sec. Vince Dizon announced. Dizon said the arrangement would remain in effect for about two weeks, or until the road resurfacing along the stations under Phase 2 of

• MMDA: Light traffic on major NCR roads on All Souls' Day morning (2026-11-02 07:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Major roads across Metro Manila are experiencing light traffic as of 7 a.m. on Monday, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said. The update came as Filipinos observe All Souls' Day on Nov. 2, with families visiting cemeteries to pay their respects to departed loved ones. In its Metrobase traffic update, the

• Amihan to bring rain to Extreme Northern Luzon on All Souls' Day (2026-11-02 07:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon, locally known as amihan, is forecast to bring rain showers to Extreme Northern Luzon on All Souls' Day, Nov. 2, the state weather bureau

reported. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the amihan is expected to bring partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated

• Lacson cautions vs airing updates on Dela Rosa hunt (2026-11-02 05:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson has cautioned authorities against publicly disclosing operational details in the intensified search for Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, saying secrecy is essential when law enforcers pursue a high-profile target. “SSSHHH… : When pursuing a high-profile target or handling a sensitive live case, secrecy discipline is key, unless disinformation

• Truth body to assist in legal action on drug war autopsies (2026-11-02 05:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The Truth Commission will assist families of drug war victims if they take legal action against the doctors who allegedly violated their profession’s code of ethics when they signed off death certificates with dubious causes of deaths. A lawyer for the families of the drug war victims said, however, that there are

• Prosecution sees VP trial wrap by end-November (2026-11-02 05:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte could wrap up by end-November, the House’s lead prosecutor said on Sunday, which could mark the end of a months-long proceeding that has exposed alleged misconduct by the early presidential favorite. In a statement, Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro, the chief prosecutor in the impeachment

• Philip Juico, former DAR Secretary; 78 (2026-11-02 05:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Philip “Popoy” Juico, former Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) secretary and a prominent figure in the country’s sports administration who headed the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and the national athletics federation, died on Oct. 31. He was 78. His son Vincent announced his death in a Facebook post on Sunday, saying Juico

• Missing UP student found alive in Laguna – PNP (2026-11-02 05:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police stressed the need for mental health support on Sunday after rescuing a missing student from the University of the Philippines (UP) Los Baños who allegedly attempted suicide twice during her six-day disappearance. The fourth-year student, whose identity was withheld, was found in San Pablo City, Laguna, on Friday

• PAWS to pet owners: Sue firm for estafa (2026-11-02 05:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) urged the owners of the 25 deceased dogs and cats that were dumped at a vacant lot in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, to sue the pet crematorium for estafa by means of deceit. “Pet parents paid for a service that was supposed to provide their

• PNP probes link between Pangasinan, Cebu ‘child abuses’ (2026-11-02 05:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police has intensified intelligence operations nationwide to determine whether separate child exploitation cases in Pangasinan and Cebu involve a common network of perpetrators. Authorities in Pangasinan are investigating alleged exploitation activities in Urdaneta City, while a French national was arrested in Cebu over alleged sexual offenses against minors. Intelligence

• Bohol’s smoke ritual caps cemetery visits (2026-11-02 05:17)

TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL, Philippines — Before heading home after paying tribute to their departed loved ones on All Saints’ Day, some cemetery visitors in Barangay Taloto here make one final stop: passing through a cloud of smoke believed to drive away evil spirits and negative energy. The practice, known as “palina,” remains an enduring tradition

• Duyog Bangsamoro welcomes first regular BARMM parliament (2026-11-02 05:15)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — Duyog Bangsamoro, a national multisectoral coalition supporting the Bangsamoro peace process, welcomed on Sunday the assumption of the first elected parliament in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). In a statement, the coalition of 15 civil society organizations said the convening of the first-ever elected 80-member Bangsamoro Parliament

• Baguio council seeks report on P225-M Camp John Hay claim vs BCDA (2026-11-02 00:00)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — The city council is seeking a detailed accounting of Camp John Hay ‘s business tax collections and the city’s estimated P225-million claim for unpaid rentals and revenue shares from the property. In a statement Sunday (Nov. 1), the city council discussed the matter during its recent regular session, when Councilor Leandro Yangot

• 3 marijuana plantations destroyed in Benguet (2026-11-01 23:21)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — Police discovered three marijuana plantations in the towns of Kapangan and Kibungan in Benguet, and seized plants and seedlings with an estimated street value of P270,000 during eradication operations on Friday, Oct. 30. In a statement, the Police Regional Office-Cordillera (PRO-CAR) said the plantations were found in Barangay Sagubo in Kapangan

• Robredo, Salceda families remember departed loved ones on All Saints’ Day (2026-11-01 22:42)

LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY, Philippines — The families of Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo and Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO) Secretary Joey Salceda visited the graves of their departed loved ones in Camarines Sur and Albay on Sunday, Nov. 1, in observance of All Saints’ Day. Salceda visited the Garden of Faith in Barangay Sugcad, Polangui,

• Ex-Abucay mayor Liberato ‘Pambato’ Santiago Jr. dies at 89 (2026-11-01 22:11)

ABUCAY, BATAAN — Former Abucay Mayor Liberato “Pambato” Santiago Jr. died Sunday afternoon (Nov. 1) at the age of 89, according to his son-in-law, incumbent Mayor Erik Martel, who announced the news on social media. The cause of Santiago’s death was not publicly disclosed. Santiago was a successful businessman before entering politics. He first became

• Ultra Lotto 6/58, Super Lotto 6/49 draw results on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026 (2026-11-01 22:01)

MANILA, Philippines — No ticket holder won the Ultra Lotto 6/58 or the Super Lotto 6/49 jackpot in the draws on Sunday, November 1, 2026, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Ultra Lotto 6/58 draw result: 14-34-54-18-05-46. Jackpot prize: ₱468.92 million Super Lotto 6/49 draw result: 44-16-40-19-27-32. Jackpot prize: ₱78.61 million. Minor games The

• Bataan groups hold candle vigil to mourn felled trees (2026-11-01 21:46)

LIMAY, Bataan — Members of youth group Young Bataeños for Environmental Advocacy Network (YoungBean) and advocacy group Nuclear-Free Bataan Movement (NFBM) lit candles in Limay town to mourn the trees cut down along Roman Highway and other parts of Bataan. In a statement on Sunday, Eric Beren, YoungBean secretary general, said the activity was part

• Gatchalian calls for tighter monitoring of pet service providers (2026-11-01 20:26)

MANILA, Philippines – Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian on Sunday urged local government units and agencies concerned across the country, such as the Bureau of Animal Industry, to inspect and audit all operating pet service providers, including crematoriums. He said LGUs and concerned agencies must ensure that such businesses are licensed, environmentally compliant, and observe clear standards

• OPAPRU identifies best practices, lessons learned in BARMM polls assessment (2026-11-01 19:51)

COTABATO CITY — The Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) has conducted a post-assessment workshop to learn more about the lessons learned during the historic Bangsamoro parliamentary elections. In a statement on Sunday, the OPAPRU said the government peace mechanisms in the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front

• Over P500,000 suspected marijuana intercepted at Zambo Sur delivery hub (2026-11-01 19:45)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Anti-narcotics agents intercepted a parcel containing over four kilograms of suspected dried marijuana leaves worth over P500,000 during an interdiction operation at a local delivery hub in Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur on Saturday. The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency-9 (PDEA-9) – Zamboanga del Sur Provincial Office (ZDSPO) reported that operatives,

• Ebrahim vows to continue pushing for Bangsamoro reforms, development (2026-11-01 19:35)

COTABATO CITY – Former Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) interim chief minister Ahod “Al Haj Murad” Ebrahim has vowed to continue advancing genuine reforms, moral governance, peace, and meaningful development for the Bangsamoro people. Ebrahim, chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and MP Mohagher Iqbal, MILF vice chairman, failed to get

• ‘Secrecy discipline’ is key in hunting down Bato dela Rosa, says Lacson (2026-11-01 19:01)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Panfilo Lacson reminded authorities on Sunday to be cautious in publicizing information about their next move in hunting down Sen. Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa, warning that it could compromise their operations. “SSSHHH… : When pursuing a high-profile target or handling a sensitive live case, secrecy discipline is key, unless disinformation is

• Public school principal, 4 others nabbed in Dinagat drug bust (2026-11-01 18:24)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur – A 56-year-old public elementary school principal was arrested alongside four alleged street-level pushers during an early morning buy-bust operation in San Jose, Dinagat Islands on Friday. Operatives from the Regional Drug Enforcement Unit-13 (RDEU-13) and the Regional Intelligence Division-13 (RID-13), backed by the San Jose Municipal Police Station and

• Ex-PSC chair Philip ‘Popoy’ Juico dies at 78 (2026-11-01 18:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chairperson Philip “Popoy” Juico passed away on Saturday, October 31. He was 78. Juico’s son, Vincent, confirmed this in a Facebook post on Sunday. “It is with deep sadness that I share the passing of my father, Philip “Popoy” Juico, who passed away yesterday evening at 8:18

• De Lima urges lawmakers to pass tougher animal welfare bill (2026-11-01 18:05)

MANILA, Philippines – Congress should tighten national animal welfare laws following the illegal dumping of 25 dead pets in Bulacan, Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima said on Sunday. On Friday, animal welfare group Luna and Furry Siblings sparked widespread outrage after it exposed on social media how the remains of several dogs and cats

• Marcos family makes private Undas visit to patriarch’s tomb (2026-11-01 18:02)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and his family avoided the usual Undas crowd when they visited the tomb of his father, former President Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr. at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City. The Presidential Communications Office (PCO) on Sunday said Marcos made a private visit to his father’s

• Over 166,000 personnel deployed for Undas security, public assistance (2026-11-01 17:49)

MANILA, Philippines—A total of 166,365 police and other government personnel, and civilian volunteers were deployed nationwide on Sunday for security and assistance as crowds flocked to cemeteries and memorial parks for All Saints' Day. In a statement on Sunday, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said the deployment consists of 78,952 police personnel, 20,837 personnel from

• DPWH: Pasig Blvd-C5 Flyover, C5 Boni Serrano Flyover to be reopened ahead of schedule (2026-11-01 17:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Motorists can already access the Pasig Boulevard-C5 Flyover and C5 Boni Serrano Flyover earlier than their originally scheduled completion, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) announced on Sunday. In a statement, the DPWH said the northbound lane of the Pasig Blvd-C5 Flyover will be passable early on Monday evening, November

• No fully booked trips up to Nov. 3 so far at PITX (2026-11-01 17:09)

MANILA, Philippines — No trips at the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) have been fully booked yet in select routes across the country until November 3, terminal management said on Sunday. In its 4 p.m. Sunday update, PITX said that for November 1, Sunday, the following routes logged the following booking status: 32.56 percent for

• Ex-GPH peace panel chair warns of 'tyranny of the majority' in BARMM Parliament (2026-11-01 17:00)

COTABATO CITY — Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, former chair of the Government of the Philippines (GPH) peace panel that signed the 2014 Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), has warned that the new Bangsamoro Parliament could become "a tyranny of the majority" if its ruling bloc treats itself as the

• PPA logs over 1M passengers amid Undas exodus (2026-11-01 16:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Over one million passengers flocked to different ports across the country amid the Undas exodus this year, according to the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) on Sunday. In its latest passenger traffic update, the PPA said that 36,753 passengers were monitored as of 8 a.m. on Sunday, which also falls on All Saints'

• Farmer wanted for rape nabbed in Surigao cemetery (2026-11-01 16:40)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur— As thousands visited the gravesites of their departed loved ones on All Saints' Day, law enforcers tracked down and arrested Caraga region's eighth most wanted person inside a public cemetery in Tagbina, Surigao del Sur Sunday morning. Joint police operatives apprehended the 45-year-old farmer around 10:05 a.m. at the Tagbina

• LOOK: Manila North Cemetery gravesites of heroes, leaders and icons (2026-11-01 16:30)

MANILA, Philippines – Spanning 54 hectares, the Manila North Cemetery (Cimetière del Norte) not only functions as a necropolis but can also be considered an open-air museum, preserving the legacies of statesmen, revolutionary figures, literary icons, educators, and national heroes. A walkthrough of these historical plots offers a glimpse into the architectural reverence dedicated to

• Lacson: Majority bloc united in getting rid of ‘pork’ from 2027 budget bill (2026-11-01 16:23)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Panfilo Lacson on Sunday said the majority bloc supports Senate finance committee chair Sen. JV Ejercito’s efforts to remove “unwarranted, whimsical, and corruption-prone items” from the proposed 2027 national budget. “The majority of senators are rallying behind Senate Finance Committee Chairman JV Ejercito’s efforts to cleanse the 2027 budget…,” Lacson said

• More MRT-3 trains on Monday, November 2 – DOTr (2026-11-01 16:07)

MANILA, Philippines — More trains will be deployed at the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3) on Monday, November 2, in anticipation of the volume of passengers returning to Metro Manila after the Undas weekend, according to the Department of Transportation (DOTr). In a statement on Sunday, the DOTr said 19 trains would be deployed

• Hataman calls for unity, good governance as BARMM Parliament convenes (2026-11-01 15:54)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Basilan Governor Mujiv Hataman called for unity and good governance following the installation of the first regular Bangsamoro Parliament and the election of Member of Parliament Abdulraof Macacua as chief minister. In a statement on Sunday, Hataman noted that government success must be measured by tangible improvements in the

• No sign of ex-BuCor chief Bantag in Ifugao poultry police operation (2026-11-01 15:14)

BAGUIO CITY — Former Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) chief Gerald Bantag eluded arrest after police failed to find him at a poultry farm in Barangay Pugol, Lamut, Ifugao, during an operation early Sunday. Bantag is wanted in connection with the 2022 killings of broadcaster Percival “Percy Lapid” Mabasa and New Bilibid Prison inmate Cristito “Jun”

• Bacolod mayor orders burial of 3-ton whale shark; cause of death unknown (2026-11-01 15:13)

BACOLOD CITY — Mayor Greg Gasataya has ordered the burial of a whale shark weighing an estimated three to four tons after it was found stranded and dead along the shoreline of Barangay 35 on Friday, with authorities yet to determine the cause of its death. A joint on-site assessment by the City Agriculture Office

• Over 1M Manila North Cemetery visitors expected on All Saints' Day (2026-11-01 15:01)

MANILA, Philippines — More than 1 million visitors are expected to visit their loved ones' graves at the Manila North Cemetery this All Saints' Day alone, the cemetery director said Sunday. Ngayon aabot po ng milyon ito, more than one million. Tingin ko mas marami ngayon kasi kahapon konti lang e, naka 150,000 lang tayo

• Moderate to heavy rain expected over parts of Metro Manila, nearby provinces (2026-11-01 14:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Moderate to heavy rain showers are expected to persist over some parts of Metro Manila and nearby provinces on Sunday, coinciding with All Saints' Day, according to the state weather bureau. In a thunderstorm advisory issued at 1:50 p.m., the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said moderate to heavy

• Undas passenger volume decline noted at QC bus terminal (2026-11-01 14:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Fewer passengers traveled from a bus terminal in Quezon City during this year's Undas break, with rising fares cited as one possible reason. At the Solid North bus terminal in Cubao, there were more vacant seats in the waiting area than those already occupied by passengers around 9:20 a.m. on Sunday, which also falls

• Ilocos Sur town promotes zero-waste practices in cemeteries (2026-11-01 14:03)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — Cemetery visitors in nearby Magsingal town are being urged to bring reusable items, avoid single-use plastics and properly dispose of their trash as the local government promotes a zero-waste observance of Undas 2026. The zero-waste campaign seeks to reduce garbage generated during the annual influx of people visiting cemeteries and

• Cavite pet crematorium may have falsely claimed past cremations (2026-11-01 13:59)

MANILA, Philippines — Two animal welfare groups have reported that Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium had previously dumped deceased pets that were supposed to be cremated, following the discovery of 29 dogs and cats at a vacant lot in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. The remains were dumped in Barangay Minuyan Proper early Thursday, Oct. 29.

• Bohol gov raises reward to P150,000 for information to solve Panglao woman's killing (2026-11-01 13:35)

TAGBILARAN CITY — Bohol Gov. Erico Aristotle Aumentado has increased the reward money to P150,000 for anyone who can provide information leading to the identification and arrest of the person responsible for the killing of a 45-year-old woman in Panglao town. The reward was raised from the initial P100,000 following the discovery of the body

• Undas 2026: Crowds brave the heat at Manila cemeteries (2026-11-01 12:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Thousands of Filipinos braved the sweltering heat to visit their departed loved ones at the Manila North and South Cemeteries on Sunday as crowds gathered for All Saints' Day. At the cemeteries, visitors sought relief from the heat by staying under trees, using umbrellas, fanning themselves or covering their heads with towels.

• PAWS urges estafa complaint vs. crematorium over 29 dumped pets (2026-11-01 12:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) has urged owners of 29 pets dumped in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, to pursue legal action against the pet crematorium, saying the incident may constitute estafa by means of deceit. In a statement on Saturday, PAWS said affected pet parents were led to believe that

• Tight security, traffic schemes ensure orderly Undas in Caraga (2026-11-01 12:17)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Thousands flocked to public cemeteries and memorial parks across Caraga starting Oct. 31, as local governments mobilized security forces, medical teams, and maritime enforcers to maintain order during Undas 2026. In Butuan City, families began arriving early on Sunday at Uraya Memorial Gardens in Barangay Bancasi to light candles

• Gatchalian tells DepEd: Don't let El Niño worsen learning loss (2026-11-01 12:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian has urged the Department of Education (DepEd) to ensure that its protocols for the looming super El Niño protect students without worsening learning loss, stressing the need for localized rather than blanket class suspensions. "El Niño not only threatens the safety of students, but also their ability to

• Undas 2026: PITX logs over 1.38 million passengers as of Nov. 1 (2026-11-01 11:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) has recorded more than 1.385 million passengers so far during this year's Undas exodus. Based on data released as of 11 a.m. on Sunday, a total of 1,385,816 passengers were recorded at the terminal from Oct. 25 to Nov. 1. The highest number was recorded on

• Cavite pet crematorium faces raps over dumping of remains in Bulacan (2026-11-01 11:47)

CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, Bulacan — The owners and employees of a pet crematorium in Cavite are facing charges for allegedly dumping the remains of 25 animals in a village in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. The alleged act violated Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000,

• All dead pets dumped in Bulacan claimed by owners – rescue group (2026-11-01 11:38)

MANILA, Philippines — All 29 dogs and cats dumped in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, have been claimed by their respective owners, according to an animal rescue group. The deceased pets were reportedly brought to the Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium in Bacoor City, Cavite, but were later found inside sacks dumped in a vacant

• BOC seeks to ease export hurdles for Filipino businesses (2026-11-01 11:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs (BOC) is seeking to simplify export procedures and help Filipino businesses overcome regulatory and customs hurdles in accessing international markets. The bureau discussed customs processes, free trade agreements, and government support programs during its first-ever Export Summit held on Oct. 26 and 27, according to a BOC statement on

• BFAR Bicol cemetery honors 14 stranded marine mammals (2026-11-01 10:52)

LEGAZPI CITY — Fourteen whales and dolphins have found their final resting place at a cemetery in Bula, Camarines Sur, maintained by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Bicol. Established in 2013, the BFAR-5 Cetacean Cemetery is located within the agency's regional office compound in Barangay Fabrica. It serves as a burial

• Marina grounds OceanJet 788 after Bohol docking mishap (2026-11-01 10:47)

MANILA, Philippines — The Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) has suspended the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate (PSSC) of MV OceanJet 788 after the vessel ran aground at the loading dock of Tagbilaran Port in Bohol on Saturday, Oct. 31. The suspension prevents the vessel from operating until it passes a safety inspection and Marina determines that

• Marina grounds 2 vessels after Cagayan, Bohol mishaps (2026-11-01 10:47)

MANILA, Philippines — The Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) suspended the Passenger Ship Safety Certificates (PSSCs) of two vessels involved in separate maritime incidents in Cagayan and Bohol on Saturday. In a statement on Sunday, Marina said it ordered the immediate suspension of the safety certificates of motor banca (MBca) Rose Marie 1 and passenger vessel

• Undas 2026: Bulacan dogs get Halloween pampering (2026-11-01 10:37)

CITY OF MALOLOS, Bulacan — The Halloween weekend gave dog owners in the province extra time to pamper their pets, with some bringing them to grooming shops where staff members joined in the Halloween fun by wearing spooky costumes. At Top-Notch Pet Grooming Shop along MacArthur Highway in Barangay Sta. Isabel, all five groomers and

• PDEA intercepts suspected marijuana shipment at Laguna courier hub (2026-11-01 10:32)

LUCENA CITY — The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) seized suspected marijuana products during a K9-assisted inspection at a courier hub in San Pablo City, Laguna, on Friday night, Oct. 30. In a report on Saturday, PDEA Region IV-A said agents from its Seaport Interdiction Unit-Batangas conducted the inspection at 8:30 p.m. in Barangay San

• Undas 2026: Cut flower prices surge in Bukidnon (2026-11-01 10:28)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — Prices of fresh-cut flowers in local markets in Valencia City, Bukidnon, surged on Sunday, Nov. 1, driven by higher farmgate costs and increased holiday demand for All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. Bing Lipat, owner of Valencia Nose Flower

Shop, told the Inquirer that higher prices from wholesale suppliers forced

• Bacoor mayor orders probe into pet crematorium over dumped remains (2026-11-01 10:21)

LUCENA CITY — Bacoor City Mayor Strike Revilla has ordered a probe into the operations of Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium, following the discovery of 29 dead pets allegedly dumped in San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan, on Oct. 30. “We will not stop until the full truth is established and anyone found responsible is

• CIDG seizes P1.7-M ‘smuggled’ cigarettes in Zamboanga Sibugay (2026-11-01 10:13)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — At least P1.7 million worth of alleged smuggled cigarettes were seized from two suspects during a joint law enforcement operation in Barangay Poblacion, Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group – Region 9 (CIDG-9) said Sunday. Operatives from the CIDG Zamboanga Sibugay and the Ipil Municipal Police

• Fair weather in Metro Manila, other parts of PH on All Saints’ Day (2026-11-01 10:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Fair weather with chances of thunderstorms are expected to persist in Metro Manila and other parts of the country on All Saints’ Day, Nov. 1, according to the weather bureau. In its morning weather forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the northeast monsoon, or amihan, and the

• Palawan cops seize P1.6M worth of illegally traded cigarettes (2026-11-01 09:55)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Police seized 1,710 reams of suspected illegally traded cigarettes worth P1.615 million in separate operations in Bataraza and Narra, Palawan, on Oct. 30 and 31. Three individuals, including a minor, were apprehended, the Palawan Police Provincial Office (PalPPO) reported. During the first operation in Bataraza, a 30-year-old fisherman identified only

• Undas tradition: ‘Biko’ endures in Bukidnon (2026-11-01 09:48)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — Despite economic pressures, traditional Filipino delicacies remain central to All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day observances across Bukidnon, with families preserving generations-old culinary customs before heading to cemeteries. For 55-year-old Mario, a resident of Barangay Batangan, preparing biko—a sweet native delicacy made from glutinous rice (pilit), fresh coconut milk and

• Undas 2026: 1,500 passengers make last-minute trips at QC bus terminal (2026-11-01 09:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Even on All Saints’ Day, several passengers flocked to a bus terminal in Quezon City to make the most of the holiday and spend time with their loved ones. According to Victory Liner, approximately 1,500 passengers had arrived at the terminal as of 8 a.m. Terminal

coordinator Arnel Macaspac said the figure

• Senior citizen nabbed with P7.4-M shabu in Zamboanga City (2026-11-01 09:36)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — A 68-year-old widow was arrested with P7.4 million worth of suspected shabu in Zamboanga City in one of the locality's biggest drug seizures involving a senior citizen, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency-Region 9 (PDEA-9) said on Sunday. Operatives nabbed alias "Sitti" during a buy-bust operation in Barangay Talon-Talon on

• Hagonoy's dead once more submerged by Undas floods (2026-11-01 09:29)

HAGONOY, Bulacan — In this coastal municipality where high tides are a daily occurrence, even the dead are not spared from flooding during this year's All Saints' Day weekend. On Friday, Oct. 30, major cemeteries in Hagonoy's poblacion remained submerged after floodwaters rose to 4.36 feet at 11:34 p.m. on Oct. 29, driven by high

• Undas 2026: Checkpoint in Quezon nets motorcyclist with unlicensed gun (2026-11-01 09:08)

LUCENA CITY — Police seized an unlicensed firearm and several rounds of ammunition from a motorcycle rider intercepted at a checkpoint in Lopez, Quezon, on Friday, Oct. 30. In a report on Saturday, the Police Regional Office-Calabarzon (PRO-4A) said officers manning an Undas security checkpoint flagged down a lone motorcycle rider in Barangay Bacungan on

• Bukidnon deploys 1,100 personnel as crowds flock to cemeteries (2026-11-01 08:58)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — At least 1,100 security personnel were deployed across Bukidnon on Sunday, Nov. 1, to enforce safety guidelines and El Niño fire prevention measures as crowds flocked to cemeteries for Undas 2026. Personnel from the Bukidnon Police Provincial Office, the Bureau of Fire Protection, the provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (DRRMO),

• Missing fisherman rescued off Mauban, Quezon (2026-11-01 08:38)

LUCENA CITY — A fisherman who went missing while fishing off Infanta, Quezon, on Oct. 29, was rescued off Mauban on Saturday morning. Mauban Mayor Erwin Pastrana said in a Facebook post that the fisherman was rescued off Barangay Cagsiay III and immediately assisted by local residents. Pastrana identified the rescued fisherman as an Infanta

• 8 rescued after cargo boat partially sinks off Cagayan (2026-11-01 08:11)

TUGUEGARAO CITY — Eight crew members of a cargo boat were rescued after it partially sank off Dalupiri Island in Calayan, Cagayan, on Saturday, Oct. 31, according to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and local disaster response teams. The M/B Rose Marie 1 reportedly experienced engine trouble and took in water, causing it to partially

• Marcos urges Filipinos to turn Undas spirit into acts of kindness (2026-11-01 07:29)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Sunday called on Filipinos to extend the spirit of remembrance during All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day to acts of compassion, particularly toward people who are struggling. In his message for Undas, Marcos said the devotion Filipinos show in honoring their departed loved ones should also

• JV, Lacson: Budget 'bicam' open to all, sparing none (2026-11-01 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate finance committee chair Sen. JV Ejercito and vice chair Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson promised that they would spare no one, including the son of President Marcos, from scrutiny during deliberations by the bicameral conference committee on the P7.2-trillion national budget, which is alleged to be filled with insertions akin to pork.

• At 90, sis of WWII soldier visits his grave after decades long search (2026-11-01 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — For only the second time in eight decades, Adelaida Samonte, 90, traveled from Batangas to Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City on Saturday, to visit the grave of her older brother, a World War II soldier. It was only last year when her family discovered where Victor Samonte, who died of

• A buoy for the spirit in flood-weary Marikina (2026-11-01 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Dave Dela Cruz, dazed and knocked flat, woke up drenched on a chapel floor in Marikina City. He had slipped and bashed his head the previous night, when floods from Super Typhoon Carina (international name: Gaemi) refused to spare even the holiest of places. But unlike his neighbors hauling appliances to higher

• Edcom: Learning gap can be fixed even before Grade 1 (2026-11-01 05:28)

MANILA, Philippines — The Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2) has called on the Department of Education (DepEd) to strengthen early childhood and primary education curricula to address the growing number of "struggling readers" among Grade 1 students. Edcom 2 made the call after the DepEd's Comprehensive Rapid Literacy Assessment for the start of

• DOE on 'Undas' energy supply alert (2026-11-01 05:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Energy (DOE) said it is monitoring the country's electricity and fuel supply amid the expected increase in travel and public activity during the "Undas" or All Saints' Day holiday. The agency said it is closely working with power generation firms, the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines and distribution

• 800 deportees arrive in Zamboanga from Sabah (2026-11-01 05:24)

PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, Philippines — Some 800 deportees from Sabah, Malaysia, arrived in Zamboanga City on Friday night aboard passenger vessel MV Antonia 1, the Zamboanga Peninsula regional field office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said on Saturday. Of the 800 deportees, 589 are adult males, 89 are adult

• ‘Newspaper of the Year’: Inquirer bags 2026 ALTA media award (2026-11-01 05:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) was among the 66 media honorees recognized at the 7th Alta Media Icon Awards 2026, an honor conferred by the University of Perpetual Help System Dalta (UPHSD). The Inquirer received the award as Newspaper of the Year. Inquirer Foundation executive director Connie Kalagayan accepted the trophy on

• Bamboo takes center stage in Unesco geopark (2026-11-01 05:20)

BOHOL, Philippines — Bohol province is embracing bamboo, a traditional material used in construction and handicrafts, as part of efforts to promote sustainable tourism and improve local livelihoods. In 2023, the island province was designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) as its first Global Geopark in the Philippines, in recognition

• Sagada’s ‘Panag-aapoy’ lights up a hill to honor the dead (2026-11-01 05:17)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — I was at the early stages of graduate school thesis work at the University of the Philippines Baguio in 2007 when I was told by photographer Tommy Hafalla that the ritual “Begnas” of Sagada town in Mountain Province was to be held in the days leading up to All Saints’ Day.

• This week’s milestones: Nov. 1 to Nov. 7 (2026-11-01 05:15)

Nov. 4, 1999 Tuguegarao was converted from a municipality to a component city of Cagayan province through the approval of Republic Act No. 8755. A plebiscite was later held on Dec. 18, 1999, to ratify the conversion. Designated as the capital city of Cagayan and the regional center of Cagayan Valley, Tuguegarao is bounded by

• Spooky mall frights, cemetery bazaar mark Bukidnon Halloween (2026-11-01 03:36)

VALENCIA CITY, BUKIDNON, Philippines — Holiday shoppers and cemetery visitors here experienced a mix of fright and festival energy on Saturday as local businesses and city organizers rolled out Halloween-themed attractions alongside the annual All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day exodus. Inside one of the city’s premier shopping malls, retail employees transformed into iconic

• Faith traditions that shape how Filipinos observe All Souls’ Day (2026-11-01 01:19)

ILIGAN CITY, Philippines — For Donna Montebon, a Catholic mother of three, All Souls’ Day is more than an annual visit to the cemetery. It is a family tradition that keeps the memories of departed relatives alive and allows younger generations to learn about those who came before them. Every Nov. 1 and 2, her

• Iligan mayor asks cemetery visitors to observe proper waste disposal (2026-11-01 01:01)

ILIGAN CITY, Philippines — To help maintain cleanliness in cemeteries during this year's observance of "Undas," Iligan City Mayor Frederick Siao had asked cemetery visitors to bring their own trash bags so they can properly dispose of their waste. "It would be better if the public brought their own trash bags when visiting cemeteries so

• 22 PUV drivers in Zamboanga test positive for drugs in 'Oplan Harabas' (2026-11-01 00:39)

PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, Philippines — A total of 22 public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers across the Zamboanga Peninsula region tested positive for illegal drug use during a surprise drug testing operation conducted at various transport terminals in time for the observance of Undas on Thursday, Oct. 29. The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Regional

• Negros Occidental gov calls for 'compassionate' pricing of sugar (2026-10-31 23:56)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL — Negros Occidental Gov. Eugenio Jose Lacson said he hopes the buying price of sugar hits P3,000 per 50-kilogram bag (Lkg) to enable farmers to survive. "We cannot compel the traders to buy at the price we want [but] we are hoping they understand the situation and are more compassionate," he

• Planters group welcome SRA's cloud seeding fund in Negros, Panay (2026-10-31 23:39)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) is allocating P30 million for cloud seeding operations in the Visayas to mitigate the effects of the super El Niño, Manuel Lamata, president of the United Sugar Producers Federation, said Friday, Oct. 30. Lamata, in a press statement, said he received a letter from

• Bishop calls for accountability, RE shift amid Visayas power crisis (2026-10-31 23:05)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — San Carlos Bishop Gerardo Alminaza, president of Caritas Philippines, called for strict accountability and an urgent transition to distributed renewable energy (RE) following recurring power outages that have disrupted lives and local economies across the Visayas region. Addressing the ongoing grid instability, Alminaza cited findings from a recent report

• Civil society groups urge BARMM parliament to shun traditional politics (2026-10-31 22:45)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Philippines — As the first elected Parliament of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) opened its inaugural session Friday, civil society leaders, peacebuilders, and rights advocates warned against trading a revolutionary legacy for the transactional spoils of traditional politics. Rights advocacy group Katungod Bangsamoro framed the assembly not merely

• CDO authorities advise early cemetery visits to beat the heat (2026-10-31 22:23)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Philippines — With tens of thousands expected to flock to usually congested cemeteries, local authorities here have laid down strict guidelines for this year's

“Undas” or “Kalag-Kalag” observance, banning overnight stays, liquor, and smoking whileurging the public to dodge the peak daytime heat. Visiting hours across all private and public

• Lone player bags Lotto 6/42 jackpot on Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026 (2026-10-31 21:51)

MANILA, Philippines—One ticket holder won the ₱10 million Lotto 6/42 jackpot on Saturday, October 31, 2026, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. No winner hit the jackpot in Grand Lotto 6/55 draw also on Saturday. Lotto 6/42 draw result: 16-40-07-18-41-03. Jackpot prize: P10 million Grand Lotto 6/55 draw result: 42-30-21-17-20-01. Jackpot prize: ₱319.54 million.

• Iloilo City gears up Tigkaralag; Cemetery visitors brave floods (2026-10-31 21:43)

ILOILO CITY — The Iloilo City Operations Center (OpCen) has been placed on blue alert for this year’s observance of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day, locally known as Tigkaralag. Under Executive Order / Memorandum Order No. 409 signed by Mayor Raisa Treñas, the blue alert took effect at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October

• Yolanda fatalities’ kin welcome results of NBI’s DNA tests (2026-10-31 21:31)

TACLOBAN CITY — More than a decade after Super Typhoon Yolanda devastated this city, families of victims buried in a mass grave at the Holy Cross Memorial Cemetery are hopeful they will finally know the exact resting places of their loved ones through DNA testing conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). While welcoming

• Planters, labor groups renew call for higher millgate sugar prices (2026-10-31 21:19)

BACOLOD CITY – Sugarcane growers and labor unions in Negros Occidental renewed their call for fairer farmgate sugar prices on Saturday, pointing out that recent price increases remain insufficient to cover high production costs and sustain small-scale planters. Recent raw sugar bidding results showed gains across major mills in the province, with Hawaiian-Philippine Co. reaching

• Proper hygiene urged as Tacloban schools record 704 cases of sore eyes (2026-10-31 21:18)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — At least 704 cases of sore eyes, or conjunctivitis, were recorded in nine schools in Tacloban City from Oct. 1 to 15, prompting health officials and school administrators to remind students and teachers to observe proper hygiene and avoid spreading the infection. Data from the City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

• Animal protection, care bill pushed after dead pets dumped in Bulacan (2026-10-31 21:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Akbayan party-list Rep. Percival Cendaña has called for the passage of their bill which seeks stronger protection of animals, after reports on the dumping of 29 dead pets’ remains in the City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. In a statement on Saturday, Cendaña

called for the passage of House Bill (HB)

• Lightning strike kills 19-year-old hiker in Bukidnon (2026-10-31 20:52)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — What was meant to be a scenic mountain getaway ended in tragedy on Friday afternoon, Oct. 30, after a 19-year-old male hiker died from a lightning strike at a popular nature spot on Mt. Kilagas in Barangay Kiliog, Libona town. The victim, a resident of Macanahan, Cagayan de Oro City, had

• LOOK: Iligan City's holy, non-spooky Halloween (2026-10-31 20:42)

ILIGAN CITY – Halloween, traditionally observed through scary stories and images. need not be spooky. This is the message put across by the Catholic diocese here on Saturday, as the nation prepares to observe All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day on Sunday and Monday, respectively. As a counter-event, the diocese held its own version

• Marcos greets INC leader Eduardo Manalo on his 71st birthday (2026-10-31 20:33)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Saturday greeted Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) Executive Minister Eduardo Manalo on his 71st birthday, expressing support for their shared goal of a peaceful and united Philippines. "Maligayang kaarawan po kay Kapatid na Eduardo V. Manalo, Tagapamahalang Pangkalahatan ng Iglesia ni Cristo!" Marcos said in a Facebook

• Suspected NPA leader slain in South Cotabato encounter (2026-10-31 19:55)

COTABATO CITY -– A suspected leader of the Regional Instructors Bureau of the communist New People's Army (NPA) was killed in an encounter with the military and police in Polomolok, South Cotabato Friday evening. Brig. Gen. Edgar Catu, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, identified the fatality as Noel Pamaong, also known by the

• Ejercito opens 2027 budget bicam hearings to civil society groups (2026-10-31 19:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate finance committee chairman Jose Victor "JV" Ejercito said that the Senate will open the bicameral conference committee to the civil society organizations (CSOs) for a more transparent 2027 General Appropriations Bill (GAB). The Senate will resume its plenary sessions on Nov. 9, where the senators will deliberate the P7.2 trillion budget

• 2 dead, 1 hurt in Quezon road mishaps (2026-10-31 19:05)

LUCENA CITY —A pedestrian and aa motorcyclist died while another pedestrian was injured in separate road accidents in Quezon province on Friday, according to the police. In Tagkawayan town, two pedestrians walking along Quirino Highway in Barangay Sta. Cecilia were struck by a passing Bicol-bound truck at 9:50 a.m., according to a Quezon police report.

• Edcom 2: Boost early childhood, primary education curricula (2026-10-31 18:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Amid the numbers of “struggling readers” among Grade 1 students, the Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2) urged the Department of Education (DepEd) to strengthen the curriculum in early childhood and primary education. This, as 75 percent of Grade 1 learners have been found to be “struggling readers”, based on DepEd’s

• Agusan del Sur upland flower growers enjoy brisk Undas sales (2026-10-31 18:17)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur—Freshly harvested blooms from an upland farming village here saw brisk sales on Saturday as consumers and travelers snapped up locally grown arrangements ahead of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day (Undas). Members of the Pinagalaan Cutflower Farmers Association set up stalls near the city rotunda, drawing steady crowds of

• Over 1,400 Albay folk still in evacuation centers after Mayon eruption (2026-10-31 18:08)

LEGAZPI CITY — At least 1,477 residents in Albay remained in evacuation centers on Saturday (Oct. 31), a day after Mayon Volcano had a moderately explosive eruption that prompted authorities to enforce mandatory evacuation. The evacuees, who were living within the volcano’s six-kilometer permanent danger zone (PDZ), were moved to safer areas after the Philippine

• 4 rescued after being swept by strong current in La Union (2026-10-31 18:00)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur—The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), with assistance from four fishermen, rescued four persons who were swept away by a strong waves while swimming off Barangay San Francisco, San Fernando City, La Union, on Friday. In a statement, the PCG said its Coast Guard Station La Union Baywatch Team responded to the incident

• No exceptions in Senate’s review of 2027 budget – Lacson (2026-10-31 17:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo Lacson said there will be no exceptions as the Senate goes “gung-ho” in scrutinizing questionable allocations in the House-approved version of the 2027 General Appropriations Bill (GAB). Lacson said that the Senate majority backs Senate finance committee chairman Jose Victor “JV” Ejercito’s move to address suspected red flags in the

• 14,000 Ilocandia security, emergency personnel all set for Undas 2026 (2026-10-31 17:17)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan—Around 14,000 security and emergency personnel will be deployed across the Ilocos region to strengthen public safety and road security during the observance of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day on Nov. 1 and 2. Police Maj. Cherry Tolentino, chief of the Police Regional Office I public information office, said the deployment would

• Mayor Zamora inspects San Juan City Cemetery ahead of Undas (2026-10-31 16:53)

MANILA, Philippines —San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora inspected the San Juan City Cemetery as early as Thursday, Oct. 22, as part of the city government’s preparations for the

upcoming observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, collectively known as Undas. Theinspection focused on the cemetery's readiness to accommodate the expected influx

• Undas sea travelers swell to over 114,000 Saturday afternoon – PCG (2026-10-31 16:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The number of passengers in seaports across the country swelled to more than 114,000 by Saturday afternoon, ahead of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, or undas. The Philippine Coast Guard monitored 60,411 outbound passengers and 54,291 inbound passengers, as of 12:34 p.m. The tally was covered in its noon to

• Remains of fallen Air Force pilot back home in Urdaneta (2026-10-31 16:22)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan, Philippines—The remains of Air Force Capt. Raymart Cabangcala, one of four pilots killed in a midair collision involving two military trainer aircraft, were brought home to Urdaneta City on Friday, Oct. 30. A helicopter carrying his remains landed at the Urdaneta National High School oval, accompanied by his mother, Myrna, and sister Mayross,

• Undas liquor ban in and around Magsingal, Ilocos Sur public cemeteries (2026-10-31 16:12)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — The municipal government of Magsingal has imposed a two-day liquor ban in all public cemeteries and within a 300-meter radius of their boundaries on Nov. 1 and 2 to maintain peace and order during the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. Under Executive Order No. 69, Series

• OPAPRU hails, encourages Bangsamoro Parliament (2026-10-31 15:59)

COTABATO CITY — The Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Opapru) on Saturday urged members of the newly constituted Bangsamoro Parliament to bridge diverse perspectives and work together as the region begins its first regular parliamentary government. In a statement, Secretary Mel Senen S. Sarmiento, Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and

• Looking back at rich-poor divide history of Bulakan, Bulacan cemetery (2026-10-31 15:49)

BULAKAN, Bulacan—Centuries-old arches that once symbolized the divide between the rich and the poor, even in death, remain standing at a Roman Catholic cemetery in this town, the former capital of Bulacan province. At the municipal cemetery behind the Nuestra Señora de la Asunción Church, at least two old arches still stand as reminders of

• Fire hits 4 houses in Laoag City (2026-10-31 15:15)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur – Fire struck four houses in Barangay Nalbo in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte on Friday. No casualties reported, local authorities said. According to Laoag City Vice Mayor Carlos Fariñas, the fire was reported to him at 6:52 a.m. via a Facebook Messenger call from a resident in the area. Fariñas said

• P9-M ‘smuggled’ cigarettes seized in Surigao del Sur; 2 arrested (2026-10-31 15:08)

LIANGA, Surigao del Sur — Police seized around P9 million worth of suspected smuggled cigarettes and arrested two individuals during an anti-smuggling operation in Barangay Saint Christine here Friday morning. Operatives from the 1st Surigao del Sur Provincial Mobile Force Company (PMFC), led by acting force commander Maj. Magdalino G. Pimentel Jr., intercepted the contraband

• Catholic bishop lauds election of BARMM Chief Minister Macacua (2026-10-31 15:00)

COTABATO CITY — The Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) Episcopal Commission on Inter-religious Dialogue (ECID) welcomed the election of Abdulraof “Sammy Gambar” Macacua as chief minister of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). “A historic step for the peace process. Mr. Macacua is the first to hold this office in the

• Iligan City holds Alimyon Flower Festival in time for Undas (2026-10-31 14:40)

ILIGAN CITY – In the run-up to All Souls’ Day here, business is brisk for merchants flowers and candles, two of the most common items Filipinos bring when visiting cemeteries during the annual observance. At the Alimyon Festival in Barangay Poblacion, flower vendors gather in stalls provided by the local government, creating a central marketplace

• Undas brings seasonal work, extra income to Iligan City youth (2026-10-31 14:17)

ILIGAN CITY — While families visit cemeteries to remember their departed loved ones, a group of young Iligan residents sees the annual observance of All Souls’ Day as an opportunity to earn extra income for their households. For Arjay Cabanlit and his friend Paul Kennerth Zalsos, the days leading to Nov. 2 mean spending long

• MMDA suspends road works ahead of Christmas season (2026-10-31 12:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has temporarily suspended all road excavations in national and city roads in Metro Manila. The suspension is meant to avoid worsening the expected heavy traffic congestion to be brought by the Christmas season. In an advisory on Saturday (October 31), the MMDA said that the temporary

• Flower prices go up in Bohol ahead of Undas (2026-10-31 12:14)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — Flower prices in Tagbilaran City, Bohol, have increased by around P10 to P30 ahead of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day, or Undas, prompting vendors to offer bundled arrangements as more affordable options for customers. A bundle that previously cost P75 now sells for P100, while a P100 bundle has

• No illegal items seized in Manila North Cemetery so far – police (2026-10-31 12:13)

MANILA, Philippines — No illegal items like guns and knives have been confiscated in Manila North Cemetery on the eve of Undas (All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day), according to the police. Police Major Philipp Ines, public information office chief of the Manila Police District, attributed this to the law enforment's effective information dissemination.

• Cops destroy P108.8-M marijuana plants in Tinglayan, Kalinga (2026-10-31 12:00)

BAGUIO CITY—Police eradicated 544,000 fully grown marijuana plants worth an estimated P108.8 million during an anti-illegal drug operation in Tinglayan, Kalinga, this week. In a statement on Thursday, Oct. 29, the Kalinga Police Provincial Office (PPO) said the operation covered seven marijuana plantation sites spanning 48,500 square meters in Barangay Loccong. The operation, conducted on

• PNP deploys 19,972 personnel, volunteers for Undas in Eastern Visayas (2026-10-31 11:52)

TACLOBAN CITY — Nearly 20,000 police personnel, members of partner agencies, and civilian volunteers have been deployed across Eastern Visayas to ensure public safety during the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day or Undas. The Police Regional Office 8 (PRO-8) said it mobilized 19,972 personnel and force multipliers from Oct. 29 to

• Afternoon rains, high heat index forecast for 'Undas' in Mindanao (2026-10-31 11:47)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — Cemetery visitors joining the annual exodus on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day on November 1 and 2 are advised to adjust their schedules. The recommendation is due to the expected afternoon rains and high heat indices forecast across Mindanao. Justine Navarro, a specialist at the state weather bureau's Mindanao

• Undas 2026: Over 30,000 passengers flock to ports amid travel rush – PCG (2026-10-31 11:41)

MANILA, Philippines — More than 30,000 passengers passed through ports nationwide on Saturday morning, Oct. 31, as Filipinos traveled to their home provinces for Undas, the annual observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, according to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). In its latest tally as of 7:45 a.m., the PCG recorded 18,717

• Pangasinan gov't, cops probe alleged child exploitation in Urdaneta City (2026-10-31 11:23)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan — The provincial government of Pangasinan iw appealing to the public to give information on a reported child exploitation, abuse and other unlawful activities in a house in this city. In a statement on Friday (Oct. 30), the provincial government said it was communicating with the Department of the Interior and Local Government

• 100 koi released into Burnham Lake in Baguio to control algae growth (2026-10-31 11:03)

BAGUIO CITY—Around 100 koi were released into Burnham Lake recently as part of the city's efforts to control algae growth and improve water quality. According to the Baguio City Public

Information Office on Friday (Oct. 30), local volunteer and recreational development consultant Rafael Serrano and Baguio City Jail Male Dormitory warden Atty. Dexter Ngipol led

• Quezon imposes 4-day liquor ban in cemeteries for 'Undas' (2026-10-31 10:47)

LUCENA CITY — The Quezon provincial government imposed a four-day liquor ban in all public and private cemeteries across the province for a safe, peaceful and solemn observance of 'Undas' (All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day). According to Executive Order (EO) No. DHT-30, "bringing, drinking, distributing and selling liquor and other alcoholic beverages inside

• Rains expected in parts of PH on Oct. 31 (2026-10-31 10:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The low-pressure area (LPA) and two other weather systems are expected to bring scattered rains and thunderstorms to parts of the country on Saturday, Oct. 30, the state weather bureau said. In its weather advisory on Saturday morning, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the trough of the

• Apayao village becomes a sanctuary for threatened, endemic birds (2026-10-31 10:36)

MANILA, Philippines — In the rivers and wetlands of Barangay Sta. Filomena in Calanasan, Apayao, hundreds of birds have found a refuge, including species threatened with extinction and others found nowhere else in the world but the Philippines. A three-day wildlife survey conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Cordillera Administrative Region

• Ilocos Norte logs 65 new dengue cases (2026-10-31 10:30)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — Ilocos Norte recorded 65 new dengue cases during morbidity week 42, or from October 11 to 17. This update brings the total to 2,777 cases and four deaths from January to October 2026, according to the Provincial Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (PESU). The latest data cover morbidity weeks 1 to

• Jeepney driver tests positive for drugs ahead of Undas in La Union (2026-10-31 10:18)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — A jeepney driver in La Union tested positive for illegal drug use during a surprise screening of public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers and conductors in the Ilocos Region on Thursday, Oct. 29. The screening covered 111 transport workers as authorities intensified road safety measures ahead of Undas. The Philippine Drug

• No flowers, no visitors: The forgotten graves of Undas (2026-10-31 09:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, or Undas, in the Philippines is not traditionally quiet. It is nearly a weeklong commemoration of deceased loved ones, with many people willing to travel from north to south and vice versa just to pay tribute to the dead. Undas is also

• Taal Volcano sulfur dioxide emissions drop as number of volcanic quakes rise (2026-10-31 09:16)

LUCENA CITY — Taal Volcano in Batangas recorded a sharp decline in sulfur dioxide emissions and an increase in volcanic earthquakes over the past 24 hours. The information comes from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs). In its Saturday morning (Oct. 31) bulletin, Phivolcs reported sulfur dioxide emissions of 217 metric tons during

• Calabarzon cops on full alert for Undas; 12,000 personnel deployed (2026-10-31 08:57)

LUCENA CITY — The Police Regional Office-Calabarzon (PRO-4A) has deployed more than 12,000 (12,297) personnel across the region. This action is for public safety during this year's observance of 'Undas' (All Saints' Day on Nov. 1 and All Souls' Day on Nov. 2). PRO-4A said police forces across Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon were

• Missing 35-year-old man found dead in Occidental Mindoro village (2026-10-31 08:36)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — A 35-year-old man who had been reported missing was found dead in a village in Santa Cruz, Occidental Mindoro on Friday morning, Oct. 30, police said. The victim's body was discovered at around 9:30 a.m. in Sitio Amnay, Barangay Barahan, after a farmer reportedly spotted his white Honda XRM 125

• Sara Duterte camp rejects new cash delivery claim (2026-10-31 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of Vice President Sara Duterte on Friday dismissed as "another tanim (planted) witness" the allegations of a man identified only by the alias "Chris" that he had twice delivered suitcases of money to Duterte. In a statement, Duterte's spokesperson Salvador Paolo Panelo Jr. denied the allegations by Chris and said

• Ashes of deceased don't belong at home, bishop reminds flock (2026-10-31 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — A reminder from the Catholic Church in this season honoring the dead: urns containing ashes of the deceased should be laid to rest in a sacred place, such as a cemetery or columbarium. "A cemetery or columbarium also gives family and community a shared place to pray for and remember the deceased,"

• Marcos vows orderly Undas travel (2026-10-31 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday said the government has taken steps to ensure a "safe, orderly and convenient" travel in this year's "Undas" or the All Saints' Day holidays. Mr. Marcos made this assurance as passenger count at the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) topped 1 million that day while passenger

• Marcos to BARMM's new MPs: Sustain the gains of peace (2026-10-31 05:34)

COTABATO CITY — President Marcos urged the first elected leaders of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) to be bearers of hope for the Moro people whose aspirations for self-governance took a historic turn on Friday with the inaugural session

of the 80-member regional parliament. “After decades of struggle, we have reached this

• Bato dela Rosa ignores PNP deadline; manhunt to intensify (2026-10-31 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — A senior Philippine National Police official said they would intensify the manhunt for Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa after the former national police chief ignored a deadline to surrender on Friday. The senator has a warrant of arrest from the International Criminal Court (ICC) in connection with the war on drugs. Dela

• ‘Drug war’ truth body questions doctors’ reports (2026-10-31 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The country’s leading forensic pathologist and member of the Truth Commission that is looking into the brutal drug war on Friday called on the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) and the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) to investigate at least five doctors for their alleged “miscertification” of the cause of death of some of

• Mayon blast forces evacuation in Albay (2026-10-31 05:06)

LEGAZPI CITY — Residents living within the 6-kilometer permanent danger zone (PDZ) of Mt. Mayon evacuated from their homes on Friday following the volcano’s explosive eruption, with local authorities rushing to move families to safer grounds. Some residents described the explosion as sounding like a bomb blast, prompting them to seek shelter in evacuation centers

• Cebu prelate to faithful: ‘Reclaim’ Halloween meaning (2026-10-31 05:04)

TAGBILARAN CITY—As Christendom prepares to observe All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day, the prelate of the country’s oldest Catholic community called on the faithful to go back to the real meaning of these holy days. Cebu Archbishop Alberto Uy has called on the faithful to reclaim Halloween’s Christian meaning by celebrating holiness and honoring

• Negros Occidental posts P42M in crop losses from dry spell (2026-10-31 05:02)

BACOLOD CITY — Negros Occidental has posted P42.41 million in crop losses amid the dry conditions brought about by the El Niño phenomenon in some parts of the province, records from the provincial government showed. READ: Negros Occidental, Bacolod, other LGUs declare state of calamity A report submitted by acting provincial agriculturist Dina Genzola to

• Cops intercept P17.65-M illegal cigarettes in Zamboanga City (2026-10-31 00:19)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Police operations across the Zamboanga Peninsula netted some P17.65 million worth of suspected smuggled cigarettes in separate interdictions Wednesday, Oct. 28, the Police Regional Office 9 (PRO-9) reported. Police Lt. Col. Shellamie Chang, chief of the PRO 9 Regional Public Information Office, said the anti-smuggling drive yielded a total

• Newborn found abandoned in Bohol town (2026-10-31 00:15)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — A newborn baby boy was found early Friday morning, Oct. 30, abandoned inside a residential property in Panglao, Bohol, just four days after another was discovered near a school. The newborn was found at around 3 a.m. on top of a small table outside the house of 53-year-old Myrna Ayup in Purok

• Cargo van with illegal mineral ore seized in Zamboanga del Norte (2026-10-30 23:53)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – – Authorities confiscated a wing van loaded with some 481 sacks of illegally sourced mineral ore during a joint operation by the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO)-Sindangan, Office of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (OPENRO), and the Sindangan Municipal Police Station on Thursday, Oct. 29.

• P800,000 worth of cigarettes found inside rescue vehicle in Iligan (2026-10-30 23:47)

ILIGAN CITY — A vehicle reportedly being used for barangay rescue operations was found transporting around P800,000 worth of suspected smuggled cigarettes when police intercepted it at a checkpoint along Macapagal Highway in Barangay Suarez here on Thursday afternoon, October 29. Police said personnel of the Iligan City Mobile Force Company (ICMFC), led by Lt.

• NLEX readies counterflow as Undas traffic builds (2026-10-30 22:39)

MANILA, Philippines — North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) Corp. is preparing to implement counterflow operations as more motorists head north for Undas, with traffic expected to build from Friday afternoon, Oct. 30, through Saturday, Oct. 31. To manage the expected influx of motorists, NLEX is prepared to implement counterflow when needed, assistant vice president for traffic

• Solon seeks sustainable tourism development at 4 Albay sites (2026-10-30 22:38)

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay — Four natural and historical sites in Albay province are being eyed for development as sustainable tourism destinations under bills sponsored by Rep. Raymond Adrian Salceda. The proposed measures seek to generate jobs, protect the environment and preserve local heritage while promoting tourism beyond the province’s main attraction, Mayon Volcano. Salceda sponsored

• New BARMM chief minister offers reconciliation, vows to serve all (2026-10-30 22:30)

COTABATO CITY — Newly elected Bangsamoro Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua on Friday called on all political leaders, including his opponents, to work with his administration in serving the Bangsamoro people. In his inaugural speech following his election over MP Ahod “Al Haj Murad” Ebrahim, chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and his former

• Ombudsman suspends 5 DPWH engineers over anomalous Bulacan projects (2026-10-30 22:16)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Friday said it ordered the preventive suspension of five project engineers of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) amid its ongoing investigation involving three flood control projects in Bulacan. In a statement, the ombudsman identified the five engineers as Irene Ontingco, Kevin Geronimo, John

• Ultra Lotto 6/58, Mega Lotto 6/45 draw results on Friday, Oct. 30 (2026-10-30 21:58)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the ₱460.91 million Ultra Lotto 6/58 jackpot or the ₱15 million Mega Lotto 6/45 jackpot on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Ultra Lotto 6/58 draw result: 51-57-35-54-29-45. Jackpot prize: ₱460.91 million Mega Lotto 6/45 draw result: 09-37-34-18-27-44 Jackpot prize: ₱15 million Minor games The results

• PNP chief inspects transpo terminals, major cemetery ahead of Undas (2026-10-30 21:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio C. Nartatez Jr. inspected bus terminals in Cubao, Quezon City and the Manila North Cemetery on Friday, as the nation prepares for the Undas break. Nartatez assessed the security measures, as well as the conditions of the terminals in anticipation of the surge of

• INQToday: Cubao bus terminal vendors hit by poor sales despite travel rush (2026-10-30 21:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Here are INQToday's stories for Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, as of 6 p.m. Cubao bus terminal vendors hit by poor sales despite travel rush Despite the influx of passengers at a Cubao bus terminal in Quezon City, food vendors noted that the increase in foot traffic had yet to translate into higher

• Prosecution on SWS survey: 70% want explanation from Sara Duterte (2026-10-30 21:41)

MANILA, Philippines — While it is easy to conclude that the recent Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey indicated that the prosecution is losing in the court of public opinion, a panel member has stressed that it also showed a huge clamor for Vice President Sara Duterte to explain herself before the impeachment court. In an online

• Caap to airmen: Avoid flying near Mayon following eruption (2026-10-30 21:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (Caap) on Friday issued a Notice to Airmen (Notam) for flights near Mayon Volcano in Albay. This came after Mayon recorded a moderately explosive eruption earlier this Friday, sending a grayish ash plume 3,000 meters above the volcano. READ: Mayon Volcano erupts, sends ash plume

• Manila Water shares practical ways to get ready for El Niño (2026-10-30 20:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Responsible preparation begins with what households can do today, while water service remains normal. A strong to very strong El Niño is present in the tropical Pacific and may peak before the end of 2026, according to PAGASA. It may continue through the

first half of 2027, increasing the likelihood of below-normal

• SC: Male victims suffer equal trauma from sexual violence (2026-10-30 20:45)

MANILA, Philippines – Behind closed doors, in an air conditioned bedroom where an 11-year-old boy fell asleep during a family visit, a quiet violation eventually haunted him. Overwhelmed by fear of an older relative, the little boy complied when his 25-year-old paternal aunt ordered him to undress. He remained silent at first—bound by youth, curiosity,

• Cendaña reiterates: Nothing libelous with what I said about Quiboloy (2026-10-30 20:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Akbayan party-list Rep. Percival Cendaña has maintained that there is nothing libelous in the statements he made about Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) founder Apollo Quiboloy. Cendaña made the statement as the lawmaker filed his counter-affidavit to the cases against him. In an ambush interview on Friday, the lawmaker said that part of

• San Juan City recognized at 2026 NCR Subaybayani Awards (2026-10-30 20:30)

MANILA, Philippines — San Juan City was recognized as one of the awardees under the Top Performing City category during the Department of the Interior and Local Government's (DILG) 2026 NCR Subaybayani Awards, in recognition of its accomplishments in implementing locally funded infrastructure projects and strengthening local project monitoring mechanisms. Mayor Francis Zamora was represented

• Ombudsman suspends 2 QC barangay execs for 'undocumented' transactions (2026-10-30 19:46)

MANILA, Philippines—The Office of the Ombudsman on Friday ordered the preventive suspension of a barangay captain and barangay treasurer in Quezon City. The directive comes after it was found that numerous transactions involving millions of public funds lacked the supporting documents. In a statement, the ombudsman said it suspended barangay captain Ronald Noga Tagle and

• Senate leaders vow removal of budget items not supported by documents (2026-10-30 19:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian and Senator JV Ejercito have vowed to remove items in the 2027 proposed budget that do not have supporting documents from local government units (LGUs) and national agencies that will prove the necessity of the project. In a statement shared to reporters on Friday, Gatchalian said that the Senate

• Liza Marcos, Angara launch nationwide school hydroponics project (2026-10-30 19:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The first lady, Louise "Liza" Araneta-Marcos, and Education Secretary Sonny Angara, together with the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), launched a nationwide school-based hydroponics project at Las Piñas National High School and Parañaque National High School. According to a DepEd statement on Thursday, the project, part of the Agri Tayo,

Lab for All program,

• DepEd wins praise from Harvard education dean for PISA gains (2026-10-30 19:13)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) has gained international recognition for its performance improvements in the 2025 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). According to a DepEd statement on Friday, Dean Nonie Lesaux of the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) praised the country's educational trajectory during a forum organized by the Harvard Club

• DPWH to close EDSA southbound lanes for repairs on Undas weekend (2026-10-30 18:52)

MANILA, Philippines—Motorists traveling along EDSA southbound will encounter temporary lane closures from Friday night, Oct. 30. This situation will happen as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) goes on the second phase of the highway's rehabilitation. The repair works will cover three sections – near the NEPA Q-Mart Bus Station, past the EDSA

• PH, Abu Dhabi firm eyeing strategic petroleum reserves partnership (2026-10-30 18:51)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) are exploring a strategic petroleum reserves partnership to reduce the country's vulnerability to disruptions in the global oil supply. In a social media post on Friday, Senate Energy Committee Chairperson Sen. Erwin Tulfo said he conducted an on-site observation and consultation at ADNOC headquarters

• Ejercito, DPWH agree to drop noncompliant projects from 2027 budget (2026-10-30 18:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. JV Ejercito has secured the commitment of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to remove infrastructure projects with incomplete documentary requirements from the proposed 2027 national budget. Ejercito, chair of the Senate Committee on Finance, met on Friday with newly appointed Public Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez and the latter's

• Palace tells business groups it's hoping for passage of clean 2027 budget too (2026-10-30 18:23)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Friday said the Marcos administration shares the business groups' calls to prevent the misuse of funds in the proposed 2027 national budget. The statement came after more than 30 business and civil society organizations urged Congress to make sure that no budget insertions that lack technical justifications will be allowed in

• Cubao bus terminal vendors hit by poor sales despite travel rush (2026-10-30 17:59)

Food Vendor Yolanda Reynoso struggles to cash in despite the surge of passenger traffic this Undas -(INQUIRER.net / Noy Morcoso) MANILA, Philippines — As more passengers flock to transport terminals on Friday ahead of the Undas break, Yolanda Reynoso and other food vendors also work long hours as they try to at least break even.

• Seniors urged to schedule cemetery visit after Undas (2026-10-30 17:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Senior citizens and those with underlying health conditions were advised on Friday to consider postponing their cemetery visits until after Undas, or the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, as large crowds and hot weather brought by the Super El Niño are expected to pose health risks. Manila Mayor

• Over 99,000 Undas visitors expected at Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig (2026-10-30 17:27)

MANILA, Philippines—Those who wish to visit their departed loved ones at Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City for Undas will have to prepare for a large crowd from Saturday (October 31) until All Saints' Day on Sunday (November 1). The management of this cemetery is expecting more than 99,000 visitors. "We expect that the

• Documents vs VP in impeachment trial came from her camp, says prosec (2026-10-30 17:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro has reminded the public that the evidence gathered and presented by the prosecution against Vice President Sara Duterte — particularly the bank and tax records under Article II — are documents that came from her camp. Luistro said this on Friday after a recent Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey

• Legarda seeks full restitution of PDIC and PhilHealth funds in 2027 budget (2026-10-30 17:00)

MANILA, Philippines—Sen. Loren Legarda has renewed her push for the full restitution and proper allocation of funds "legally intended" for the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). The call comes as Congress deliberates on the proposed P7.2-trillion budget for 2027. "Our national budget must reflect our responsibility to protect

• Probe into questionable drug war death certificates pushed (2026-10-30 16:55)

MANILA, Philippines—A former spokesperson of the Supreme Court (SC) on Friday called for a clear documentation system on the process of issuing and correcting death certificates as an independent body looking into drug war killings flag at least five physicians who declared questionable deaths. In a press conference on Friday with the Truth Commission, human

• Mayon ashfall descends over communities in Albay (2026-10-30 16:52)

ALBAY — Residents near the slopes of Mayon Volcano were sent to evacuation centers on Friday after a thin layer of ashfall began affecting nearby towns following a "moderate explosive eruption" before noon. Oscar Robert Cristobal, chief of the Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office (Apsemo), said they expect to evacuate 1,131 families from

• Too early to seek SC view on impeachment voting, says prosecution (2026-10-30 16:38)

MANILA, Philippines — While they will adhere to the Supreme Court (SC) order asking them to comment on a petition against the impeachment court's decision allowing a lower minimum number of votes for conviction, two prosecutors believe such talks are premature due to the lack of a justiciable issue. In separate online interviews on Friday, lead public

• MV Peñafrancia's safety certificate suspended after listing in Quezon (2026-10-30 16:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) has suspended the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate of the vessel MV Virgen de Peñafrancia II. The suspension comes after the passenger boat capsized onto its right side at the Port of Real in Quezon earlier on Friday that resulted in the injury of three passengers. Marina's order

• Undas 2026: PCG logs over 8,400 passengers in Southern Tagalog ports (2026-10-30 16:28)

CALAPAN CITY — The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) monitored 8,480 passengers traveling in Southern Tagalog ports during six hours on Friday as authorities intensified security measures for the All Saints' Day weekend rush. The Coast Guard District Southern Tagalog recorded 4,107 outbound passengers and 4,373 inbound passengers from midnight to 6 a.m. on Friday, according

• Cordillera town church given historical marker (2026-10-30 16:18)

BAGUIO CITY — The municipality of Besao in Mountain Province received its first historical marker recognizing the heritage significance of St. Benedict Episcopal Church. The marker recognizes the church's role in the growth of the Episcopal Church in the Cordillera and its contribution to community life in Besao. St. Benedict Episcopal Church traces its origins

• Cooperatives urged to expand solar financing in Oriental Mindoro (2026-10-30 16:13)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Renewable energy advocates have urged Oriental Mindoro cooperatives to expand solar financing programs to make clean, affordable electricity more accessible to households, farmers, fisherfolk, and small businesses. They made the call during the Provincial Cooperatives' Summit on Renewable Energy held in Calapan City on Friday, which encouraged cooperatives to use

• Marcos on Bangsamoro Parliament inaugural session: We won't desert you (2026-10-30 16:09)

MANILA, Philippines —President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. pledged the national government's support for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Parliament as it convened its first session on Friday. During the session, 79 of the 80 elected members of Parliament elected Abdulraof Macacua as chief minister, who will lead the regional government and oversee its

• Gulgol: An Ilocano post-burial ritual for grief, cleansing and healing (2026-10-30 15:46)

For Ilocano communities across Northern and Central Luzon, mourning does not end with burial. A day after accompanying their departed loved one to their final resting place, bereaved families make their way to a river or the sea to take part in an age-old ritual known as gulgol. “From the provinces of the Ilocos Region

• Ex-MILF military chief elected first BARMM Chief Minister (2026-10-30 15:42)

COTABATO CITY — Member of Parliament (MP) Abdulraof “Sammy Gambar” Macacua was elected the first Chief Minister of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) on Friday during the regional legislature’s inaugural session at the Shariff Kabunsuan Cultural Center. Macacua, who heads the Bangsamoro Federalist Party, was nominated by MP Kitem Kadatuan and was in contention

• Still no Interpol red notice vs Bato dela Rosa, lawyer says (2026-10-30 15:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa claimed that the Philippine National Police (PNP) has no basis for its manhunt operations as the senator is not listed in the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) red notice. Lawyer Israelito Torreon, the senator’s legal counsel, insisted that, based on information they received, there

• Lingayen Airport to be temporarily closed for Undas – Caap (2026-10-30 15:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The Lingayen Airport in Pangasinan will be temporarily closed from October 31 to November 1 due to the observance of Undas (All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day). The announcement comes from the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (Caap) on Friday. In a statement, Caap said the Notice to Airmen will

• Taytay records 44.79°C heat index despite start of cold weather (2026-10-30 15:21)

LUCENA CITY — Taytay, Rizal recorded a heat index of 44.79 degrees Celsius on Friday, placing it in the danger category despite the onset of cool winds brought by the “amihan.” The local government’s Public Information Office (PIO) warned residents about health risks from prolonged exposure to extreme heat. The office urged residents to stay

• 14 Palawan offshore oil, gas deals threaten marine biodiversity (2026-10-30 15:11)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Fourteen of the country’s 22 active petroleum service contracts (PSCs) are located in waters surrounding Palawan, raising concerns over potential threats to marine biodiversity, protected areas and coastal communities, an environmental group said. The Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED) raised the alarm on Friday in its report, “Don’t

• Don’t keep cremated remains at home – Archdiocese of Manila (2026-10-30 15:03)

MANILA, Philippines—As families prepare to remember their departed loved ones this Undas, the Archdiocese of Manila has reminded Catholics that cremated remains should be laid to rest in a grave, mausoleum or columbarium. In an Oct. 24 circular released on Friday, the

archdiocese cited the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' Liturgical Guidelineson Cremation.

• Leachon decries alleged harassment, vows to testify on Dengvaxia (2026-10-30 14:55)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro – Health reform advocate Dr. Anthony "Tony" Leachon has denounced continuing attempts to silence him as a vital witness in pending criminal cases involving the state-sponsored Dengvaxia vaccinations now being heard by a Quezon City Regional Trial Court. In a statement on Wednesday, Leachon, a resident doctor at Manila Doctors Hospital, confirmed

• Undas 2026: Key reminders for a safe, clean cemetery visit (2026-10-30 14:29)

MANILA, Philippines — As Filipinos visit cemeteries this Undas to remember their departed loved ones, environmental advocates are urging them to reduce waste, while authorities are reminding families to keep children safe, observe fire precautions and prepare for changing weather. From bringing reusable food containers and disposing of trash properly to keeping pathways clear and

• Isko Moreno gives reminders for Manila North Cemetery Undas visitors (2026-10-30 14:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Ahead of Undas, or the All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day holidays, Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso on Friday issued reminders to the public, who intend to visit the Manila North Cemetery. During an inspection led by the mayor at the cemetery, Domagoso told potential visitors what not to bring

• Bangsamoro parliament convenes with 79 members present (2026-10-30 14:13)

COTABATO CITY — The first elected Bangsamoro Parliament convened in the regional legislature's plenary hall at the Bangsamoro Government Center here on Friday with 79 of 80 members present. Sheikh Muslim Guiamaden, Bangsamoro wali or ceremonial head, struck the gong, which symbolizes the opening of the session. Director Jaime Ayub, the highest-ranking officer of the

• Undas 2026: Passengers flock to terminals; cemeteries begin to draw crowds (2026-10-30 14:03)

While Filipinos begin to observe Undas 2026, passenger volume at transport terminals has picked up as travelers head to their respective provinces to visit their departed loved ones. The cemeteries have also started drawing crowds ahead of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day while authorities have deployed additional personnel at major transport hubs and

• Manila Memorial Park in Sucat logs over 16,000 visitors ahead of Undas (2026-10-30 13:47)

MANILA, Philippines – More than 16,000 visitors were recorded at Manila Memorial Park in Sucat on Friday, exceeding the cemetery's expected count of 15,000. According to cemetery authorities, security personnel recorded 16,183 visitors as of 12 noon, two days ahead of All

Saints' Day. READ: LIVE UPDATES: Undas 2026 | Oct. 30 It was the

• Mla North Cemetery Undas operating hours' extension to be assessed (2026-10-30 13:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Whether or not the operating hours of the Manila North Cemetery during Undas—or the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day—will be extended will have to be evaluated by the local government of Manila. Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso gave this view on Friday (October 30). As of now, Manila

• Albay suspends classes after Mayon's explosive eruption (2026-10-30 13:17)

LEGAZPI CITY — Following Mayon Volcano's explosive eruption, classes at all levels in public and private schools across Albay were suspended Friday afternoon. Gov. Noel Rosal announced the suspension in a Facebook post, saying classes would remain suspended until further notice. "Classes in all levels in Albay, private/public, suspended this afternoon until lifted," Rosal said.

• PNP to Bato dela Rosa: Surrender to prevent harm to uniformed personnel (2026-10-30 13:14)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) appealed to Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, a former nationalpolicechief, to voluntarily surrender to prevent harm to uniformed personnel. "Kung sa puso niya ay gayun pa ang kanyang pagiging tatay ng Philippine National Police, alam ko hindi niya hahayaan na mayroon isa o dalawa o 10 members

• Mayon Volcano's alert level raised to 3 after eruption (2026-10-30 13:08)

LEGAZPI CITY — The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) on Friday raised Mayon Volcano's alert status from Level 2 to Level 3 following a moderately explosive eruption that sent an ash plume 3,000 meters above its summit. The eruption occurred at 11:53 a.m. on Oct. 30, producing a dense, rapidly rising ash column

• BARMM lawmakers arrive for inaugural session amid tight security (2026-10-30 12:07)

COTABATO CITY — Elected members of the Bangsamoro Parliament began arriving at the Bangsamoro Government Center (BGC) on Friday morning for its inaugural session on the afternoon. At around 10 a.m., luxury vehicles were seen at the BGC's main gate as light rain continued to fall. Among the early birds were Moro Islamic Liberation Front

• Poor even in death: The high cost of dying in the Philippines (2026-10-30 12:05)

MANILA, Philippines — In a country where millions live in poverty and struggle to make ends meet, the cost of holding a wake and burying a loved one can be overwhelming, especially for families still burdened by hospital bills and debts after prolonged medical treatment. Government data showed that 9.7% of the Philippine population, or

• BREAKING: Mayon Volcano erupts, sends ash plume 3,000 meters high (2026-10-30 12:04)

(2ND UPDATE) MANILA, Philippines — Mayon Volcano recorded a moderately explosive eruption on Friday, Oct. 30, sending a grayish ash plume 3,000 meters above the volcano, the state volcanology agency said. The eruption began at 11:53 a.m. and ended at 11:59 a.m., lasting nearly six minutes, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology

• PITX logs over 1 million passengers ahead of Undas 2026 weekend (2026-10-30 11:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Passenger count at the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) reached past one million as more Filipinos gear up early for their annual journey back to their home provinces in time for Undas 2026 commemmoration, or the celebration of All Souls' Day and All Saints' Day. Based on data released by PITX as

• WATCH: Flower sales still normal but prices expected to go up on weekend (2026-10-30 11:40)

Sales of flowers at Dangwa Flower Market remain normal, with no significant surge in demand yet. However, prices of flowers are expected to increase slightly as Undas approaches and more Filipinos traditionally buy flowers to offer at their loved ones' graves.

• Dengue hits all villages of Agusan del Sur town; 2 dead (2026-10-30 11:40)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Dengue has swept through all 27 villages of this town, a commercial hub of Agusan del Sur province, infecting 432 residents and claiming two lives as of Wednesday, according to the Municipal Health Office (MHO). The surge mirrors a wider health crisis across Agusan del Sur, which was placed

• 58 passengers rescued from distressed sea vessel off Real, Quezon (2026-10-30 11:28)

LUCENA CITY — The Philippine Coast Guard rescued 58 passengers from a roll-on/roll-off vessel that tilted to its right side about 10 meters from the port of Real, Quezon before daybreak on Friday. The MV Virgen de Peñafrancia II had just arrived from Polillo Island and was preparing to dock at the port in Barangay

• Romblon capitol rolls out reproductive health policy for workers (2026-10-30 11:16)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Romblon has enacted a comprehensive reproductive health and wellness program for all provincial government employees, according to its social media post on Thursday. Enacted on October 9 during the board's 35th Regular Session, Provincial Ordinance No. 24, Series of 2026 mandates institutional access to reproductive health

• Marcos assures safe, convenient travel as PH gears up for Undas 2026 (2026-10-30 11:16)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday said the government is beefing up transport, security, and emergency response preparations to ensure safe and convenient travel for Filipinos observing Undas 2026. In a video statement, Marcos said the Department of Transportation and other government agencies are conducting extensive inspections at

airports, seaports, and bus terminals.

• 5,000 security troops fielded for Undas in Zamboanga Peninsula (2026-10-30 10:55)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — The Police Regional Office 9 (PRO-9) has deployed over 5,000 security personnel and force multipliers across the Zamboanga Peninsula and Sulu province to ensure a peaceful, orderly observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day (Undas 2026). Police Brig. Gen. Elmer Ragay, PRO-9 Director, directed the region's police

• Dizon inspects Naia T1 ahead of Undas 2026 travel rush (2026-10-30 10:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon inspected Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 1 on Friday as the country's main gateway prepares to handle around 1.2 million travelers during the Undas travel period. "Nandito po tayo ngayon sa Naia Terminal 1 kasi nga direktiba ng Pangulo na siguraduhin natin na maging safe and comfortable

• PNP stands firm on arresting Bato dela Rosa as ultimatum expires (2026-10-30 10:34)

MANILA, Philippines —The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Friday reaffirmed that it would not back down and remained ready to take appropriate measures to arrest Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa as his one-week ultimatum expired on Oct. 30. "Let me declare, hindi tayo uurong sa ating tungkulin," Lt. Gen. Wilson Joseph Lopez, PNP deputy chief

• Batac inaugurates first automated weather station in Ilocos Norte (2026-10-30 10:20)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur— The Batac city government inaugurated Ilocos Norte's first Automated Weather Station (AWS) on Wednesday at Sitio Capaoayan in Barangay Tabug. The facility aims to provide timely, localized weather information to help farmers make informed decisions about planting schedules, irrigation management, and the application of fertilizers and pesticides. The station's weather data can

• Flooded graves, fading traditions: Undas in Hagonoy (2026-10-30 09:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The water reaches past the ankles, swallowing the narrow paths between tombs at the Hagonoy Catholic Cemetery in Bulacan. Into it, families step carefully in rubber boots, carrying candles and flowers for loved ones they have come to remember. It is a scene far removed from the Undas gatherings residents once knew

• MMDA: Light to moderate traffic Friday morning ahead of Undas break (2026-10-30 09:20)

MANILA, Philippines — Light to moderate traffic was reported in several parts of Metro Manila on Friday morning as travelers headed to their home provinces in time for the Undas 2026 weekend. Below is the traffic situation along major roads as of 8 a.m., according to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA): READ: Rain, cloudy skies

• LOOK: Aquino family tomb draws visitors ahead of Undas (2026-10-30 09:09)

MANILA, Philippines — Flower arrangements were seen at the Aquino family mausoleum at Manila Memorial Park-Sucat in Parañaque City on Friday, ahead of the Undas holidays. The tomb serves as the final resting place of prominent members of the Aquino family, particularly former President Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III, former President Corazon “Cory” Aquino, and former

• Labor group disputes claims of high sugarcane labor costs (2026-10-30 09:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA) has challenged the Sugar Council’s characterization of sugarcane labor as costly, citing low wages, long working hours without overtime pay and hundreds of thousands of field workers who reportedly did not receive seasonal cash bonuses. In a statement, UMA chairperson Ariel Casilao said most

• Search underway for missing fisherman in Quezon (2026-10-30 08:46)

LUCENA CITY — The Philippine Coast Guard has launched a search and rescue operation for a 57-year-old fisherman who went missing after leaving home to fish off the coast of Infanta town in Quezon on early Thursday (Oct. 29). The fisherman left home in Barangay Dinahican at around 3 a.m. aboard a white-and-orange wooden boat

• VP camp dismisses fresh cash suitcase claims as another ‘tanim witness’ (2026-10-30 08:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of Vice President Sara Duterte on Friday dismissed as “another tanim witness” the allegations of a man identified only by the alias “Chris” that he had twice delivered suitcases of money to the vice president. In a statement, Duterte spokesperson Salvador Paolo Panelo Jr. denied the allegations and said that the

• Dipolog City suspends classes for kindergarten, elementary due to rains (2026-10-30 08:00)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – The City Government of Dipolog in Zamboanga del Norte province announced the suspension of classes in both public and private schools, from kindergarten to elementary levels on Friday, October 30, amid bad weather. The class suspension was ordered through an official city advisory as continuous heavy rains affected the

• Rain, cloudy skies may affect Undas travelers on Friday (2026-10-30 07:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Partly cloudy skies and rain brought by several weather systems may affect travelers on Friday ahead of Undas 2026, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. In its 4 a.m. forecast, the state weather bureau warned of cloudy skies with scattered rains and isolated thunderstorms over Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino, Nueva

• DHSUD turns over 190 housing units for disaster-hit families in Ilocos (2026-10-30 06:47)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) turned over 190 housing units to the local government of Caoayan in Ilocos Sur, providing permanent shelter for families displaced by the earthquake and successive typhoons that struck the province in 2022. Some of the beneficiaries received their units during a

• 500 IPs from 30 tribes avail of government services in Iriga (2026-10-30 06:38)

LEGAZPI CITY — About 500 members of 30 Agta indigenous tribes gathered at the Iriga City Sports Center on Thursday (Oct. 29), for the city's Indigenous Peoples Day celebration, where they accessed government services and took part in cultural activities. The event featured competitions in poetry, singing and dancing, traditional games, storytelling, indigenous music and

• Puerto Galera honors Asian Games medalist Victoria Atienza Bossong (2026-10-30 06:29)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The municipal government of Puerto Galera has honored Filipino runner Victoria Atienza Bossong for winning a bronze medal in the women's 800-meter run at the 2026 Asian Games, citing her achievement as a source of pride for the country and her maternal hometown. The Sangguniang Bayan, led by Vice Mayor

• Who wouldn't recognize Bato dela Rosa? PNP defers 'wanted' poster (2026-10-30 05:54)

MANILA, Philippines — There may be no need for a "wanted" poster on someone as recognizable as Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, according to the spokesperson of the Philippine National Police. Police Col. Allen Rae Co gave this view on Thursday, with the manhunt for the lawmaker expected to enter a new phase because of

• Different case, different witness, same '25%' kickback rate bared (2026-10-30 05:52)

MANILA, Philippines — A former regional director of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on Thursday said 25 percent of the funds allocated for infrastructure projects in the 2025 national budget were given as "commitments"—or kickbacks—to the project proponents, including senators. At the continuation of the bail hearing in the plunder case against

• Ex-DPWH usec: Can't recall Romualdez pushing for infra projects (2026-10-30 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Public Works Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo on Thursday denied having any dealings with former Speaker Martin Romualdez, telling the Sandiganbayan he could not recall identifying the Leyte lawmaker as a proponent of infrastructure projects in the alleged P7.44-billion kickback scheme. "There is nothing like that," Bernardo said under cross-examination by Romualdez's lawyer

• Bulacan island fights rising seas with nature, not concrete (2026-10-30 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — For years, residents of a flood-prone Philippine island north of Manila have elevated their homes atop layer upon layer of concrete, only to see floodwaters threaten them again. Burdened by strong storm surges, land subsidence, and rising seas exacerbated by climate change, the 3,000 residents of tiny Pamarawan Island in Malolos City,

• DA eyeing approval of 4 more ASF vaccines in 2027 (2026-10-30 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) is looking to approve at least four more vaccines against African swine fever (ASF) until next year, as it ramps up efforts to contain the disease and rebuild the country's swine population. Agriculture Undersecretary for Livestock Constante Palabrica said the DA was targeting the approval of a

• Current, ex-Cebu City mayors slapped fines (2026-10-30 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman has separately sanctioned Cebu City Mayor Nestor Dionson Archival Sr. and his predecessor, Raymond Alvin Neri Garcia, over a night market on Colon Street and unauthorized "sabong" or cockfights held in a hotel, respectively. Archival was fined a month's pay by the Office of the Ombudsman which

• SC downgrades charges vs ex-public school principal in tree-cutting case (2026-10-30 05:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court, citing the lack of proof such as a paper trail, has downgraded the charges and subsequent penalties meted out against a former public school principal in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, who ordered the cutting of trees on public property. In a decision dated June 2 but released only on

• Inquirer: Lustre not employed in company (2026-10-30 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Daily Inquirer said on Thursday that veteran journalist Philip Lustre is not an employee, after lawyer Manases Carpio, husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, placed the company's Makati office as Lustre's "last known address." Lustre was arrested last Saturday on a cyberlibel charge without having received a complaint beforehand because

• Marcos faces crucial choice: 5 shortlisted as next SC chief justice (2026-10-30 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will soon decide who will lead a Supreme Court dominated by appointees of his predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, after the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) shortlisted five candidates for chief justice, including two senior magistrates who have repeatedly taken opposing positions on major constitutional and political issues. The choice

• Respect Sagada's tradition for the dead, tourists told (2026-10-30 05:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The municipal tourism office of Sagada in Mountain Province has reminded both residents and visitors to observe "panag-apoy" with humility and respect, and

allow the town's clans to remember their departed using "long-standing practices." Tourists usually flock to Sagada cemeteries on Nov. 1 and Nov. 2 to witness families gather around the

• PDEA agents dismantle alleged drug den in Bacoor City; 5 arrested (2026-10-29 23:23)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – Agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) dismantled an alleged drug den and arrested five men during an anti-illegal drug operation in Bacoor City, Cavite. In a belated report Thursday, PDEA Calabarzon said its Cavite provincial office conducted a buy-bust operation that led to the raid of the suspected drug

• Body found near Olongapo solar farm; police probe awaited (2026-10-29 23:21)

OLONGAPO CITY — A body was found near a solar farm in Old Cabalan, Olongapo City, on Thursday, Oct. 29, prompting a coordinated retrieval operation involving local disaster responders and police. In a statement, the City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office said a phone call reporting the discovery was received on Thursday. READ: Olongapo City

• Ex-Cebu City mayor challenges Ombudsman ruling over cockfighting events (2026-10-29 22:43)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — Former Cebu City Mayor Raymond Alvin Garcia has filed a motion for reconsideration challenging an Ombudsman ruling that found him administratively liable for failing to object to unauthorized cockfighting events at the NUSTAR Resort and Casino Convention Center in 2024. In a statement posted on social media, Garcia said he disagreed

• Prosec: P463-M in VP's wealth unexplained even sans firm assets (2026-10-29 22:42)

MANILA, Philippines —Vice President Sara Z. Duterte must still account for more than P463 million in alleged unexplained wealth even after removing amounts linked to companies associated with her and her husband, Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong, House prosecution spokesman, said on Thursday. In a press briefing, Alonto Adiong said the prosecution's findings remained substantial even

• Peaceful inaugural session of BARMM parliament assured (2026-10-29 22:38)

COTABATO CITY — Presidential Peace Adviser Mel Senen Sarmiento on Thursday met with key security officials to finalize security preparations for the inaugural session of the Bangsamoro Parliament on Friday, Oct. 30, following the successful regional elections. To ensure the orderly transition, Sarmiento met with Brig. Gen. Edgar L. Catu, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division,

• Man dead in Bataan blaze (2026-10-29 22:33)

PILAR, Bataan — A 29- year old man died when he failed to escape from his burning house in Barangay Wakas, at Pilar town in Bataan province on Thursday noon (Oct. 29). Police said the victim's 69-year-old father who is also a person with a disability was lucky enough to rush out of the burning

• Church holds Mass for EJK victims ahead of Undas (2026-10-29 22:32)

MANILA, Philippines—Families of victims of extrajudicial killings (EJK) gathered for a Mass ahead of Undas on Oct. 29 to honor their departed loved ones and pray for justice. The Mass was held at the Diocesan Shrine of Jesus the Divine Word–Christ the King Mission Seminary and led by Fr. Flaviano “Flavie” Villanueva, a priest who

• Prosec raises possible tax evasion in VP Duterte’s income gap (2026-10-29 22:28)

MANILA, Philippines — v citing an alleged P111.85-million gap between her declared income and bank deposits examined during her Senate impeachment trial. In a press briefing, Alonto Adiong said the discrepancy raised questions not only about Duterte’s alleged unexplained wealth but also about whether she had properly declared her income and paid the correct taxes. He

• Undas: Bus driver tests positive in ‘Oplan Harabas’ in South Cotabato (2026-10-29 22:23)

KORONADAL CITY — A bus driver tested positive in an initial drug screening of 200 transport workers at three terminals in Koronadal City and General Santos City ahead of Undas, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in Region 12 (PDEA-12) said. Asnawi Salik, PDEA-12 Assistant regional director, said the annual Oplan Harabas aims to ensure that

• Adiong: VP Duterte’s best defense would’ve been to state wealth in SALN (2026-10-29 22:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The best defense that Vice President Sara Duterte could have come up for the unexplained wealth allegations against her was to declare all assets and business interests in her Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN), Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong claimed on Thursday. In a press briefing at the

• Iligan institutionalizes P1.3-M ‘second chance’ program for PDLs (2026-10-29 22:17)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — A person’s past should not dictate their future. This principle took center stage in Iligan City on Thursday, October 29, as local officials and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) launched a P1.34-million comprehensive reintegration program to help former Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) successfully rejoin society. Dubbed

• PCG logs over 80,000 passengers at ports nationwide ahead of Undas (2026-10-29 22:09)

MANILA, Philippines — More than 80,000 passengers passed through ports nationwide on Thursday, as Filipinos traveled ahead of the observance of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) reported. In its latest tally covering noon to 6 p.m., the PCG recorded 40,503 outbound passengers and 43,593 inbound passengers. READ: Naia

• PH Red Cross to deploy over 1,800 personnel for Undas (2026-10-29 21:56)

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) will deploy 1,848 personnel for its Undas Operation 2026, including 248 staff members and 1,600 volunteers. The agency will also deploy 314 first aid stations, 149 welfare desks, 103 mobile units, 104 foot patrol teams, 65 ambulances and 19 emergency vehicles. These resources will be stationed at cemeteries, bus

• LIST: Road closures near Manila North Cemetery Friday, Oct. 30 (2026-10-29 21:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Several roads near or leading to Manila North Cemetery in Santa Cruz, Manila will be closed starting Friday, Oct. 30, ahead of the observance of All Souls' Day and Saints' Day. In an advisory, the Manila Public Information Office (MPIO) said the closures would take effect at midnight on Oct. 30 and

• Lotto 6/42 ticket wins ₱21.69M jackpot on Oct. 29 (2026-10-29 21:52)

MANILA, Philippines—A lone bettor won the ₱21.69 million Lotto 6/42 jackpot in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) draw on Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026. According to the PCSO results, the winning combination was 34-15-19-37-25-38, which carried a jackpot prize of ₱21,694,699.03. Meanwhile, no bettor won the ₱74.93 million Super Lotto 6/49 jackpot. The winning combination

• Zambo del Sur seeks tighter watch on firm's gold shipments, tax obligations (2026-10-29 21:48)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — The Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Zamboanga del Sur is investigating the mining operations of company called TVI Resource Development Philippines Inc. (TVIRD) in Bayog town. It is zeroing in on the firm's environmental compliance, tax liabilities, and mineral transport transparency. The provincial board's Ad Hoc Committee, chaired by 2nd District

• Palace dismisses VP replacement talks, says Marcos focused on governance (2026-10-29 21:32)

MANOLO FORTICH, Bukidnon — Malacañang on Thursday dismissed speculations regarding potential replacements for Vice President Sara Duterte, saying "it is premature to discuss her successor" while the impeachment trial is still ongoing. Speaking at a press briefing at the Northern Bukidnon State College (NBSC) here, during the Presidential Communications Office's (PCO) "Usap Tayo, Bayan Muna"

• WALANG PASOK: Class suspensions in several areas on Oct. 30 (2026-10-29 21:14)

MANILA, Philippines — Several local governments have suspended face-to-face classes or shifted to asynchronous learning on Friday, Oct. 30, ahead of the observance of All Souls' Day and Saints' Day and other events. Below are the following areas with class suspensions: READ: Undas 2026: PNP on full alert starting Oct. 30 Tuguegarao, Cagayan – suspension

• Former DPWH Usec Bernardo says he had no dealings with Romualdez (2026-10-29 20:58)

MANILA, Philippines — State witness Roberto Bernardo, former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) undersecretary, said on Thursday that he never had any dealings with former Speaker Martin Romualdez. Bernardo said this in his testimony before the Sandiganbayan Third Division during the bail hearing of Romualdez for plunder over alleged kickbacks worth P7.44 billion. Romualdez's

• Marcos eyes better transport links to boost food tourism (2026-10-29 20:48)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has vowed to improve infrastructure and air and sea connectivity to make more destinations accessible as the country seeks to capitalize on growing international interest in Filipino cuisine. Marcos made the commitment Thursday during the awarding of MICHELIN Stars and Bib Gourmand distinctions at the MICHELIN Guide Ceremony of

• INQToday: Teodoro rejects China's claim of abuse of Asean chairmanship (2026-10-29 20:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Here are the stories for INQToday, Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026, as of 6 p.m. Teodoro rejects China's claim of abuse of Asean chairmanship Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. rejected on Thursday China's accusation that the Philippines abused its chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) defense meetings to obstruct Beijing's

• Dizon vows crackdown on erring shipping firms after Palawan ferry fire (2026-10-29 20:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon on Thursday vowed to crack down on shipping companies that violate maritime safety rules following the Sept. 9 ferry fire in Palawan that killed 77 people. Dizon said he would discuss stricter enforcement measures with key officials of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and its attached agencies during

• Ex-BARMM official to appear before PDEA on Nov. 5 over Laos drug probe (2026-10-29 19:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Bangsamoro parliament member Edrieza Hadji Nasser Rimbang, whom authorities have identified as the alleged financier of the Laos drug shipment, is expected to appear before the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) on Nov. 5. PDEA spokesperson Joseph Frederick Calulut said Rimbang's lawyers had committed to bringing him to the agency's office

• LPA trough to bring rains to parts of Visayas, Mindanao on Oct. 30 (2026-10-29 19:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The trough of a low-pressure area (LPA) inside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) is expected to bring scattered rains and thunderstorms to parts of the Visayas and Mindanao on Friday, Oct. 30, the state weather bureau said. In its 4 p.m. weather advisory on Thursday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical

• DENR starts restoring wetlands, rivers critical for El Niño (2026-10-29 19:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) launched a nationwide ecosystem restoration program focusing on critical wetlands, rivers, and coral reefs to protect communities against the impacts of extreme dry heat expected from the onset of a very strong El Niño. “We are ensuring that our ecosystems remain functional buffers against

• SC acquits woman who killed husband after 11 years of being abused (2026-10-29 19:03)

MANILA, Philippines — A woman chose prison over an abusive home — after 11 years of enduring escalating physical and psychological abuse from her husband, a police officer. Court records showed she was beaten about four times a week, starting after she caught him in bed with another woman. When she threatened to leave, he

• Parents team up with teachers, tutors to help kids love math again (2026-10-29 18:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) is mobilizing teachers, tutors, and parents nationwide to strengthen mathematics learning recovery through the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) Mathematics Program. Under DepEd Memorandum No. 060, s. 2026, ARAL Mathematics will be implemented in public elementary and secondary schools for grades 1 through 10 beginning in

• Poll favoring defense team done before VP financial evidence shown (2026-10-29 18:15)

MANILA, Philippines — A recent survey showing more Filipinos favoring Vice President Sara Duterte’s defense team for the impeachment trial rather than the prosecution panel was conducted before financial evidence against her was revealed, Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong stressed on Thursday. In a press briefing, Alonto Adiong said this is the reason

• QC receives complaint in farmers-led rally commotion (2026-10-29 18:13)

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City government said that it received an administrative complaint in connection with the commotion that transpired outside the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Quezon City. The Quezon City People’s Law Enforcement Board (QC PLEB) said that it obtained the complaint from an organization representing the affected individuals for the

• Velasco’s ‘ex-driver’ tells NBI: I delivered cash suitcases to Duterte (2026-10-29 17:08)

MANILA, Philippines — An alleged former driver of ex-House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco on Thursday appeared before the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to testify that he allegedly delivered suitcases of money twice to Vice President Sara Duterte. These movements reportedly happened in Davao from 2021 to 2022 upon Velasco’s instruction. The alleged former driver

• Calapan bishop mourns death of SVD missionary priest (2026-10-29 17:06)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Calapan Bishop Moises M. Cuevas is mourning the death of Society of the Divine Word (SVD) missionary priest Rudolf Holzgartner, who spent more than five decades helping form generations of Filipino priests at Saint Augustine Seminary here. Cuevas described Holzgartner, who passed in Germany on Wednesday, as a model of

• Impeach court hails survey showing 51% of Filipinos will accept its ruling (2026-10-29 17:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate impeachment court expressed satisfaction on Thursday after a survey showed that 51 percent of Filipinos are ready to accept its verdict on Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial. This pertains to a Social Weather Stations survey conducted from Sept. 21 to 27, 2026. The survey also found that 26 percent

• Bicol jails prepare for El Niño, heat risks (2026-10-29 17:02)

LEGAZPI CITY — The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) in Bicol is tightening water conservation and heat prevention measures at detention facilities ahead of the anticipated effects of a strong El Niño. Jail Senior Superintendent Jose Gemelo C. Taol, BJMP Bicol regional director, said the preparations followed directives from BJMP chief Jail Director

• Grandma stays whole night outside North Port due to lack of 24/7 ticketing staff (2026-10-29 16:46)

MANILA, Philippines — A 59-year-old passenger spent the night outside the Manila North Port in Tondo, Manila last Tuesday because she could not immediately secure the earliest trip to Bacolod. She then spent the next two days in the area waiting for her ship to depart on Thursday evening. Speaking to reporters, Leonila Castillanes said

• Classes suspended in Surigao Sur town after magnitude 5.9 earthquake (2026-10-29 16:38)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Classes at all levels in public and private schools in Lingig, Surigao del Sur were suspended Thursday at noon after a series of earthquakes, including a magnitude 5.9 tremor, jolted off its coast. Lingig Mayor Elmer Evangelio issued Memorandum No. 15 halting classes until further notice as a precautionary

• Gov't releases allowances of MILF peacekeepers (2026-10-29 16:30)

COTABATO CITY — On Wednesday, the national government began releasing the monthly allowances of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) members serving in the Joint Peace and Security Teams (JPSTs), a security mechanism under the Bangsamoro peace agreement. The Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) said 362 MILF members are deployed

• 'The world of dela Rosa is getting smaller' – Castro (2026-10-29 16:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The world of fugitive Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa is getting smaller following the government's offer of a P50-million reward for his capture. This is what Palace

Press Officer Claire Castro said on Thursday. At a briefing in Bukidnon, Castro said operations to capture dela Rosa are ongoing, but she could not disclose

• Agusan farmer projects P882K income from 6-hectare hybrid rice farm (2026-10-29 16:15)

PROSPERIDAD, Agusan del Sur — While thousands of farmers across the province watched their fields parched from the prolonged dry spell, Roger Villegas stood beside stacks of freshly harvested palay on Wednesday, looking at an estimated P882,000 payoff. Initial crop-cut sampling conducted by Department of Agriculture (DA) Caraga technicians during a local harvest festival showed

• Police seize P3.7-M 'smuggled' cigarettes at BARMM checkpoint (2026-10-29 16:02)

COTABATO CITY — Police seized suspected smuggled cigarettes worth P3.7 million from a closed van at a checkpoint in the Special Geographic Area (SGA) of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) on Wednesday evening, October 28. The Police Regional Office-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (PRO-BAR) said personnel from the 1405th Maneuver Company of the Regional

• Caraga cop named top prober of women, children's protection cases (2026-10-29 15:44)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur – A non-commissioned police officer stationed in Surigao del Sur was named the country's top investigator for women and children's protection cases during a national summit in Zamboanga City, regional police officials said on Thursday. Chief Master Sergeant Christine Intano of the Carrascal Municipal Police Station received the Outstanding Senior

• Ballistics tie Albay broadcaster slay to past shooting (2026-10-29 15:18)

LEGAZPI CITY — Ballistics tests have linked evidence recovered from the killing of broadcaster Adrian Loterte in Daraga, Albay, to a .45-caliber handgun associated with an earlier shooting investigation, the Bicol police said on Wednesday. The PNP Forensic Group's Firearms Identification Section established the match after examining bullet slugs and cartridge cases recovered from the

• Bernardo tells Sandiganbayan: Binay, Poe also received alleged kickbacks (2026-10-29 15:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Senators Nancy Binay and Grace Poe have also allegedly received "commitments" or kickbacks from flood control projects. State witness and former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo gave this testimony to the Sandiganbayan Third Division on Thursday. READ: Bernardo: All of DPWH projects nationwide have alleged kickbacks Bernardo

• Caap places all airports on heightened alert for Undas 2026 (2026-10-29 15:08)

MANILA, Philippines — The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (Caap) has placed all airports nationwide on heightened alert status due to the expected surge of passengers during Undas. According to Caap, the alert status will take effect starting Thursday, Oct. 29 to Nov. 3, Tuesday, as part of the Department of Transportation’s ‘Oplan Byaheng

• 13 arrested, P12-M equipment seized in Iligan anti-POGO raid (2026-10-29 14:40)

ILIGAN CITY — Police arrested 13 people and seized P12 million worth of equipment during an operation against an alleged Philippines Offshore Gaming Operators (POGO) hub here late Wednesday evening, the Iligan City Police Office (ICPO) said Thursday. Maj. Sandrex Panolong, ICPO public information officer, said investigators spent five months developing the case before carrying

• Agusan del Sur employs climate-smart tools vs El Niño onslaught (2026-10-29 14:28)

PROSPERIDAD, Agusan del Sur — Weeks after severe dry spells and erratic weather prompted a provincial state of calamity, farmers and fisherfolk across Agusan del Sur are shifting from emergency response to active defense, applying new weather-informed techniques to safeguard their livelihoods. After P3.5 billion in agricultural losses from the prolonged El Niño dry spell,

• Caritas Philippines supports Lobo in fight vs. LPG terminal project (2026-10-29 14:18)

MANILA, Philippines — Caritas Philippines has expressed support for Batangas Archbishop Emeritus Ramon Arguelles and residents of Lobo who have raised concerns over a proposed liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) terminal and refilling plant. San Carlos Bishop and Caritas Philippines President Gerardo Alminaza said “this is not simply about one project,” stressing that the issue touches

• DENR probes possible causes of tarsier deaths in Samar (2026-10-29 14:16)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has directed continuous wildlife monitoring along the Cacaransan-Saputan Road in Calbayog City following a series of Philippine tarsier deaths. “Immediately following the reports, DENR personnel from the Calbayog Pan-as-Hayiban Protected Landscape conducted an on-site investigation, verified the reported locations, gathered information from witnesses and

• Transport security office to Undas travelers: Don’t bring banned items (2026-10-29 14:12)

MANILA, Philippines — As the influx of travelers begins ahead of Undas 2026, the Office for Transportation Security (OTS) on Thursday reminded passengers to remove prohibited items from their belongings to avoid trip delays. The reminder came as the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) administration reported confiscating a total of 260 banned objects from Oct.

• Tinio: Marcos feigning control as analysts say peso to slide further (2026-10-29 14:11)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s defensive stance regarding the highest-ever dollar-peso exchange rate is mere posturing, ACT Teachers party-list Rep. Antonio Tinio said on Thursday, warning that financial analysts believe the peso will slide further in the coming months. In a statement, Tinio slammed Marcos for his “Don’t panic” remark, saying it comes as

• Witness: 25% of infra project budget given as ‘proponents’ commitment’ (2026-10-29 14:10)

MANILA, Philippines—A former Public Works and Highways official on Thursday said 25 percent of the budget allocated for infrastructure projects in the 2025 General Appropriations Act (GAA) are given as “commitments” to certain proponents, including senators. This was according to former Public Works and Highways Regional Director Gerard Opulencia, who testified as a prosecution witness

• Davao de Oro military ready to help police hunt Bato dela Rosa (2026-10-29 14:09)

CAYAN DE ORO CITY — The Philippine Army’s 10th Infantry Division (10ID) said on Thursday it is ready to help police arrest Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, whose one-week ultimatum to surrender ends on Friday. The former national police chief is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for alleged crimes against humanity during the

• Marcos urges firms to invest in PH electric vehicle industry (2026-10-29 14:07)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday urged foreign manufacturers to invest in the Philippines’ electric vehicle (EV) industry as the government aims to have EVs account for 50% of the country’s vehicle fleet by 2040. He made the call during a visit to the manufacturing and assembly plant of Sazgar Philippines Inc. in

• LGU employee killed, child bystander wounded in Pampanga ambush (2026-10-29 13:42)

MABALACAT CITY — A 54-year-old male employee of the Arayat municipal government died while a 10-year-old bystander was wounded in an early morning ambush at the town’s Gatiawin village on Wednesday. The municipal government employee was riding a motorcycle when a still unidentified assailant shot him several times at 7:20 a.m., the Pampanga police said.

• WATCH: Hegseth-Teodoro talks, Undas 2026 updates top INQToday newscast (2026-10-29 13:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Here are INQToday’s top stories this afternoon. The United States will increase its security cooperation funding to help speed up the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), following talks between US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. in Cebu. Meanwhile, Vice President Sara Duterte’s

• SC clears ex-principal of grave misconduct for cutting trees: No proof (2026-10-29 13:37)

MANILA, Philippines—The Supreme Court has reduced the offense and the penalty meted on a former public school principal in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro over an unauthorized cutting of trees. The high tribunal, in a decision on June 2 released only on Thursday, partially granted the petition sought by Melencio Corpuz. Corpuz was found guilty of

• Dad nabbed in Pampanga for allegedly taking ex-partner's 2 kids (2026-10-29 13:32)

MABALACAT CITY — Police arrested a 37-year-old man for allegedly taking his former partner's two children without her consent in Pasay City and bringing them to San Fernando City in Pampanga. In a statement, the Philippine National Police Public Information Office (PNP-PIO) said the children, aged 11 and three, were taken without their mother knowing

• Laoag launches Dulang Festival to promote Ilocano cuisine (2026-10-29 13:10)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — The Laoag City government had launched the first Dulang Festival to promote Ilocano cuisine and boost food tourism by showcasing the city's traditional dishes and local food industry. The two-day festival, which ends on Thursday, brought together city officials, the Liga ng mga Barangay, residents, and food businesses to celebrate

• Truck helper dies, driver hurt in Quezon road collision (2026-10-29 12:59)

LUCENA CITY — A 42-year-old truck helper died while the driver was injured when their vehicle collided with an Isuzu refrigerated van on Wednesday night in Atimonan, Quezon. The truck was negotiating a descending, curved section of the diversion road in Barangay Malinao Ilaya at 8:15 p.m. when the driver reportedly lost control due to

• 'Tamban' closed fishing season in Tayabas Bay begins (2026-10-29 12:52)

LUCENA CITY — The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Calabarzon has launched a closed fishing season for Bali Sardinella, locally known as "tamban," in Tayabas Bay to protect the fish population during its spawning period. "The measure aims to give tamban the opportunity to reproduce and replenish their population, helping maintain an

• No need for wanted posters for Bato dela Rosa for now, says PNP (2026-10-29 12:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Thursday said it has yet to see the need to issue wanted posters for Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa. This is despite an outstanding arrest warrant against him and a P50-million reward for anyone who can provide information on his whereabouts. READ: PNP opens hotlines for

• JBC submits 5 names to Malacañang for next chief justice (2026-10-29 12:42)

MANILA, Philippines – The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) on Thursday decided to send the names of five candidates aspiring for the chief justice post to Malacañang after extensive deliberation. The names, which will be transmitted directly to the Office of the President, comes ahead of the mandatory retirement of incumbent Chief Justice Alexander G.

• LOOK: OTS conducts security inspection at PITX ahead of Undas 2026 (2026-10-29 12:37)

MANILA, Philippines—The Office for Transportation Security (OTS) conducted a security check at the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) on Thursday, Oct. 29, in anticipation of the influx of passengers for Undas 2026. During the inspection, OTS officials did a walk-through, checked in on the security personnel on standby, and distributed emergency go bags to some passengers

• Lilia Cuntapay Horror Fest back in Ilocos Norte with 11 short films (2026-10-29 12:32)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur— Eleven short horror films by local filmmakers will be shown at the 15th Lilia Cuntapay Short Horror Film Festival on Oct. 30 at the La Paz Sand Dunes in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte. The screening, scheduled for 8 p.m., will showcase Ilokano storytelling through horror films inspired by the filmography of

• PNP tells dela Rosa to surrender anew: 'End this with dignity on your part' (2026-10-29 12:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) once again appealed to Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa on Thursday to surrender. The police said turning himself in will avoid any untoward incident that could result from his arrest. PNP spokesperson P/Col. Allen Rae Co reiterated their call to the senator in a press conference, a

• Bernardo: All of DPWH projects nationwide have alleged kickbacks (2026-10-29 12:24)

MANILA, Philippines — All Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) projects nationwide allegedly have kickbacks, its former Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo told the Sandiganbayan Third Division on Thursday. Bernardo, a career DPWH official of four decades, made this bombshell revelation when he testified during the former House Speaker Martin Romualdez's bail hearing for a plunder

• Carpio's camp: Inquirer address given in good faith in Lustre's warrant (2026-10-29 12:24)

MANILA, Philippines – Atty. Manases Carpio, husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, provided the Philippine Daily Inquirer's office address as Philip Lustre's last known address in "good faith," Carpio's spokesperson, Atty. Neil Abayon, said on Thursday. Lustre, a veteran journalist, was arrested last Saturday on a cyberlibel charge without having received a complaint beforehand because

• MMDA suspends coding scheme on Monday, Nov. 2 (2026-10-29 12:07)

MANILA, Philippines — The implementation of the expanded number coding scheme will be suspended on Monday, November 2, according to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA). The MMDA noted that it automatically suspends its number coding scheme during regular and special non-working holidays. READ: PITX records over 700,000 passengers

ahead of Undas 2026 break “Awtomatikong

• 580 Leyte students screened for free eyeglasses (2026-10-29 12:00)

TACLOBAN CITY — A charitable program screened more than 580 public school students in the towns of Alangalang and MacArthur in Leyte to address eyesight problems that hinder academic success, with qualified learners set to receive free prescription eyeglasses in December. The initiative, led by the Mabuhay Deseret Foundation (MDF), seeks to help students who struggle

• Balicucha-making highlights Ilocos Sur’s culinary heritage (2026-10-29 11:30)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — The balicucha-making industry in Sta. Maria town in Ilocos Norte was among the local enterprises featured in the Raniag: Region 1 Creative Tour, highlighting efforts to promote homegrown products and introduce traditional food-making to a wider audience. Held in Barangay Maynganay, the activity gave visitors firsthand experience in making balicucha,

• Marcos inaugurates NLEX link cutting travel time to 5 minutes (2026-10-29 11:24)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday inaugurated a two-kilometer section of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) that will connect Mindanao Avenue in Valenzuela City to Quirino Highway in Quezon City, reducing travel time between the two points to just five minutes. Called NLEX C5 Northlink Segment 8.2 Section 1A, Marcos said the segment

• Army kills 2 NPA rebels, seizes arms in separate Eastern Visayas ops (2026-10-29 10:57)

TACLOBAN CITY — Two suspected New People’s Army (NPA) members were killed in a military operation in Dolores, Eastern Samar, while a separate operation in Northern Samar led to the recovery of firearms and an anti-personnel mine, the military reported. The 52nd Infantry Battalion said troops encountered NPA members in the hinterlands of Barangay Jicontol,

• MTRCB reminds bus operators to screen family-friendly shows only (2026-10-29 10:52)

MANILA, Philippines – In a series of transport hub inspections, the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) has reminded transport terminals and bus operators to screen content appropriate for families and children. Ahead of the All Saints’ Day travel rush, the MTRCB began inspections on Tuesday, covering bus terminals and transport hubs in

• Tacloban City adopts 4-day workweek to cut energy use amid El Niño (2026-10-29 10:41)

TACLOBAN CITY — The city government will implement a four-day compressed workweek for most offices starting Nov. 3 as part of its energy conservation measures in anticipation of the effects of El Niño. Mayor Alfred Romualdez issued Memorandum Order No. 2026-10-435, dated Oct. 27, directing city government offices to operate from Monday to Thursday, from

• Pagasa monitors LPA inside PAR on Thursday morning (2026-10-29 10:29)

MANILA, Philippines – A low pressure area (LPA) was being monitored inside the country on Thursday morning, according to the state weather bureau. in its tropical cyclone formation outlook issued at 10 a.m., the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that the LPA was last estimated 915 kilometers (km) east of Eastern

• MRT-3 releases adjusted operating schedule for Undas 2026 break (2026-10-29 10:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Are you planning to take the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3) this Undas season? The train line has released its adjusted operating schedule for October 29 (Thursday) to November 2 (Monday). According to the Department of Transportation, the MRT-3 is under heightened alert during this period, with 700 security personnel deployed

• Visayas grid still on red, yellow alert on Thursday, Oct. 29 (2026-10-29 10:13)

MANILA, Philippines — The Visayas Grid will still be on red and yellow alerts on Thursday, Oct. 29, said the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP). In an advisory, the NGCP said the Visayas Grid will be placed under red alert from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. READ: NGCP: Mindanao reserves may run out

• 2 Army soldiers arrested over North Cotabato shooting (2026-10-29 10:00)

KORONADAL CITY — Two Philippine Army soldiers were arrested after allegedly shooting a 23-year-old man traveling from Davao City to Cotabato City in Pigcawayan, North Cotabato, before dawn Thursday, police said. The suspects, both members of the Army’s 7th Infantry Battalion and residents of Midsayap, North Cotabato, were arrested following a pursuit operation shortly after

• SC asks Senate, House to comment on Sara Duterte impeachment vote rule (2026-10-29 09:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court (SC) directed the Senate impeachment court and the House of Representatives to comment on a petition filed by Sens. Robinhood Padilla and Christopher “Bong” Go, questioning a ruling that lowered the number of votes required in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. Padilla disclosed this in a

• Undas 2026 in Manila: Grave finders, visiting hours, traffic advisories (2026-10-29 09:52)

MANILA, Philippines—As Undas approaches, large crowds are expected at two of Metro Manila’s major cemeteries, Manila North Cemetery and Manila South Cemetery. Visitors are advised to plan their trips ahead, including by using the cemeteries’ online grave finders and interactive maps to locate their departed loved ones’ burial sites before arriving. The two cemeteries have

• Naia logs almost 300,000 passengers ahead of Undas 2026 (2026-10-29 09:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Close to 300,000 passengers have already been recorded to have passed through Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) since Tuesday ahead of the observance of

Undas or the All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day holidays. According to the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), a total of 290,844 passengers were recorded from Oct.

• PITX records over 700,000 passengers ahead of Undas 2026 break (2026-10-29 09:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Foot traffic at the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) has already surpassed 700,000ahead ofUndas, or the All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day holidays. Based on data released by PITX as of 8 a.m. of Thursday, a total of 745,769 passengers have already moved through the station from Sunday, Oct. 25 to

• Police seize P2.5-M 'smuggled' cigarettes in Sultan Kudarat (2026-10-29 09:01)

KORONADAL CITY — Police seized nearly P2.5 million worth of suspected smuggled cigarettes in two separate operations along two coastal towns in Sultan Kudarat province in the past two days. The Police Regional Office 12 (PRO 12) reported recovering a total of 2,974 reams of cigarettes valued at P2,544,792.22 during the operations in Kalamansig and

• Taal Volcano continues to shake, logs 8 earthquakes (2026-10-29 08:53)

LUCENA CITY — Taal Volcano in Batangas province continued to record volcanic earthquakes, logging eight in the past 24 hours, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported on Thursday (October 29). The latest volcanic earthquakes was lower in number from 13 the previous day, Phivolcs said in its morning bulletin. READ: Taal Volcano

• Sara Duterte's camp calls replacement talks 'premature,' a 'distraction' (2026-10-29 08:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's camp on Thursday dismissed discussions about her possible replacement as "premature" and called them a "distraction" from the "serious issues" surrounding her impeachment. Duterte's camp made the statement after several senators raised the issue, including Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano, who recently urged his colleagues to reject any

• Amihan, sheer line to bring rain to parts of Luzon Thursday (2026-10-29 07:42)

MANILA, Philippines – Overcast skies and rain are expected to persist over several parts of Luzon on Thursday due to the effects of the northeast monsoon (amihan) and the shear line, the state weather bureau said. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the shear line will bring cloudy skies and rain

• DOT eyes new diving tourism spot in Misamis Oriental (2026-10-29 07:20)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – The Department of Tourism in Northern Mindanao (DOT-10) has identified Initao, Misamis Oriental, as a potential new diving destination after underwater exploration reportedly uncovered a rare marine species believed to be uncommon in the Philippines. In an interview Tuesday, Ivy Guantero, DOT-10 promotion head, said the discovery will be revealed

• NCR hospitals, emergency teams on alert for ‘Undas’ (2026-10-29 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Hospitals and emergency response teams across Metro Manila will be on Code White Alert from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 to prepare for a possible increase in patients needing immediate medical attention during the “Undas” break. The Department of Health-Metro Manila Center for Health Development (DOH-MMCHD) said the alert is intended to

• DA eyes tighter pork import rules after corn quota hike (2026-10-29 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) is moving to tighten pork import rules after the government raised the country’s corn import quota, as it seeks to bring down livestock production costs and protect local hog raisers from declining farm-gate prices. Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the department was pursuing higher tariffs

• Hike in school bomb threats prompts PNP review of response protocols (2026-10-29 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — After a string of bomb threats against several schools and universities in Metro Manila that led to the suspension of classes, the Philippine National Police on Wednesday ordered a review of its explosives-related threat response protocols. “We must ensure that our bomb threat protocols evolve with the threats we face,” PNP chief

• Journo sued by VP’s husband wants Davao case moved to Manila (2026-10-29 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The 72-year-old journalist recently sued for cyberlibel by the husband of Vice President Sara Duterte will ask that the case be transferred to Metro Manila instead of being tried in Davao City, where the complaint was filed, citing fears for his safety. But still, Philip Lustre Jr. on Wednesday said the charges

• Farmers’ group defends Montemayor vs libel raps (2026-10-29 05:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) on Wednesday called for the dismissal of a cyberlibel complaint filed against its chair, former Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor, over his criticism of a company’s legal personality to import rice. Montemayor surrendered on Monday to the Makati City Regional Trial Court, which issued a warrant for

• PNP opens hotlines for tips on Dela Rosa’s whereabouts (2026-10-29 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police on Wednesday launched round-the-clock hotlines for tips on the whereabouts of Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, as the lawmaker’s lawyers renewed their plea for the Supreme Court to block his arrest and possible transfer to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Netherlands. The developments came amid mounting

• ‘Don’t panic,’ Marcos says after peso’s historic lows (2026-10-29 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos asked the public not to panic over the Philippine peso’s volatility, as the currency slightly recovered to close at P64.025 on Wednesday. This

showed that the peso gained 14.5 centavos against the greenback after opening at P64.08,ending a seven-session streak of record-low closing levels. Experts said the Bangko Sentral

• Senate seeks explanation from Lalamove founder (2026-10-29 05:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate committee on public services will issue a show-cause order to Lalamove founder and CEO Shing Chow, who failed to attend, for the third straight time, the ongoing hearing on operational regulations for digital labor platforms. “Send a show-cause order for why they shouldn’t be cited in contempt because this is

• Planters, labor groups decry low sugar prices (2026-10-29 05:06)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — The Sugar Council and labor groups in Negros are calling on the Department of Agriculture and the Sugar Regulatory Administration to urgently address low mill-gate prices of sugar, warning that current market rates are threatening the survival of local farmers. The council—composed of the Confederation of Sugar Producers Associations,

• Mindanao on track to build more clean energy sources (2026-10-29 05:02)

GENERAL SANTOS CITY, Philippines — Mindanao is on track to achieve a balance between renewable energy (RE) and “dirty” and expensive fossil fuels—mostly coal—by 2030, with the Department of Energy (DOE) announcing the potential delivery of at least 1,000 megawatts (MW) of clean energy within the next three years. Speaking during the 4th Mindanao Clean

• Authorities seize P2.2M in contraband cigarettes in Sultan Kudarat town (2026-10-29 01:36)

COTABATO CITY, Philippines — Police authorities in Sultan Kudarat province seized a haul of suspected smuggled cigarettes during a joint seaborne patrol at around 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 27, in the waters off Kalamansig town. The team of police and Coast Guard personnel conducted the patrol to verify information regarding an abandoned unregistered motorized banca

• SC Associate Justice Zalameda receives UE’s honorary degree (2026-10-29 01:14)

MANILA, Philippines — Supreme Court (SC) Associate Justice Rodil Vaquilar Zalameda received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of the East (UE) in Manila on Tuesday. According to the UE, Zalameda—who was also recognized twice before as one of the university’s outstanding alumni—is the 36th person the university has awarded the honorary

Source: The Manila Times

• Marcos names Rodil Zalameda new chief justice (2026-11-05 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda has been selected as the next chief justice to succeed Alexander Gesmundo, who will retire on Friday, Malacañang announced on Thursday.Zalameda will be the country's 28th chief justice."Today, I am pleased to announce that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has chosen Supreme Court Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda to serve as the next Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, succeeding Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo, who is set to retire tomorrow, November 6," Presidential Communications Office Secretary Lino Cayetano said."In selecting Justice Zalameda, the President recognizes the importance of experienced and principled leadership in preserving public confidence in our judicial institutions," he said.The President expressed his confidence that Zalameda will "discharge the responsibilities of chief justice with integrity, impartiality, and an unwavering commitment to the rule of law," Cayetano added.

- LRMC opens 24/7 parking facility at LRT-1 (2026-11-05 05:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Light Rail Manila Corporation (LRMC), the private operator of the Light Railway Transit (LRT-1), has opened a 24/7 paid parking facility at its Dr. Santos Station in Parañaque City, enhancing its push for seamless multi-modal transit.The parking facility will allow commuters to leave their vehicles safely and skip the vehicular traffic, LRMC President and CEO Enrico Benipayo said.Benipayo said the facility supports the Department of Transportation's "Park and Ride" and "Road to Rail" initiatives by giving commuters from southern Metro Manila and nearby provinces direct access to the LRT-1 network.Operated by third-party partner GlobalParking Management Inc. under an agreement with LRMC, the lot accommodates four-wheel and two-wheel vehicles, offering 93 slots for cars and SUVs and 100 slots for motorcycles.The facility runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and features CCTV (closed-circuit television) surveillance, an automated boom gate system, and on-site parking attendants. Payments may be made in cash."Our goal at LRMC is to provide holistic mobility solutions that go beyond train operations. By providing a safe, accessible, and well-managed parking space, we are empowering commuters to easily transition from private vehicles to efficient rail transport," Benipayo said."This facility bridges road and rail transportation, making daily commutes faster, safer, and more convenient for everyone," he added.The LRMC said four-wheeled vehicles are charged P40 for the first five hours, with succeeding hours at P10 each while motorcycles and e-bikes pay a flat rate of P30 for the first eight hours, followed by P5 for each succeeding hour.An overnight rate of P100 applies to vehicles parked between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.Parking is free for persons with disabilities and senior citizens upon presentation of a valid identification card.

- SC allows video testimony, recorded interviews to spare child witnesses from courtroom trauma (2026-11-05 04:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court (SC) has revamped its rules on examining child witnesses, allowing video-link testimonies, recorded depositions and professionally conducted interviews to spare children from repeatedly reliving traumatic experiences in court.Under the Revised Rule on the Examination of Child Witnesses (RRECW), approved by the court en banc on

June 17, 2026 but only announced Wednesday, courts may allow children to testify through videoconferencing from outside the courtroom when appearing in person is likely to cause them further trauma.The new rules also allow electronically recorded depositions and recorded interviews conducted by trained professionals to be presented as evidence, subject to safeguards protecting the rights of the accused and other parties.In announcing the revised rules, the SC said the changes aim to make court proceedings more child-friendly while ensuring that children's voices are heard without exposing them to unnecessary psychological harm.Under the rules, judges may limit the people a child witness can see and hear during testimony, including the accused, while preserving the latter's constitutional right to confront witnesses.If identification of the accused is necessary, the accused may briefly appear on camera or be identified by the child through an image displayed on screen.Children who cannot testify in court or through videoconferencing because of disability, health concerns or other circumstances may instead give an electronically recorded deposition in the presence of the judge and lawyers from both sides. The recording may be used in place of their actual courtroom testimony.The revised rules also recognize recorded interviews conducted by a team of professionals as evidence, reducing the need for children to repeatedly recount painful incidents.

- Marcos leads first gas delivery from new Malampaya wells (2026-11-05 04:39)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. led the first delivery of natural gas from Malampaya’s newly developed offshore wells in Batangas City.Speaking at the Malampaya Onshore Gas Plant on Thursday, Marcos said the new wells would help move the Philippines closer to energy independence. “Maximizing the use of Malampaya gas could contribute to more competitive power rates because we are relying less on imported energy sources that are subject to volatile international energy prices,” he said in his speech.

- Padilla, Tulfo statistically tied — survey (2026-11-05 04:10)

MANILA, Philippines — If the elections were held today, Senators Robin Padilla and Raffy Tulfo would be statistically tied in the vice presidential race, a survey by Momentum Research showed.Padilla's support rose to 20 percent in October from 15 percent in August, while Tulfo's dropped to 18 percent from 25 percent during the same period, the October 2026 National Momentum Survey revealed.Sen. Bong Go maintained his 14 percent support, while Sen. Rodante Marcoleta remained at 9 percent.Sen. Bam Aquino gained two percentage points to 10 percent, while Sen. Kiko Pangilinan more than doubled his support from 3 percent to 7 percent.Sen. Risa Hontiveros, meanwhile, slipped from 8 percent to 6 percent.The survey also found that 7 percent of respondents were undecided, while 2 percent declined to disclose their preferred vice presidential candidate.In September, Padilla said that he no longer planned to seek public office in 2028.Tulfo and Aquino have also ruled out seeking the vice presidency, with Tulfo saying he intends to run for reelection.The survey results showed a sharp regional divide in voter preferences, with Padilla dominating Mindanao while Tulfo led in the rest of Luzon.

- Tulfo retracts claim on Romualdez: I was fed wrong info (2026-11-05 03:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Journalist Ramon Tulfo on Thursday retracted his claim that former speaker Martin Romualdez has been sneaking out of jail. “I was fed the wrong report that former speaker Martin Romualdez could go in and out of jail,” Tulfo said in a Facebook post. He admitted that one of the most embarrassing and humiliating experiences of a journalist is spreading wrong information.Reports that Romualdez has been going out of the Quezon City Jail - Male Dormitory prompted the Sandiganbayan Third Division to order the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology to review CCTV footage and account for his whereabouts from the time he was brought to jail until Nov. 4.The bureau was directed to submit a notarized report by Monday, Nov. 9, along with CCTV maintenance records, access logs, records of possible footage alterations, power interruptions, vehicle movements and ambulance use. “Accused Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez shall not be moved, removed, transferred and/or otherwise be released from his detention at the Quezon City Jail - Male Dormitory unless ordered by the court,” the Sandiganbayan said.

- VP defense team respects Sarmiento’s decision not to testify in impeachment trial (2026-11-05 02:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte said it respects the decision of law professor Dean Ralph Sarmiento declining their invitation for him to serve as a defense witness in her impeachment trial.Michael Poa, spokesman for the Vice President’s defense camp, said that they would honor the legal scholar’s decision. This development follows a manifestation filed by the defense on Wednesday requesting the Senate Impeachment Court to issue a subpoena duces tecum and subpoena testificandum to Sarmiento, a respected faculty member of political and constitutional law at the University of St. La Salle (USLS) College of Law and its former vice chancellor for administration.The defense planned to make Sarmiento as its anchor witness for November 9 to testify on the foundational constitutional principles relevant to Article II of the impeachment complaint, which focuses on allegations of unexplained wealth against Vice President Duterte.However, Sarmiento declined the invitation, citing a desire to protect his academic freedom. In a statement, he thanked the defense team for recognizing his work but noted that he never anticipated his digital commentary becoming part of an actual impeachment trial.Sarmiento has a substantial online footprint, commanding over 318,000 followers on Facebook, where he frequently posts balanced analyses, including recent commentary emphasizing the need for procedural fairness after the prosecution dropped three out of four charges against Duterte."After careful consideration, I have decided to decline participation as a witness in the proceedings," Sarmiento stated. "This is a personal decision to preserve the independence of my constitutional law scholarship and the impartiality of my legal views and opinions."Sarmiento added that he has reached out to the defense to request that they withdraw their motion for a subpoena, or move for its immediate recall if the court has already issued it. He maintained that he remains fully committed to fostering public understanding of the Constitution through an independent lens.Poa extended the defense team's gratitude for Sarmiento's initial consideration.

• Pangilinan pushes expanded agricultural insurance protection for famers, fisherfolk (2026-11-05 02:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis Pangilinan is pushing for stronger and more comprehensive agricultural insurance protection for farmers and fisherfolk through a measure seeking to expand insurance coverage and ensure the continued operation of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC).Pangilinan filed Senate Bill 2583 on Oct. 29, proposing to strengthen the PCIC by extending its corporate term and its insurance services through further amendments to Presidential Decree No. 1467.The measure seeks to bolster the agricultural sector’s resilience against climate-related risks, particularly with the looming threat of a strong El Niño that could trigger severe drought, disrupt agricultural production, and jeopardize the livelihoods of farmers and fisherfolk, as well as the country’s food security.“Agricultural insurance protects farmers and fisherfolk against losses, supports continued production, and facilitates access to financing. Strengthening and modernizing the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) is therefore essential to making insurance protection more accessible, responsive, and sustainable,” Pangilinan said in the bill’s explanatory note.Citing Philippine Statistics Authority data, he noted that poverty incidence among farmers and fisherfolk reached 27 percent and 27.4 percent, respectively, in 2023, highlighting the need for stronger government support for these vulnerable sectors.He said that agricultural insurance serves as a critical safety net, helping farmers and fisherfolk recover from losses caused by natural calamities, climate-related disruptions, and other agricultural risks. It also helps sustain food production and improves their access to credit.Under the measure, the PCIC’s insurance coverage would be expanded to cover a broader range of agricultural commodities and assets, including palay, corn, high-value crops, livestock, aquaculture and fishery products, agroforestry crops, and forest plantations.Coverage would also extend to agricultural machinery, equipment, transport facilities, and infrastructure.The bill likewise seeks to strengthen the PCIC’s authority to provide life and accident term insurance coverage for farmers and fisherfolk.

• DOTr deploys 20 buses to ease LRT-2 congestion (2026-11-05 01:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Transportation (DOTr) has deployed 20 buses to give Light Rail Transit Line 2 (LRT-2) commuters an alternative during rush hour.The buses will initially serve commuters traveling from Antipolo City in Rizal to Cubao, Quezon City and Legarda, including students heading to schools and universities in Manila, DOTr Secretary Vince Dizon said on Thursday.The initiative aimed to ease pressure on the LRT-2, which has been unable to accommodate thousands of passengers because of its limited number of operational trains, Dizon said.Under the trial arrangement, the regular fare from Antipolo to Legarda, originally P80, was reduced by 20 percent to P66. Students will pay P55.The bus deployment was a temporary measure while the government works on longer-term solutions to the LRT-2's operational problems, said Dizon, a former Department of Public Works and Highways chief.During Wednesday’s inspection at the Masinag station in Antipolo, Dizon said around 4,000 passengers during the 6 to 8 a.m. peak period could not be served by the rail line.The DOTr chief noted that commuters sometimes had to wait 30 to 45 minutes in line before

boarding a train. Only 10 trains are operational and that number could decline further when some break down.Dizon attributed the shortage to years of inadequate maintenance and funding, noting that the trains are 25 to 27 years old and have not been replaced.Buying new trains would not immediately solve the problem, as delivery could take three to four years and the government has yet to allocate funds for the purchase."We cannot solve this overnight. I apologize to our commuters because this is not an easy problem to address," Dizon said.The DOTr is also studying the possibility of establishing a busway-style system along Marcos Highway in Rizal to make trips faster.

- DepEd reports improved reading levels under ARAL program (2026-11-04 19:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) reported a decrease from 6.7 million to 4.5 million in the number of learners with reading difficulties under its Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) program.Education Secretary Sonny Angara said that the results were encouraging after one year of implementation."From 6.7 million, it became 4.5 million whose reading levels improved. So it's very encouraging and that's only after one year," Angara said in Filipino and English during an interview after the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Iloilo Numeracy and Literacy Expo at Punta Villa Resort in Iloilo on Wednesday. Angara said that the ARAL program was intended to address learning deficiencies so that difficulties in reading would not carry over from one school year to another.He also said that DepEd had issued policy guidelines on weather conditions, providing for alternative learning modes when temperatures become too high.On classroom construction, Angara said local governments in Iloilo were providing funds to complement the national government's assistance, adding that the classroom deficit was decreasing in Iloilo and Panay.

- Sotto pushes rules to address prolonged absences of senators (2026-11-04 18:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Pro Tempore Vicente Sotto III is seeking clearer rules to address senators who remain absent from their duties for extended periods without authorization, saying prolonged absenteeism undermines public accountability and wastes taxpayers' money.In Senate Resolution No. 751, filed on Oct. 27, Sotto urged the Senate Committee on Rules to review existing regulations and establish mechanisms for addressing prolonged unauthorized absences among Senate members.Sotto said the measure seeks to address a gap in the chamber's existing rules, particularly when a senator's extended absence affects the performance of legislative functions."As public servants elected by the Filipino people and whose salaries and allowances are derived from the taxes they have paid, we owe it to them to perform our duties with diligence and to represent them in the legislative framework," Sotto said in the resolution.He invoked the constitutional principle that public office is a public trust, stressing that government officials must remain accountable to the people and discharge their responsibilities with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty and efficiency.Sotto noted that prolonged absenteeism and alleged neglect of duty had become matters of public concern, with complaints against some senators already filed before the chamber's Committee on Ethics."Such absenteeism and neglect of duty is deemed a waste of

taxpayer funds and has caused public clamor over the past months," he said.Sotto said the Senate must revisit its rules to determine the appropriate response to prolonged unauthorized absences and ensure that senators meet the standards of public service expected of them."There is a need to revisit the current Rules of the Senate to study the best possible approach as regards the issue of prolonged unauthorized absence of the members of the Senate with the view of ensuring highest standards of public service commensurate to the trust reposed by the electorate," he said."No less than the 1987 Constitution has pronounced that public office is public trust and that all public officials and employees must at all times be accountable to the people they serve and must serve with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency," he added.

- Jail officials quizzed on Romualdez report (2026-11-04 16:21)

THE Sandiganbayan 3rd Division has summoned two jail officials to testify on Thursday on the custody of former speaker Martin Romualdez following reports alleging he had been secretly leaving his detention facility.Clerk of Court for the 3rd Division, Dennis Pulma, told The Manila Times on Wednesday that the court ordered Jail Supt. Maria Lourdes Pacion and medical officer Henry Fabro of the Quezon City Jail-Male Dormitory in Payatas, Quezon City, to “personally appear and testify” at 8:30 a.m. on Nov. 5.“In light of the recent online news articles,” the court issued the resolution to establish the “current status of accused Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez’s custody at BJMP Payatas,” Pulma said, referring to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).The summons followed allegations that Romualdez had been leaving jail without authorization. The BJMP has launched an investigation and said its initial closed-circuit television (CCTV) review found no recorded movement by Romualdez outside the facility during the period examined.The BJMP has launched an investigation into the claims, but BJMP chief JDIR Efren Nemeño said initial CCTV reviews showed no recorded power interruption at the Quezon City Jail–Male Dormitory or any recorded movement of the lawmaker inside his cell.“Initial CCTV verification by BJMP National Headquarters showed no recorded power or CCTV interruption at the New Quezon City Jail-Male Dormitory, and no recorded movement of Rep. Martin Romualdez outside the facility during the period examined,” the agency said in a statement on Wednesday.The investigation came after columnist Ramon Tulfo claimed on social media that Romualdez is secretly leaving and returning to the jail through a backdoor arrangement designed to keep his movements hidden.Tulfo said an asset he called “Tweety Bird” alleged that Romualdez uses a staircase while the facility’s electricity is intentionally cut to prevent CCTV cameras from capturing his movements.The former speaker supposedly takes the backdoor stairs where an ambulance is waiting for him — a movement Tulfo alleged was also done by former senator Bong Revilla as well as Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who have both been committed to the same facility due over the flood control scandal.A CCTV clip sent to The Manila Times dated Nov. 4 showed Romualdez was inside the detention center wearing the yellow shirt for persons deprived of liberty on that day.In his post, Tulfo did not mention any particular date when the former speaker supposedly sneaked out, but the BJMP conducted a thorough CCTV review since September to confirm the allegations.Romualdez was committed to the New

Quezon City Jail-Male Dormitory since Sept. 14 over his alleged connection to the flood control controversy.Bustinera reiterated that CCTV monitoring remained fully operational with no unrecorded movement or power outages recorded.The BJMP said it takes such allegations seriously but reiterated that "all PDL (person deprived of liberty) are subject to the same custodial rules and that any movement outside the jail requires a proper court order." "We welcome relevant information from the public and will cooperate with any investigation by other government agencies," the agency said.The BJMP also assured the public of professionalism, transparency and commitment to equal treatment of all PDLs "without distinction or special privilege."

- 'VP defense team has no defense vs bank records' (2026-11-04 16:20)

THE defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte is "defenseless," a member of the House prosecution team said on Wednesday.Trial spokesman and former Surigao del Norte representative Robert Ace Barbers made the assertion as he reiterated that Duterte's counsels would be hard-pressed to counter evidence presented by the prosecution when the materials themselves came from the vice president's camp."The defense is defenseless. In other words, how can you refute the evidence presented by the prosecution — given that the very documents submitted actually originated from the defense camp itself?" Barbers said in Filipino in a press conference."Bank records will never lie. I don't think the bank managers will deny the existence of outstanding balances they reported before the impeachment court to controvert what the prosecution team laid down," he added.The former lawmaker also noted that the panel already expected the defense team to object to its formal offer of evidence.In its comment before the Senate Impeachment Court, Duterte's defense team sought to exclude key documentary evidence, including records from the Securities and Exchange Commission, Bureau of Internal Revenue and Anti-Money Laundering Council, citing technical defects, lack of witness authentication and failure to establish a direct link to impeachable offenses."We already expected that they would do that. They will attack the technicality of the trial. They will attack the documents that we have presented as evidence," Barbers said."They will attack that. They will say it's wrong, that it's not allowed — simply because they have no counterargument," he added.The panel has withdrawn three of the four Articles of Impeachment against the vice president, leaving only Article II, which accuses Duterte of amassing unexplained wealth disproportionate to her lawful income, failing to truthfully disclose her assets and liabilities in her SALNs (statements of assets, liabilities and net worth) and maintaining prohibited business interests.One of the panel's witnesses, forensic accounting expert and lawyer Alexander Cabrera, earlier identified about P817.87 million in alleged unexplained wealth involving Duterte and her husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, from 2022 to 2025. A broader computation placed the amount at about P1.5 billion, which the defense has disputed."The evidence is substantial, and it is extremely difficult to refute or disprove — not least because it consists of actual documents, which cannot lie; this is not evidence that could have been fabricated," Barbers said."So, once again, I would like to say that it will be difficult for the defense to challenge, or perhaps even rebut, the evidence we have

presented," he added.The impeachment proceedings will resume on Nov. 9, with the Duterte defense team reportedly out to present 90 witnesses.Barbers argued that the opposing side cannot simply overwhelm the proceedings with witnesses, lengthy arguments or procedural objections while leaving fundamental questions about the vice president's declared wealth, income, assets and financial transactions unanswered. "The number of witnesses is not the measure of the truth. What matters is whether they can address the documents and figures presented by the prosecution," he said.Duterte, he said, must explain whether her declared income reasonably accounts for the accumulation of her wealth and whether all business interests, investments and other financial holdings were properly disclosed. "If all transactions were proper and above board, every figure should be explainable. Simply denying or casting doubt on the documents is not enough. These must be addressed with clear, concrete explanations and evidence," Barbers said. "The defense has the right to defend their client, but this process should not be used as an excuse to evade serious questions that need to be answered," he added.

- PNP vows 'Bato' arrest despite his police ties (2026-11-04 16:19)

THE Philippine National Police (PNP) reiterated their unwavering vow to implement the arrest warrant against Sen. Ronald dela Rosa regardless of his ties with the law enforcement agency he once led and served almost all his life. "Our chief PNP made it abundantly clear that we will not allow any hindrance, regardless of the person's position or previous public position, we will do our duty, we will implement the warrant of arrest," Col. Allen Rae Co, PNP spokesman, said in a press briefing.The PNP's answer came following the challenge issued by Palace Press Secretary Claire Castro to PNP chief Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. to pursue the arrest of dela Rosa despite his historical connections.Dela Rosa is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes against humanity for his role in the bloody war on drugs, when he was then-president Rodrigo Duterte's PNP chief.Castro made the challenge following Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla's pronouncement that dela Rosa's connection as former PNP chief and a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy are making his arrest more difficult. "We understand that this is not a matter of personal discretion or political consideration. The PNP does not play politics. We remain true to our oath of fulfilling our duty within the law," Co said.Remulla repeatedly said that dela Rosa is being coddled by a powerful armed group whom the government would rather negotiate with than risk 10,000 just for the arrest of one man.While not divulging the results of the negotiations, the government has issued a P50-million bounty for information leading to the arrest of dela Rosa, tagged him as "armed and dangerous," and gave him a week to surrender.The week has passed with no surrender or feelers from the fugitive senator. His camp, through his lawyer, even renewed their petition before the Supreme Court to block the ICC arrest citing recent developments such as the bounty and the armed and dangerous tag as dangers to his life.Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former PNP chief himself, said the PNP and the Department of the Interior and Local Government should refrain from divulging information on manhunts.The PNP expressed agreement with Lacson's statement and maintained that indeed, they are keeping the integrity

of operational details.Lacson on Wednesday said that Philippine courts must be respected and local legal procedures observed if dela Rosa is arrested.Lacson said dela Rosa should be placed under the custody of a Philippine court, even in a ministerial capacity, if authorities apprehend him so he can avail himself of all legal remedies available under Philippine law, including recourse to the Supreme Court. “That’s part of due process — if he is arrested, he may be placed under the custody of a local court where he can avail of all legal remedies up to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will be the final arbiter of the law,” Lacson said in an interview on radio DZMM.He cited Section 17 of Republic Act 9851, or the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity, which establishes the country’s jurisdiction over persons suspected or accused of crimes covered by the law under specified circumstances.These include cases in which the accused is a Filipino citizen, is present in the Philippines regardless of citizenship or residence, or has committed the alleged crime against a Filipino citizen.However, the law also allows Philippine authorities, in the interest of justice, to defer investigation or prosecution when another court or international tribunal is already investigating or prosecuting the same crime. Authorities may instead surrender or extradite the accused to the appropriate international court or another state, subject to applicable laws and treaties.Lacson also cited Article 17 of the Rome Statute of the ICC, which provides that a case may be deemed inadmissible before the ICC if it is being investigated or prosecuted by a state with jurisdiction over it, unless that state is unwilling or unable genuinely to carry out the proceedings.The same provision covers cases in which a state has investigated an alleged crime but decided not to prosecute, unless the decision resulted from its unwillingness or inability to genuinely pursue the case.

- Duterte lead over Robredo narrows to 7 points – OCTA (2026-11-04 16:18)

VICE President Sara Duterte’s lead over former vice president and current Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo in a hypothetical 2028 presidential matchup has narrowed to 7 percentage points, the smallest recorded by OCTA Research in its 2026 surveys.Duterte obtained 40 percent against Robredo’s 33 percent in the third-quarter 2026 Tugon ng Masa survey conducted from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4 among 1,200 adult Filipinos nationwide.The seven-point margin was down from 11 points in the first quarter, when Duterte registered 46 percent against Robredo’s 35 percent, and nine points in the second quarter, when the figures stood at 43 percent and 34 percent, respectively.OCTA said Duterte’s preference had declined by 6 percentage points over the three survey rounds, while Robredo’s remained relatively stable, ranging from 33 percent to 35 percent.The proportion of respondents who chose neither candidate or did not know whom to vote for rose to 26 percent in the latest survey, from 22 percent in the second quarter and 19 percent in the first quarter.The growing undecided bloc suggests that voters moving away from Duterte have not necessarily shifted their preference to Robredo, OCTA said.Despite the narrowing margin, Duterte remained ahead nationally, with her seven-point lead outside the survey’s plus-or-minus 3-percentage-point margin of error.The survey results also showed significant regional differences in the hypothetical matchup.Robredo led Duterte in the National Capital Region, with 39 percent against 32 percent, and in Balance Luzon, where

she received 49 percent against Duterte’s 24 percent.Duterte, meanwhile, maintained a commanding lead in Mindanao, with 71 percent against Robredo’s 2 percent. She also led in Visayas, 46 percent to 27 percent.By socioeconomic grouping, Robredo led among Class ABC respondents, with 40 percent against Duterte’s 32 percent.She also made an 11-point gain among Class E respondents, rising from 31 percent in the second quarter to 42 percent in the latest survey, while Duterte’s preference fell from 51 percent to 41 percent.OCTA said the two were statistically tied in Class E, although the relatively small sample of 109 respondents warranted caution in interpreting the results.Duterte continued to lead in Class D, which accounts for roughly 4 in 5 adult Filipinos, with 41 percent against Robredo’s 31 percent. Twenty-eight percent in this group were undecided.The survey also showed Robredo narrowly leading among women, 38 percent to 35 percent, and urban residents, 38 percent to 35 percent. Duterte led among men, 45 percent to 28 percent, and rural residents, 47 percent to 25 percent.Duterte maintained her advantage among voters below 45 years old, while Robredo held narrow leads among those aged 45 and older.OCTA said the findings should be treated as an early measure of public sentiment rather than a prediction of the May 2028 elections.The survey was conducted while Duterte’s impeachment trial was ongoing. However, OCTA cautioned that its findings did not establish whether the proceedings influenced respondents’ voting preferences.Robredo has repeatedly said she would not seek national office in 2028 and was likely to pursue another term as Naga City mayor.OCTA noted that the hypothetical matchup therefore measured Robredo’s standing among voters rather than support for an actual presidential candidacy.The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points at a 95-percent confidence level.

- Democrats win US Congress in midterm rout of Trump (2026-11-04 16:18)

WASHINGTON D.C. — Democrats seized control of the United States Congress on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila), capturing the Senate and House of Representatives in a stunning, nationwide rejection of Donald Trump set to put the brakes on the final two years of his presidency.The Democratic landslide will give the opposition power to block legislation, launch broad investigations into Trump’s administration, and thwart his judicial and senior government appointments.The results reflected deep anger over living costs, tariffs and Trump’s war against Iran, which has sent fuel prices soaring and compounded dissatisfaction with an already deeply unpopular president. “I’m just so happy. I’m so eager,” 22-year-old paralegal Michael Diaz said in Georgia, celebrating a big win by rising Democratic star Jon Ossoff in the Senate.Trump struck a conciliatory note despite his history of questioning elections, telling The New York Times he was “absolutely willing” to accept the results. “I think the Democrats did a good job, I really do,” the 80-year-old told Fox News, in rare praise for his political opponents. “They fought hard.” But he sought to distance himself from his own party’s poor showing, adding that “I don’t view it as a hit on me.” He acknowledged that the Iran conflict had contributed to the defeat, while defending the military campaign, and he suggested the rival parties could find common ground on immigration, long one of the most divisive issues of his presidency.Republican heartlandAs Trump was conceding, the scale of the

Democratic victory grew further when former logger Troy Jackson defeated longtime Republican senator Susan Collins in Maine, the party's seventh Senate seat captured from Republicans.Earlier breakthroughs in Kansas and Iowa had clinched the Senate majority for Democrats, following stunning victories in Texas, South Carolina, North Carolina and Ohio.In Kansas, Methodist minister Adam Hamilton became the first Democrat elected to the Senate from the reliably conservative state since 1932. Iowa had not elected a Democratic senator since 2008.Texas Democrat James Talarico declared he had defeated "Goliath" in winning a Senate seat while Gina Hinojosa unseated the state's Republican governor Greg Abbott, ending decades of Republican rule.Democrats also protected key Senate seats of their own, including Ossoff in Georgia and an open seat in New Hampshire.The party's House victory saw gains across Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Arizona, North Carolina and New Jersey, including districts Trump had carried comfortably in 2024.In one closely watched bellwether, Democrat J.D. Ford ousted Republican congresswoman Victoria Spartz in Indiana, capturing a district Trump won by 17 points two years earlier.Democrats also won Georgia's governorship, electing former Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms as the first Black woman governor in US history.Republicans had some consolation in Florida, where Trump-backed Byron Donalds became the state's first Black governor and Ashley Moody retained a Senate seat — but only after seeing off surprisingly strong Democratic challenges.The night was "a big wipeout and a strong repudiation of Donald Trump and his policies," George Washington University professor Todd Belt told Agence France-Presse (AFP).Trump on defensiveDemocratic control of Congress will allow the party to pursue investigations into the Iran war, immigration enforcement and allegations of corruption, while blocking Trump's legislation and senior appointments.Robert Garcia, now expected to lead the powerful House Oversight Committee, warned Republicans on social media: "LAWYER UP." House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries declared Trump's MAGA movement "on the run from sea to shining sea." Jeffries could become the first Black speaker of the House when the new Congress convenes in January.Despite his conciliatory remarks, Trump also insisted on social media that Republicans would have won "IN A LANDSLIDE" if he had been running, after repeatedly urging supporters throughout the campaign to "pretend I'm on the ballot." He also repeated his threat to use the presidential veto on Democratic-passed laws, posting a picture on social media of a red baseball cap reading just: "VETO."

- P555M fine vs Move It for 'ghost riders' hailed (2026-11-04 16:17)

A BROAD coalition of consumer, transport, legal and motorcycle rider groups has commended the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) for slapping Move It with a P555.75-million fine over "ghost riders" that exceeded its authorized allocation.The group vowed on Wednesday to keep a close watch on how the penalty is enforced while pressing for stronger safeguards for commuter safety and rider livelihoods.The groups backing the statement are the National Confederation of Tricycle Operators and Drivers Associations of the Philippines (Nactodap); National Public Transport Coalition (NPTC); Digital Pinoys; Lawyers for Commuters' Safety and Protection; Kapatiran ng Dalawang Gulong (Kagulong); Motorcycle Taxi

Rider Organization (Metro); Samahang Manibela Mananakay at Nagkaisang Terminal ng Transportasyon (Manibela); and Pilipino Society and Development Advocates for Commuters and Consumers.The LTFRB in its Oct. 9 decision found that Move It had 73,321 active riders on its platform against an authorized allocation of only 17,746 — an excess of 55,575 riders. “We previously filed a case against the excessive number of motorcycle taxis affecting the livelihood of tricycle drivers. Now, it has been proven that what we were fighting for was right,” said Ariel Lim of NPTC and Nactodap in a press briefing.The coalition raised concerns over how mandatory rider accreditation, training and safety standards were verified given the scale of the excess onboarding cited by the LTFRB. “For commuters, the question is not simply motorcycle availability during rush hour. It is whether every rider is properly documented, trained and safe to provide the service,” said Ronald Gustilo, Digital Pinoys national campaigner. “Safety and commuter protection cannot be set aside just to meet demand,” Gustilo added.The coalition also recalled the earlier controversy over government fuel assistance when discrepancies in rider and driver records forced the Department of Social Welfare and Development to conduct additional verification. “We have long questioned the overboarding and its impact on commuter safety. Public funds are also at stake when the records used in distributing aid are inaccurate. We must ensure that assistance goes to legitimate beneficiaries,” Gustilo said.Metro said ordinary riders should not be held responsible for onboarding decisions made by platform management. “For our fellow MC Taxi riders, we all ride to earn a decent living and bring something home to our families. It was not the riders who made the decisions on how many the company should onboard,” said Jayson Luna, Metro’s lead convenor.Don Pangan, Kagulong secretary-general, emphasized the need to shield rider livelihoods. “If a platform exceeds its authorized rider allocation, the company should explain and be held accountable. Riders should not be used as a shield for the company’s decisions and violations,” Pangan said.Manibela likewise emphasized that adherence to existing regulations is indispensable to the legitimacy of motorcycle taxi operations. “How can a sector become fully legal if, even now, the rules are not being followed? It must be clear that compliance with the law is everyone’s obligation, without exception,” said Mar Valbuena, Manibela chairman.The groups said they would closely track the LTFRB’s and the Department of Transportation’s next moves in enforcing the fine, urging transparent and consistent action that holds operators accountable, protects commuters and avoids unfairly penalizing ordinary riders.The LTFRB said that Move It filed a motion for reconsideration before the bureau. “What the agency is focused on is addressing the plight of the thousands of overboarded riders who invested their own resources to earn a decent living — and whose only fault was that they acted in good faith and trusted that they were allowed to operate under the existing rules and regulations,” acting LTFRB Chairman Greg Pua Jr. said.He said the LTFRB is currently crafting measures in dealing with the issue in relation to the affected riders while ensuring that the online boarding system of ride-hailing services is strictly complying with the government’s regulations.

- Marcos to name next chief justice this week (2026-11-04 16:16)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will announce this week the successor to Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo, who is set to retire on Friday, Malacañang said on Wednesday.Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said all of the contenders for the top judiciary position "have their own strengths and their own integrity." "Don't worry, the next chief justice will be announced this week. We will not preempt our president." The Judicial and Bar Council shortlisted five Supreme Court associate justices to succeed Gesmundo. They are Marvic Leonen, Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa, Rodil Zalameda, Japar Dimaampao and Jose Midas Marquez.In a letter to the president dated Oct. 14, former Chief Justice Reynato Puno endorsed Associate Justice Jose Midas Marquez for the top post in the judiciary.Puno said Marquez's extensive administrative background, familiarity with the Supreme Court's internal operations and experience coordinating with other branches of government make him a strong candidate to lead the judiciary.Puno, who served as chief justice from December 2006 to 2010, said he had personally witnessed Marquez's work ethic and professional competence during his 17 years at the Supreme Court.When Puno assumed the chief justice post in December 2006, Marquez served as his chief of staff while concurrently holding key positions as assistant court administrator, head of the Public Information Office and Supreme Court spokesman.Puno said Marquez performed these responsibilities with consistent excellence.Marquez has served the Supreme Court for 30 years, including about 12 years as court administrator before becoming an associate justice five years ago." More than any aspirant, Justice Marquez is most familiar with how the Supreme Court works, especially its internal processes," he added.Beyond his experience within the judiciary, Puno highlighted Marquez's exposure to inter-branch relations through assignments that required him to coordinate with officials of the executive and legislative departments.

- House checks delivery of P6.2B El Niño aid (2026-11-04 16:15)

THE House of Representatives' Committee on Agriculture and Food continued its inquiry on Wednesday into government preparations and responses to El Niño, including the distribution of the P6.2 billion in aid to 310,000 farmers and fisherfolk." We must verify whether field disbursements in hit regions are reaching intended beneficiaries," the panel's head, Quezon Rep. Mark Enverga, said, pertaining to the assistance under the Unified Package for Livelihoods, Industry, Food and Transport program.The committee is examining the P371-million shortfall for interventions such as cloud seeding and measures to combat pests threatening sugarcane production.The Department of Agriculture (DA) has proposed a consolidated P61.99-billion action plan, which lawmakers are assessing for its capacity to protect agricultural communities.Enverga emphasized the immediacy of the need." Our farmers and fisherfolk can no longer afford to wait. We are asking all agencies attending today to provide clear and honest answers so we can immediately deliver swift and targeted assistance to the agricultural sector," he said.Sultan Kudarat Rep. Bella Vanessa Suansing, who introduced House Resolution 967, said Wednesday's hearing should establish what has been accomplished since the issue was discussed in June.She sought updates on Republic Act 12287, or the Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Act, particularly whether disaster declarations had led to the release of

funds for preventive measures.” We hope to hear from the DA on updates to its commitments from last June, as well as its plans and mandate to provide alternative sources of income and livelihood for our farmers and fisherfolk,” Suansing said.At the Senate, Sen. Francis Pangilinan urged President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday to establish an online public accountability dashboard to track government spending and the delivery of interventions on El Niño.” I call on the President to direct the NDRRMC (National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council), through OCD (Office of Civil Defense) and the concerned agencies, to maintain a single, coordinated El Niño action plan with named leads, measurable targets, and regular public reporting,” Pangilinan said.” The backbone of all these efforts is the proper use of taxpayers’ money. The public must know clearly where the funds are going, what the government is doing, and what results these measures are achieving,” he added.Meanwhile, Malacañang said it has ordered the pre-positioning of irrigation pipes and solar-powered water pumps for farmers expected to be affected by the super El Niño.This comes after the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said that 12 areas may experience drought by the end of November, particularly Nueva Vizcaya and other parts of Region 2 (Cagayan Valley).” Our fellow citizens in Nueva Vizcaya need not worry, as preparations are indeed being made for the effects of El Niño — especially here in Cagayan Valley, in Region 2,” Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said in Filipino.Castro said the government began implementing preventive measures as early as June.On Oct. 28, she said P20 million in funds were allocated to provide solar-powered water pumps and fuel assistance to farmers.Castro said the DA has invested P17.9 million in farm inputs to help farmers mitigate the impacts of the drought.The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has allocated P702.62 million in financial assistance to benefit 68,905 individuals through a unified package for livelihood, industry, food and transport assistance.” So, in all affected areas — especially those specifically targeted by the very strong El Niño — assistance from the National Irrigation Administration, the DSWD, and the DA is being provided to help alleviate any hardships that may arise from this very strong El Niño,” Castro said.

- Procurement integrity bill pushed (2026-11-04 16:14)

SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian said Senate Bill 1962, or the proposed Government Contracting and Procurement Integrity Act, is a vital safeguard to transparency in government contracts, as his colleagues approved the measure on third and final reading.” It is important that we enact this into law as soon as possible to ensure that public funds are directed toward programs and projects that benefit the people, rather than merely serving the relatives of those in power,” said Gatchalian, a principal author of the bill.Under the bill, relatives within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity are strictly prohibited from entering into contracts with government agencies where their kin exercise official functions or influence. The anti-nepotism ban encompasses immediate family as well as extended relations up to first cousins, including parents, children, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, nephews and nieces.The broad coverage applies to elected national and local officials, Cabinet secretaries, undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, officers and board members of

government-owned and -controlled corporations, and officials of state universities and colleges, along with their designated alternates.The bill covers a comprehensive scope of government transactions, including public infrastructure projects, procurement of goods and services, supplies, machinery, joint ventures and public-private partnership agreements involving public funds or government property.To enforce compliance, the proposed law imposes severe penal sanctions. Public officials and personnel who violate the prohibition face imprisonment ranging from one to three years, fines of at least P100,000 and perpetual disqualification from holding any public office.The measure will undergo bicameral reconciliation before it is submitted to the president for signature.

- Asean chief leads call for regional cooperation on 'ethical, safe AI' (2026-11-04 16:13)

FUZHOU, China — Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Secretary General Kao Kim Hourn led the call for regional cooperation on "responsible governance and ethics, a safety network, and harnessing infrastructure" amid the rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI) at a media forum here on Wednesday.In a video speech at the 12th Asean Plus Three Media Cooperation Forum, Kao warned that AI's "rapid rise raises serious questions about trust, accountability and safety in the media."Kao highlighted Asean’ s efforts to "promote responsible AI governance, including the Asean Guide on AI Governance and Ethics, the Asean Responsible AI Roadmap, and the Asean AI Safety Network."He encouraged practical cooperation in content verification, investment in journalists' professional capacity, and the responsible use of AI in newsrooms.He cited the important role of credible and responsible media in strengthening cross-border understanding, supporting social cohesion and advancing people-to-people connectivity.He also underscored the media's growing responsibilities amid the rapid circulation of information and increasing use of AI.He stressed the need to ensure that the development of AI infrastructure was "responsible and safe."Kao said a 10-year plan for the Plus 3 countries — China, South Korea and Japan — was in the works to enable them to forge a strong partnership with Asean built on a "consensus of respect for diversity, [and a] wider effort to make a dynamic and people-centered region amid numerous challenges, including AI."Media executives from the Asean Region echoed the call, recognizing an "invisible wall of misunderstanding and misinformation that has grown thicker and thicker, creating animosity that has increased the divide."Geopolitical tension and emergencies caused by climate change are among the issues that can create misinformation, with media responsible for either "building a bridge of mutual understanding or severing it."Michael Ang, director and board member of The Manila Times and one of the speakers, said “he rapid shift toward digital distribution, platform dominance and the ethical integration of artificial intelligence present challenges no single outlet can navigate alone.""Generative AI tools offer operational efficiency, but they also raise urgent questions about verification, copyright and public trust," Ang said in his speech, which carried the common theme of "Openness and Cooperation for Shared Development.""To build an accountable, future-ready media network across East Asia, we must move toward practical structured collaboration anchored on technical exchange programs on best practices in the newsroom, build collaborative reporting initiatives that protect diversity

and elevate underrepresented stories and establish fact-checking networks to counter misinformation," he said.Zosito da Silva, vice president and editor-in-chief of the Tatoli News Agency in Timor-Leste, sought the creation of a "self-fact-checking network" and for stories to come not only from the "big countries" but from the "small countries" as well.Other media executives present were Syvanh Homsayadeth, editor-in-chief of the Pasaxon Newspaper in Laos; Heng Sovann, editor-in-chief, Apsara Media Services; Thanchanok Jongyotying, editor-in-chief, Thai News Network; Han Yonghong, associate editor, Lianhe Zaobao, Singapore; and Kang Miao, deputy director, Xinhua, News Agency Fujian Branch.The 12th Asean Plus Three Media Cooperation Forum and the 2026 Media Cooperation Forum on Belt and Road were organized by the People's Daily, China's English-language newspaper, and Fujian province.

- Corruption top concern of Filipinos — survey (2026-11-04 16:12)

FIGHTING corruption, including the flood control scandal, has overtaken high prices of basic goods as the top issue Filipinos want the government to address, a nationwide survey conducted in October showed.The National Momentum Survey by Momentum Research found that 59 percent of Filipino adults cited corruption as one of the three most important issues the government should prioritize, ahead of the 53 percent who wanted lower prices of food and basic goods.The findings point to a shift in public priorities as the controversy over alleged irregularities in flood control projects continues to fuel scrutiny of government spending and infrastructure allocations.In July, fighting corruption ranked only fourth among issues respondents wanted President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to address, with 32 percent citing it as a priority.The October survey also found that 40 percent wanted the government to increase workers' wages, while 21 percent each cited combating poverty and hunger and lowering electricity and fuel prices.Corruption was the leading concern among respondents from low-income and middle-income households, cited by 64 percent and 67 percent, respectively.Among poor households, however, 56 percent wanted the government to prioritize lowering food and basic goods prices.Regional findings showed that corruption was the leading concern in Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon, cited by 67 percent and 64 percent of respondents, respectively.In Visayas and Mindanao, the cost of food and basic goods was the leading concern, cited by 59 percent and 54 percent, respectively.In Metro Manila, increasing workers' wages ranked second at 47 percent, ahead of lowering food and basic goods prices at 38.7 percent.The survey also found that younger respondents were more likely to cite corruption as a priority.Nearly seven in 10 Gen Z respondents, or 69 percent, wanted the government to prioritize addressing corruption, compared with 57 percent of millennials, 51 percent of Gen X respondents and 52 percent of Baby Boomers and the Silent Generation.For older respondents, the rising cost of goods remained a more pressing concern. It was cited by 60 percent of Gen X respondents and 64 percent of Baby Boomers and the Silent Generation.The survey was conducted through face-to-face interviews with 1,401 Filipino adults from Oct. 16 to 19. It had a national margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level.Respondents were asked to select up to three issues from a list of 18 national concerns that they believed the government should prioritize.

• PH, China agree on peaceful, responsible dispute resolution (2026-11-04 16:12)

THE Philippines and China have agreed to resolve their disputes peacefully and manage differences responsibly in order to maintain “stable and predictable” relations, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Wednesday.The Philippines “remains committed to a stable, predictable, mutually respectful, and mutually beneficial relationship with China,” the DFA said in a statement.President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has repeatedly affirmed that the Philippines “must rely on diplomatic means to resolve disputes and manage differences with other countries, including China,” it added.Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro on Tuesday received a telephone call from Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, during which they discussed the state of bilateral ties between Manila and Beijing. “The exchange was frank, pragmatic, and constructive, and reflected the interest of both sides in a stable and predictable relationship founded on mutual respect and mutually beneficial cooperation,” the DFA said.The two officials shared the understanding that Manila and Beijing should “avoid actions and rhetoric that could needlessly undermine relations or heighten tensions,” the DFA said.Meanwhile, the DFA welcomed the joint appeal issued on Nov. 3 by Philippine business and sectoral organizations for the stabilization of Philippines-China relations.It said the appeal served “as a constructive contribution that underscores the value of candor, composure, principled conduct, sound judgment, and measured engagement in the conduct of foreign relations.” “The DFA has consistently maintained that diplomacy, dialogue, and mutually beneficial practical cooperation can be pursued without compromising the assertion and protection of the country’s sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction,” it added.Lazaro underscored that good relations between the Philippines and China serve the interests of both countries and of the region.She said the Philippines-China relations “must be sustained through regular high-level exchanges, ministry-to-ministry channels, and the appropriate bilateral and regional mechanisms.” The discussion also covered other matters of concern, including maritime issues, “but focused on returning the relationship to an even keel” and on upholding the 1975 Joint Communiqué, which remains the enduring basis of Philippines-China cooperation and of the Philippines’ One China Policy, the DFA said.The Foreign Affairs Department underscored that Manila’s relations with Beijing are “in accordance with the national interest and in pursuit of an independent foreign policy as enshrined in the Philippine Constitution.”

• Student leaders slam social media ban (2026-11-04 16:09)

STUDENT leaders warned that a proposed blanket ban on social media access for Filipinos under 18 could further widen barriers to education by cutting students off from digital learning resources, academic communities, and opportunities beyond the classroom, as the country continues to grapple with a learning crisis.The Student Council Alliance of the Philippines (SCAP) joined student representatives from universities and secondary schools nationwide at a press conference titled “Ban Predators, Ban Groomers, Not Learners” in Quezon City on Wednesday. “For many young people, social media extends learning beyond the four walls of the classroom. Social media helps us stay informed, connect with others, and find learning

opportunities," said Edrianna Villaruz, SCAP undersecretary-general.SCAP made clear that it does not take online dangers lightly, acknowledging that cyberbullying, grooming, online sexual exploitation, misinformation and scams are real threats to young Filipinos.It argued, however, that locking an entire generation out of digital spaces does not stop the people who cause harm. "We recognize that young people face risks online, but the answer is not to take away their access to digital spaces that also support their learning and development," Villaruz said. "If a predator is the problem, go after the predator. Don't shut the door on millions of learners," she pointed out.The group stressed that for many students, social media is also where they learn, organize, and find opportunities, with scholarship announcements, academic communities, educational resources, and civic conversations all taking place online.A blanket ban would cut off the very students who rely on these platforms to study, connect and take part in public life, it warned. "For a lot of young people, social media is the classroom after the classroom, and sometimes it is the only one they have," Villaruz said.Instead of a ban, SCAP laid out a five-point agenda: protect children without punishing responsible young users; keep social media open as a space for learning; strengthen law enforcement and reporting systems against online predators and groomers; hold platforms accountable for privacy, content moderation, age-appropriate safeguards, and abuse reporting; and invest in digital literacy so students can recognize threats and practice responsible digital citizenship.Student leaders from Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Batasan Hills National High School, and Adamson University, along with a representative from the National Federation of Supreme Secondary Learner Government (SSLG) and Student Leaders for Good Governance (SLGG), shared their views on education, online safety and digital rights.Lawmakers, government agencies, and technology companies should work with young people, not around them, in crafting online safety policies that are balanced, rights-based, and youth-inclusive. "Protect the youth, hold abusers accountable, and preserve opportunities for every Filipino student," Villaruz said.

- Pax Silica deal signed during Asean Summit? (2026-11-04 16:08)

MALACAÑANG hinted on Wednesday that the draft framework for the proposed US-led Pax Silica initiative may be signed during the 49th Asean Summit in Manila." Let us see," said Palace Press Officer Claire Castro during a press briefing when asked if President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. would sign the draft framework during the summit.Castro said that the Philippines is still awaiting the response of the United States to the proposed agreement, being the initiative's leader. The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), which oversees the project, said it had already discussed with the president the preliminaries of the endeavor." The BCDA has met with the Office of the President — through the Office of the Executive Secretary regarding a memorandum submitted jointly with the DTI (Department of Trade and Industry)," Castro said in Filipino, quoting the BCDA." Guidance has been provided for the BCDA to follow during the negotiations and the finalization of the framework arrangement with the US counterpart. Essentially, we are now just awaiting a response from the US side concerning the draft agreement; that is the message they conveyed," she added.When asked by The Manila Times on the issue of communities that would be displaced because of the

project, Castro said the government will ensure that those who would be affected will receive assistance.”Of course, financial assistance will certainly be provided should anyone actually end up being displaced,” she said.Castro said that only 3,000-plus hectares of the over 6,000 hectares total designated spot for the project are considered a “buildable zone.” ”If they (locals) are located within the buildable zone, they will not be left to fend for themselves or lose their place to live,” Castro said, noting the remaining land outside the buildable areas was reserved for Indigenous peoples.The BCDA said consultation has been done in Capas, Tarlac, on the possible displacement of Aeta communities in the area because of the project.The Palace previously confirmed that US President Donald Trump will attend the Asean Summit, leading to speculations that the Pax Silica deal may be signed during the event.

- Alarm raised on lack of developmental pediatricians (2026-11-04 16:07)

SEN. Joel Villanueva said the country’s shortage of developmental pediatricians must be promptly addressed.Villanueva suggested hiring additional consultants and fellow positions in public training hospitals to remedy the shortage.This comes as the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EdCom 2) noted that severe regional disparity in specialists has left hundreds of thousands of public-school learners with disabilities without formal medical diagnoses.”These are low-hanging fruit. If we can capacitate these hospitals to train more specialists, maybe we can help expand access to developmental assessment and support services,” said Villanueva. The co-chairman of EdCom 2 noted the Philippine General Hospital, Philippine Children’s Medical Center and National Children’s Hospital as immediate targets for capacity expansion.Data from the Philippine Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics (PSDBP) showed that as of June 2026, only 109 certified developmental pediatricians operate across 156 clinics nationwide. This nominal workforce is tasked with serving an estimated 5 million learners with disabilities.Compounding the crisis is a stark geographic concentration. Nearly half of the available clinic listings — 47 percent — are located in the National Capital Region. Calabarzon follows with 15 percent, and Central Luzon holds 12 percent. By contrast, the Visayas and Mindanao are left with just 7.7 percent and 9 percent of specialists, respectively. Regions such as Bicol, Mimaropa, Eastern Visayas and Soccsksargen have only one listed specialist each, while Caraga and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao have none.PSDBP Vice President Dr. Lourdes Tanchanco said the country has only five institutions offering the required fellowship training, most of which are in Metro Manila.”We can accommodate around two to three pediatricians in each of the training programs,” Tanchanco said during an EdCom 2 consultation.This training bottleneck, she said, severely restricts timely interventions. An EdCom 2 analysis of Department of Education data for School Year 2025–2026 revealed that of 492,902 public-school learners flagged as having disabilities, 63.4 percent had recorded behavioral manifestations. Only 36.6 percent have secured a formal clinical diagnosis.EdCom 2 Executive Director Karol Mark Yee emphasized that patient-to-doctor ratios have soared to 1:37,068 in Region 5 (Bicol Region) and 1:24,728 in Region 12 (Soccsksargen). “This is of great concern because learners do not just need diagnosis but also continued support from specialists,” Yee said.

• Matobato, Lascañas, Mancao among 3 unidentified ICC witnesses? (2026-11-04 16:06)

COULD self-confessed former Davao Death Squad (DDS) members Edgar Matobato and Arturo Lascañas, and retired police officer Cezar Mancao be among three witnesses whose recorded testimonies the prosecution wants admitted in the crimes against humanity case against former president Rodrigo Duterte before the International Criminal Court (ICC)?The question arose after the ICC prosecution sought permission to introduce the previously recorded testimonies of three witnesses identified only as P-0019, P-1032 and P-1409, whose accounts cover alleged DDS operations, extrajudicial killings in Davao City and Duterte's alleged involvement in the killings.In a public redacted application dated Nov. 3, the prosecution withheld the identities of the three witnesses but detailed their accounts of the alleged death squad's operations, including its targeting of suspected criminals, the use of Laud Quarry as a burial site and alleged financial rewards for killings.Matobato and Lascañas were previously identified as potential insider witnesses in the ICC proceedings.ICC Assistant to Counsel Kristina Conti had said the two could provide evidence on the planning and implementation of alleged DDS operations, the people involved, and how killings were ordered, financed and carried out.However, the prosecution's latest filing does not identify P-0019, P-1032 or P-1409 by name.The prosecution described P-0019's testimony as covering extrajudicial killings in Davao City during Duterte's tenure as mayor, the pattern and widespread nature of the killings, and the atmosphere of fear and impunity in the city.The witness also recounted Duterte's alleged practice of reading the names of suspected criminals on his local television program, "Gikan sa Masa, Para sa Masa," some of whom were subsequently killed, according to the prosecution.P-1032, meanwhile, provided an account of the existence and composition of the DDS, its targeting of suspected criminals and its alleged use of Laud Quarry as a burial site.The witness also recounted being threatened with death and fleeing to another part of the Philippines after being warned that a group had been ordered to kill him.The third witness, P-1409, provided evidence concerning the DDS' alleged involvement in extrajudicial killings from 2016 to 2017.His recorded testimony also discussed alleged financial rewards for killings given by Duterte to DDS handlers through co-perpetrator Sonny Buenaventura.Buenaventura is a retired police officer who served as Duterte's driver and security aide when he was Davao City mayor.He has also been identified by Lascañas as the alleged logistics and finance officer of DDS who facilitated payments for killings.The prosecution said P-1409's account included independent observations that corroborated other evidence concerning killings allegedly carried out pursuant to Duterte's orders.The three testimonies, the prosecution argued, are relevant to establishing the contextual elements of crimes against humanity in Davao City and Duterte's individual criminal responsibility.The prosecution asked Trial Chamber III to admit the witnesses' previous statements, interview transcripts and supporting materials under Rule 68(3) of the ICC Rules of Procedure and Evidence.It also sought permission to conduct one-hour supplementary examinations of each witness, instead of the estimated three hours needed for their direct examinations if the recorded testimonies were not admitted.Granting the request would save at least six hours of court time, the prosecution said.It maintained that admitting the recorded testimonies would not prejudice Duterte's rights because the witnesses would appear in court,

confirm their statements and remain available for cross-examination by the defense, as well as questioning by the prosecution, the judges and the legal representatives of victims.The chamber has yet to rule on the prosecution's request.

• Palace: Never stop youth seeking jobs abroad (2026-11-04 16:05)

MALACAÑANG said the government will not prevent young Filipinos seeking a better life abroad from migrating, noting that their success abroad benefits the economy.The Palace's statement follows a Philippine Institute for Development Studies study finding that the country's labor supply is at risk, as more Filipinos — especially the youth — are leaving or planning to leave to work abroad because of low wages at home.In response to the study's findings, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro acknowledged concerns about potential labor losses and job mismatches but said the administration supports Filipino workers' professional growth overseas. "We should not hinder young people who wish to work abroad," Castro said in Filipino during a press briefing on Wednesday. "Just because they go abroad, it does not mean they can no longer be relied upon. Whatever they earn overseas will help their families, support their personal needs and even contribute to our country's economy," she added.To address underlying issues, Castro noted that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has directed the Commission on Higher Education, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), and the Department of Education to sharpen youth training.Through these targeted programs, the government ensures Filipino workers remain competitive whether they build their careers locally or tap international job markets.Addressing questions on whether supporting overseas employment contradicts investment promotion strategies that pitch the country's young domestic workforce as a primary economic advantage, Castro clarified that outflow is not absolute.Castro said that while many young professionals find better career paths abroad, ongoing government initiatives to attract foreign and local investment aim to create well-matched domestic jobs.Rather than restricting freedom of movement, the administration prioritizes upskilling Filipino youth so they can thrive wherever their careers take them, ensuring their capabilities serve as an asset at home and abroad. "While the government works to address these gaps — aiming to attract more investment to the Philippines and create jobs that truly align with the skills of our workforce — we will not hold our youth back. Instead, we will continue to enhance the capabilities of our fellow Filipinos, ensuring that should they choose to work abroad, they are well-equipped to benefit from such opportunities," Castro concluded.

• Truth-telling session to tackle 2 deaths from police operation (2026-11-04 16:04)

THE Drug War Truth Commission late on Tuesday said that the upcoming truth-telling session on Friday, Nov. 6, will tackle two deaths from the same police operation.On Aug. 5, 2017, Christopher de Leon Lazaro and Alberto Umali Paragas died in a police operation in Barangay Sta. Rosa I, Marilao, Bulacan.Marissa Lazaro, Christopher's mother, and Rizza Quiamco, Alberto's sister, will speak in the truth-telling session at the Co Po Ty Audio Visual Room of Adamson University in Manila on Friday at 9:30 a.m. "Lazaro and Quiamco will describe how

their families learned of the deaths, what happened next, and their efforts to find answers. Their testimony will place two family perspectives on the same reported operation before the public," the truth commission said. "The Department of Justice case file reproduces police statements describing an alleged attempted robbery followed by an exchange of gunfire. The department's resolution did not independently determine the circumstances of the deaths. It dismissed the complaint against the two men because they had died, but it did not rule on the legality of the operation or on whether any officers bear responsibility," it added.According to the postmortem certificate of Paragas, he had gunshot wounds to the head, trunk and right arm, while the medico-legal report for Lazaro also saw gunshot wounds to the head and left leg, as well as ligature marks on both wrists. "The session will consider these records alongside the families' accounts and the police statements in the Justice Department file," the commission said.The Truth Commission will also broadcast this truth-telling session live on its Facebook page.

- BOC seizes P99.4M ketamine at Clark Airport (2026-11-04 16:03)

COFFEE equipment and cleaning powder turned out to be cover for nearly 20 kilos of ketamine worth P99.4 million in the latest drug-smuggling attempt foiled by Customs authorities at the Clark International Airport.The two shipments, containing a combined 19.89 kilograms of ketamine valued at P99.445 million, originated from Switzerland and Amsterdam and were bound for recipients in Mandaluyong City and Montalban, Rizal, respectively.The BOC-Port of Clark, working with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), intercepted the shipments after intelligence from the PDEA Airport Interdiction Unit.One shipment, weighing 9,882 grams, was declared as roasted coffee beans, a coffee machine, and coffee-making equipment. The other, weighing 10,007 grams, was misdeclared as sodium bicarbonate cleaning powder.Both shipments were subjected to physical examination after authorities flagged them for inspection.Laboratory tests subsequently confirmed that the seized substances were ketamine, a dangerous drug regulated under Republic Act 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, as amended.The latest seizure adds to a growing list of drug-smuggling attempts foiled at the Port of Clark, where authorities have repeatedly uncovered ketamine concealed in seemingly ordinary commercial goods and household items.In October alone, Customs intercepted another shipment containing 4.14 kilograms of suspected ketamine worth P20.7 million from Amsterdam, disguised as a compact ceramic fan and bound for Valenzuela City.Authorities seized the shipment after X-ray screening detected suspicious images.In August, authorities also intercepted 1.675 kilograms of ketamine worth P8.375 million concealed inside a resin rabbit figurine shipped from France.Earlier, in March, Customs seized 6.156 kilograms of ketamine worth P30.78 million concealed in a shipment declared as solar cables from the Netherlands.The drugs were discovered following X-ray inspection and a PDEA K-9 examination.In 2025, the Port of Clark likewise intercepted 5.062 kilograms of ketamine worth P25.31 million hidden inside a wooden cable reel declared as a data cable roll and shipped from Belgium.The recurring seizures highlight how drug smugglers exploit international parcel and air cargo services, using ordinary merchandise and misleading declarations to evade customs

inspection.District Collector Jairus Reyes said the Port of Clark would further tighten its inspection measures in anticipation of increased parcel volumes during the holiday season. “We expect an increase in parcels arriving through air express carriers. Thus, we will intensify document checks and physical inspections, while ensuring that our X-ray machines are properly maintained and operational,” Reyes said.BOC Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno, meanwhile, vowed to sustain the agency's campaign against illegal drugs in line with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. “As we expect an increase in shipments this holiday season, we will also tighten our vigilance. We will continue strengthening our inspections and operations to ensure that illegal drugs do not enter the country,” Nepomuceno said.The BOC said it would continue intelligence-driven operations and strengthen coordination with law enforcement agencies to prevent the smuggling of illegal drugs through the country's ports of entry.

- BI stops 2 Filipinos headed for conflict zones abroad (2026-11-04 16:02)

IMMIGRATION officers prevented two Filipino men from leaving the country after discovering they were targeted by suspicious recruitment schemes offering significant payments and high salaries for employment in conflict-stricken areas abroad.Bureau of Immigration (BI) agents intercepted the two passengers in separate incidents on Oct. 24 and 27, amid concerns they would fall victim to illegal recruitment, human trafficking or forced labor.The victims were allegedly lured by overseas job offers promising as much as $27,000 in payments and thousands of dollars in monthly salaries. Immigration officers barred them from leaving the country after uncovering suspicious recruitment arrangements linked to conflict-stricken destinations.In the first case, a former protection agent and security guard who was unemployed told immigration officers that he was recruited through Facebook and later contacted via WhatsApp.He was allegedly promised a $12,000 signing bonus upon arrival and a monthly salary of $2,500. The recruiter also offered to cover his travel expenses and make the arrangements.The second passenger initially claimed he was traveling to Hong Kong for vacation, with a friend supposedly sponsoring his trip.Further questioning, however, revealed that he had also encountered a recruitment advertisement on Facebook before being redirected to WhatsApp, where he was allegedly offered overseas employment with a promised payment of $27,000 and a monthly salary of $3,000.He told immigration officers that he had not spent a centavo for the trip.The BI did not identify the recruiters, employers or specific destinations involved but said the job offers were intended to send the Filipinos to areas plagued by armed conflict.BI Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado warned Filipinos against accepting suspicious overseas employment offers, particularly those promising unusually high salaries and signing bonuses. “No job offer is worth risking your freedom or your life,” Viado said, warning that unscrupulous recruiters could exploit Filipinos’ hopes of earning more money to expose them to armed conflict, human trafficking and forced labor.He said the BI would continue scrutinizing suspicious travel arrangements and disrupting potential illegal recruitment networks to prevent Filipinos from falling victim to exploitation abroad.The two interceptions are part of the government’s efforts to protect Filipinos from human trafficking and illegal recruitment, in

line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s directive.The BI urged jobseekers to verify the legitimacy of recruiters, employers and overseas employment arrangements before accepting offers or leaving the country.

• SSS backs govt drive for one-stop digital services (2026-11-04 16:01)

THE Social Security System (SSS) on Wednesday said it supported the government’s push for more connected and accessible public services by bringing the MySSS Card’s front-facing ID feature and selected member services to the eGovPH superapp.On Oct. 21, 2026, SSS President and CEO Victor Alfonso Limlingan said he and his predecessor, now Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Robert Joseph de Claro, signed a data-sharing agreement to enable the integration.The partnership came shortly after de Claro’s appointment as DICT secretary, following his tenure as SSS chief, and advances collaboration between the two agencies. “This partnership marks a major step in making SSS services more accessible and convenient for our members. By integrating the digital MySSS Card and key services into the eGovPH superapp, we are bringing social security closer to every Filipino — right at their fingertips,” Limlingan said.Once integrated, members will be able to access the front-facing digital representation of their MySSS Card as one of the identification cards (IDs) available through the eGovPH superapp, Limlingan said. “They will also be able to view their contribution history, total number of contributions, latest membership type, and most recent employer information,” the SSS chief executive said.The state pension fund said these services will help members check whether contributions have been posted and verify their membership and employer information through a shared government platform.Limlingan stressed that the integration reflects the SSS’ commitment to digital transformation and member convenience. “Our members should not have to visit multiple offices or use multiple applications just to access basic services. Through the eGovPH superapp, we are making it easier for Filipinos to check their contributions, verify their membership status, and access their MySSS Card — all in one place,” he said.He explained that the move was part of the government’s broader digital transformation agenda, which sought to connect agencies’ services through a shared digital platform that unifies government services in one application.Both de Claro and Limlingan agreed that the partnership also aimed to expand social-protection access for digital workers, including freelancers and online professionals, by making SSS services easier to find and use online.While members can already access their membership and contribution records through the MySSS mobile app, the integration will provide another convenient way to view these records, along with the MySSS Card ID feature and other government services, the SSS said.The agreement signals that the SSS will be among the government agencies feeding services into the eGovPH superapp, supporting the administration’s goal of integrating all government services into the platform, Limlingan said. “We are proud to be part of this national effort to unify government services. The SSS remains committed to leveraging technology to deliver faster, more secure, and more member-centered service,” he said.

• Lacson: Dela Rosa entitled to due process before local courts if arrested (2026-11-04 15:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson on Wednesday said that Philippine courts must be respected and local legal procedures observed if Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa is arrested, saying these are essential to ensuring his constitutional right to due process.Lacson said Dela Rosa should be placed under the custody of a Philippine court, even in a ministerial capacity, if authorities apprehend him so he can avail himself of all legal remedies available under Philippine law, including recourse to the Supreme Court."That's part of due process — if he is arrested, he may be placed under the custody of a local court where he can avail of all legal remedies up to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will be the final arbiter of the law," Lacson said in an interview on DZMM radio.He cited Section 17 of Republic Act No. 9851, or the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes Against Humanity, which establishes the country's jurisdiction over persons suspected or accused of crimes covered by the law under specified circumstances.These include cases in which the accused is a Filipino citizen, is present in the Philippines regardless of citizenship or residence, or has committed the alleged crime against a Filipino citizen.However, the law also allows Philippine authorities, in the interest of justice, to defer investigation or prosecution when another court or international tribunal is already investigating or prosecuting the same crime. Authorities may instead surrender or extradite the accused to the appropriate international court or another state, subject to applicable laws and treaties."No criminal proceedings shall be initiated against foreign nationals suspected or accused of having committed the crimes defined and penalized in this Act if they have been tried by a competent court outside the Philippines in respect of the same offense and acquitted, or having been convicted, already served their sentence," the law read.Lacson also cited Article 17 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which provides that a case may be deemed inadmissible before the ICC if it is being investigated or prosecuted by a state with jurisdiction over it, unless that state is unwilling or unable genuinely to carry out the proceedings.The same provision covers cases in which a state has investigated an alleged crime but decided not to prosecute, unless the decision resulted from its unwillingness or inability to genuinely pursue the case.Lacson further invoked Article III, Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution, which protects Filipinos against unreasonable searches and seizures and requires that arrest warrants be issued by judges upon a determination of probable cause.He also recalled signing a Senate resolution expressing the chamber's position that Filipinos should be protected against extraordinary rendition and given reasonable time before their surrender or extradition from the country to seek judicial relief and exhaust available legal remedies."Our local courts should be respected. If he is arrested, he should be placed under the custody of the local court, even if this is ministerial because the local court is not handling his case so it cannot determine his guilt or innocence. It's almost ministerial but just the same, we have our law and it should be respected," Lacson said."Even subpoenas and summonses issued by international or foreign courts must go through Philippine local or regional trial courts, which will issue the corresponding subpoenas and summonses," he added.

- OWWA brings home 52 OFWs from Riyadh (2026-11-04 15:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Fifty-two overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, returned to the Philippines aboard Qatar Airways Flight QR928, which arrived at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 on Tuesday, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) said.In a statement dated November 3 and posted on Wednesday, OWWA said it provided the returning workers with food, land and air transportation, temporary accommodation for some of them, and financial assistance for their immediate needs.The agency said it continues to coordinate with the Department of Migrant Workers, the Philippine Embassy and Migrant Workers Offices in Saudi Arabia to assist OFWs affected by the situation there. “OWWA is here to assist you as you recover and prepare for your next steps with your family,” the agency said in its message to the returning workers.

- Northeast monsoon to bring cooler mornings (2026-11-04 11:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon or amihan will bring cooler temperatures in parts of Luzon, while the easterlies will continue to cause rain in several areas of the country, the state weather bureau said Wednesday.In its 5 p.m. weather forecast, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) Weather Specialist Benison Estareja said amihan was bringing cloudy skies and light rain over Batanes and the Babuyan Islands, with isolated light rain possible in Cagayan Valley, the Cordillera Administrative Region, and the Ilocos Region.Meanwhile, the easterlies will bring a higher chance of rain in Bicol Region, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Quezon, and Marinduque."Bring an umbrella if you are leaving the house overnight," Estareja said in Filipino.Typhoon In-fa, which remains outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), is moving northward and away from the country toward the North Pacific Ocean. No new tropical cyclone is expected to enter PAR for the rest of the week, Pagasa said.Estareja said cooler temperatures are expected during the early morning, with Metro Manila recording a minimum of 22 degrees Celsius, Tagaytay 20 degrees, and Baguio City 15 degrees on Thursday.For the weekend, the northeast monsoon is expected to strengthen slightly and extend toward Central Luzon, while the easterlies will continue to bring rain to parts of the Bicol Region, Visayas, and Mindanao.Pagasa also warned of possible flash floods and landslides in Eastern Visayas, including Tacloban City, due to expected rain.

- SC drops Romualdez petition to stop Ombudsman’s plunder probe (2026-11-04 11:03)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has dropped the petition of former speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez seeking to stop the Office of the Ombudsman from investigating his alleged involvement in the multibillion-peso flood control scam, ruling that the petition has become moot after a ₱7.4-billion plunder case was filed against him before the Sandiganbayan.In a press briefing on Wednesday, the SC en banc said there was no longer a need to resolve Romualdez’s petition for certiorari because the Ombudsman already filed the criminal case, and the former House leader has been arraigned and pleaded not guilty.The high court also denied his request for a temporary restraining order and/or writ of preliminary injunction to prevent the Ombudsman from continuing its preliminary investigation.Romualdez

had questioned the conduct of the investigation, including the Ombudsman's application for a preliminary hold departure order and freeze order against him, as well as the alleged use of inadmissible evidence.The ₱7.4-billion plunder case stemmed from allegations that Romualdez and former Ako Bicol party-list representative Zaldy Co orchestrated a kickback scheme involving government-funded flood control and other infrastructure projects from 2022 to 2025.The controversy erupted in 2025 after President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered an investigation into alleged irregularities in flood control projects, following revelations of questionable government-funded infrastructure works, including allegedly substandard and non-existent projects.The scandal triggered congressional investigations and a government-wide examination of public works contracts, with contractors, government officials and lawmakers facing scrutiny.

- Chinese president to skip Asean Summit (2026-11-04 10:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected not to attend the 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit and Related Summits in Manila because Chinese Premier Premier Li Qiang will represent China in these events.The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) shared this information on Wednesday when asked to confirm reports that Xi will not participate in the yearly regional summit to be hosted by the Philippines.Li has " customarily led the Chinese delegation to Asean-related summits in recent years," the DFA said."On the questions regarding the representative of China for Asean Summits, it is the Chinese Premier (Premier Li Qiang) who attends the Summits, not President Xi," DFA Assistant Secretary Dax Imperial said in a text message."We have not received the official confirmation of Premier Li Qiang’s attendance, as this usually comes much closer to the Summit," said Imperial, DFA spokesman on Asean affairs.Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro during her phone conversation on Tuesday with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang said that the Philippines takes its responsibilities as Asean chairman seriously.The DFA said Lazaro conveyed that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. "looks forward" to the participation of Chinese Premier Li Qiang in the 49th Asean Summit and Related Summits in Manila.Wang conveyed China’s anticipation of Marcos’ participation in the 33rd Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders’ Meeting in Shenzhen, China from November 18 to 19.Lazaro and Wang assured each other that their respective leaders would be accorded the proper courtesies and assistance during these meetings, the DFA added.

- Ombudsman suspends eight DPWH personnel over Surigao infra projects (2026-11-04 10:09)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman ordered Wednesday the preventive suspension without pay for up to six months of eight Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) personnel over alleged irregularities in infrastructure projects in Surigao del Norte.In a six-page order, the Ombudsman said the suspension would remain in effect pending the resolution of administrative cases against the seven engineers and one accountant. “Sufficient grounds exist to impose preventive suspension on Respondents,” the order read. “Without

delving into the merits of the case and based on the evidence submitted by Complainant, the allegations against Respondents appear to be supported by strong evidence at this stage,” it added.Preventive suspension was ordered to prevent the respondents from potentially abusing the authority of their current positions while the administrative cases are being investigated.Those suspended were Annie Dela Vega, DPWH Regional Office XI district engineer; Federico Gotico III, Demilyn Castrence, Quintinano Armendariz Jr. and Edward Tinio, all Engineer III; Florencio Sulana, Engineer II and acting chief of Quality Assurance; Ricky Arciga, Engineer II; and Jerome Sulapas, Accountant III.In August, the Ombudsman recommended the filing of criminal and administrative complaints against the respondents, along with former Surigao del Norte Representatives Francisco Matugas and Francisco Matugas II, over the anomalous ₱80.61-million Mahayhay–Tuburan Road project in Del Carmen which was declared fully complete.The OMB’s Field Investigation Office II filed administrative charges of conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service, grave misconduct, and serious dishonesty following allegations that substantially incomplete projects under the DPWH Surigao del Norte 1st District Engineering Office had been fully paid.Site inspection conducted in April found the project only 65 to 70 percent accomplished. At least ₱31,586,438.91 was released despite its actual condition.The Independent Commission for Infrastructure earlier submitted a list of reportedly completed DPWH projects in the area that were allegedly not fully delivered.

- Asean chief leads call for regional cooperation on 'ethical, safe AI' (2026-11-04 08:20)

FUZHOU, China — Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Secretary General Kao Kim Hourn led the call for regional cooperation on "responsible governance and ethics, a safety network, and harnessing infrastructure" amid the rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI) at a media forum here on Wednesday.In a video speech at the 12th Asean Plus Three Media Cooperation Forum, Kao warned that AI's "rapid rise raises serious questions about trust, accountability and safety in the media."Kao highlighted Asean’s efforts to "promote responsible AI governance, including the Asean Guide on AI Governance and Ethics, the Asean Responsible AI Roadmap, and the Asean AI Safety Network." He encouraged practical cooperation in content verification, investment in journalists' professional capacity, and the responsible use of AI in newsrooms.He cited the important role of credible and responsible media in strengthening cross-border understanding, supporting social cohesion and advancing people-to-people connectivity. He also underscored the media's growing responsibilities amid the rapid circulation of information and increasing use of AI.He stressed the need to ensure that the development of AI infrastructure was "responsible and safe."Kao said a 10-year plan for the Plus 3 countries—China, South Korea and Japan—was in the works to enable them to forge a strong partnership with Asean built on a "consensus of respect for diversity, [and a] wider effort to make a dynamic and people-centered region amid numerous challenges, including AI."Media executives from the Asean Region echoed the call, recognizing an "invisible wall of misunderstanding and misinformation that has grown thicker and thicker, creating animosity that has increased the divide."Geopolitical tension and emergencies caused by climate change are among the issues that can create misinformation, with media responsible for either "

building a bridge of mutual understanding or severing it."Michael Ang, director and board member of The Manila Times and one of the speakers, said “the rapid shift toward digital distribution, platform dominance and the ethical integration of artificial intelligence present challenges no single outlet can navigate alone.""Generative AI tools offer operational efficiency, but they also raise urgent questions about verification, copyright and public trust," Ang said in his speech, which carried the common theme of "Openness and Cooperation for Shared Development.""To build an accountable, future-ready media network across East Asia, we must move toward practical structured collaboration anchored on technical exchange programs on best practices in the newsroom, build collaborative reporting initiatives that protect diversity and elevate underrepresented stories and establish fact-checking networks to counter misinformation," he said.

- Lacson: Public anger, vigilance can foil 'pork' insertions (2026-11-04 08:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Public indignation coupled with sustained vigilance could help thwart attempts by unscrupulous lawmakers to insert questionable allocations into the proposed 2027 national budget, Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson said Wednesday.Lacson expressed hope that persons behind the attempts to mangle the budget anew would be proven wrong by the efforts of lawmakers and budget advocacy groups pushing for accountability.“When anger meets vigilance, greed and callousness face a fierce fight. The flood control scandal has barely settled, yet the ‘kapalmuks’ of the world are testing the limits of the people’s patience yet again. I would like to think they are wrong this time... Thanks to the People’s Budget Coalition and all like-minded individuals standing together for accountability,” he said in a social media post.“Anger alone or vigilance alone will not be enough. But combine them and the ‘kapalmuks’ will have something to reckon with,” he added in an interview on DZMM radio.Lacson welcomed moves by some members of the House of Representatives to engage with budget advocacy groups, saying growing public support for their demands for accountability could help strengthen efforts to ensure transparency in the budget process.He also renewed his call for greater transparency in budget deliberations, including keeping livestreams running even during breaks, particularly throughout the proceedings of the bicameral conference committee, where differences between the Senate and House versions of the budget are reconciled.Meanwhile, Lacson said he and his staff continued to scrutinize the proposed spending measure, checking for questionable insertions and determining whether listed projects were viable and had complied with documentary and other requirements.“We in the majority bloc have agreed that there will be no sacred cows. As former Justice Adolfo Azcuna said, all means all. There will be no sacred cows as far as those who made insertions are concerned. If there are projects that cannot be implemented or lack the needed requirements, they will be removed,” he said.Lacson stressed that his efforts to scrutinize the budget were driven by his commitment to honest public service rather than political ambitions.“I am left with no further political ambitions. Whatever I do now is pure advocacy in pursuit of honest public service which I love doing no matter the cost,” he said.

- DepEd mourns passing of former Education secretary Mona Valisno (2026-11-04 07:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) on Wednesday expressed its condolences to the family of former Education secretary Mona Dumlao-Valisno. “The Department of Education extends its heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and the entire DepEd community on the passing of former Education Secretary Mona Dumlao-Valisno,” the department said in a statement.Valisno served as education secretary in 2010 and devoted her time and service to advancing education in the country, the department said. “During this time of mourning, DepEd grieves with her bereaved family and pays tribute to her contribution to the history of the department,” it added.

- Romualdez sneaking out of jail? BJMP launches probe (2026-11-04 06:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) has launched an investigation into claims that former speaker Martin Romualdez has been secretly sneaking out of jail.BJMP chief Efren Nemeño ordered the probe on November 3 but initial CCTV reviews showed no recorded power interruption at the Quezon City Jail–Male Dormitory or any movement of the lawmaker outside his cell. “Initial CCTV verification by BJMP National Headquarters showed no recorded power or CCTV interruption at the New Quezon City Jail–Male Dormitory, and no recorded movement of Rep. Martin Romualdez outside the facility during the period examined,” the agency said in a statement on Wednesday.

- AirAsia PH fly-thru traffic soars as Filipinos seek alternative destinations (2026-11-04 03:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Filipino travelers are increasingly seeking alternative holiday destinations, driving substantial growth for AirAsia Philippines' connecting flight services in 2026.Passenger data released by the airline showed traffic between Manila and Almaty, Kazakhstan surged by 1,000 percent, the highest growth among the carrier's Fly-Thru routes.Other destinations also posted notable growth, including Phnom Penh, Cambodia, which increased by 705 percent, Manila-Penang, Malaysia, by 50 percent, and New Delhi, India, by 43 percent.The figures point to an emerging opportunity for Filipino travelers to discover more of Asia and beyond, supported by AirAsia's extensive network and Fly-Thru service, which connects passengers to multiple destinations through a single booking."It's exciting to see more Filipinos becoming open to exploring destinations they may not have considered before. Travel is not just about visiting the usual holiday spots anymore, it's about discovering new places, experiencing different cultures, and making more meaningful memories. The strong growth in Almaty is a good example of this changing interest," AirAsia President and General Manager Anna Victoria Lu said in a statement.From the mountains of Almaty to the beaches of Maldives and Bali, more international adventures await Filipino travelers through AirAsia Fly-Thru connectivity.The airline said passengers can fly from Manila to Almaty, Kazakhstan; Jaipur and New Delhi, India; Penang, Malaysia; the Maldives; Phuket, Chiang Mai, Thailand; Shenzhen, China; Yangon, Myanmar; Sarawak, Indonesia; Sabah, Malaysia and Sri Lanka.From Cebu, travelers can discover more of Asia: Penang, Malaysia; Bali, Indonesia; Siem Reap, Cambodia; Hanoi and Da Nang, Vietnam; Singapore; Jakarta, Indonesia; Sri Lanka; and Phnom Penh, Cambodia.For a limited time, AirAsia Philippines is offering its largest Fly-Thru sale from

November 3 to November 9. The promotion provides Filipinos with expanded options to travel to destinations beyond Asia, with fares starting as low as P7,699.

- International parcel scam busted by CIDG (2026-11-04 03:34)

MANILA, Philippines — At least 159 foreigners, mostly Indonesians, Malaysians, Vietnamese and Chinese were rescued during a police operation at a scam hub in Pasay City on November 3.Three masterminds of the parcel scam were arrested.Philippine National Police chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. and Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla led the raid.Operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) saw make-believe law enforcement offices of China, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia, and workers disguised as law enforcers, along with their accomplices.Philippine authorities were informed of the scam when three Indonesian workers escaped. “We are now studying the pieces of evidence. The laptops, cellphones and ipads that they used and we will see there the people who were victimized,” Nartatez told reporters in an interview on the site after the raid. “And now with the help of Indonesian police and others, we will prosecute them and we will share the necessary pieces of evidence to pursue cases against these personalities especially the masterminds,” he said.ModusVarious law enforcement uniforms were found in the scam site during the raid. According to Col. John Guiagui, CIDG-National Capital Region chief, the modus is done in four stages.The scammers choose their victims from their voluminous database and inform them of a parcel delivery which was already paid to lure the targets. However, they will then be told that the parcel contained contraband, particularly illegal drugs.Scripts are prepared in the four Asia languages, which showed that there was no intent to victimize Filipinos since the actors do not know Tagalog.This is where the characters will come in. Lower ranked officers will threaten the target that they will be investigated and their money and assets will be frozen.Higher ranking officers would then come in and offer a way out for the victim by giving them an account number, supposedly secured and guaranteed, where they can send money.Once the money is deposited, the scammers disappear.The group lures workers online through social media and messaging apps like Telegram, offering them virtual assistant work but upon arrival in the Philippines, they will be locked in the building and forced to work.Guiagui said the workers also endured physical abuse.

- Candidates with Filipino roots score victories in Northern Marianas elections (2026-11-04 02:53)

SAIPAN, Northern Marianas — Several candidates with Filipino ancestry won in the Northern Mariana Islands' general election last Nov. 3, including lawmakers tracing their family roots to Pangasinan, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Quezon City.Another candidate with Filipino heritage is poised to advance to a runoff for attorney general.Unofficial results released by the Commonwealth Election Commission on Wednesday showed incumbent Sen. Jude Untalan Hofschneider, whose maternal family traces its roots to Pangasinan, received 806 votes in his uncontested reelection bid on Tinian.Hofschneider, a Republican, was among four candidates with documented Filipino ancestry who occupied winning positions in the legislative elections.In

Saipan's six-seat Precinct 3 House race, incumbent Rep. Ralph N. Yumul, an independent, received 1,353 votes, placing third behind Marissa Flores and Elias Rangamar.Yumul, who traces his Filipino ancestry to Pangasinan and Pampanga, previously told The Manila Times that his family's roots in the Commonwealth extend several generations."My Filipino roots are an important part of who I am today. My Naraja side has been in the CNMI for four generations, and my Yumul side for three generations," he said.Yumul said his grandfather migrated from Pangasinan, while his father came from Pampanga."Our family has maintained a strong connection to Filipino heritage and culture, which has shaped my values," he said.Yumul said his legislative priorities include strengthening economic cooperation between the CNMI and the Philippines, particularly in agriculture, food distribution, tourism, and labor protections.He supports efforts to include the Philippines in the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, which he believes could expand tourism and help diversify the Commonwealth's economy.He also favors strengthening the CNMI's foreign worker program and addressing the disruption caused by the federal touchback requirement, which forces certain foreign workers to leave the United States temporarily before their employers can seek further work authorization.Another incumbent, Rep. Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr., secured a winning position in Saipan's Precinct 2, receiving 606 votes to finish second behind fellow independent John Paul Sablan, who garnered 670 votes.Two seats were contested in the precinct.Aquino traces his Filipino heritage to his great-grandfather, who came from Tarlac, while his Japanese ancestry comes from his mother and grandmother."My identity is shaped by a rich tapestry of resilience, migration, and deep-rooted cultural values," Aquino previously told The Manila Times."My great-grandfather traced his roots back to Tarlac in the Philippines, embodying the timeless Filipino spirit of hard work, adaptability, and perseverance."Aquino said growing up with Filipino and Japanese influences shaped his commitment to public service, particularly the Filipino values of malasakit or genuine compassion, and bayanihan, or community cooperation."Ang tunay na lider ay hindi lamang nakaupo sa opisina; siya ay lumulusong sa komunidad (A true leader does not stay in his office, he should be seen in communities)," Aquino said, emphasizing that genuine leadership requires working directly with the community.Aquino said his legislative priorities include reducing living costs, supporting small businesses, improving healthcare access, and strengthening infrastructure.He also hopes to deepen CNMI-Philippines ties through direct trade and shipping links, educational partnerships between Northern Marianas College and Philippine universities, and expanded cultural exchanges.Aquino has proposed establishing a Filipino-American community advisory board and strengthening labor protections for foreign workers, alongside regular community consultations.In Precinct 5, incumbent Rep. Angelo Camacho, another independent with Filipino roots, received 958 votes, finishing second behind Democratic incumbent Leila Staffler, who garnered 1,344 votes.Camacho previously confirmed that his Filipino family hailed from Quezon City.The election results put all four lawmakers in position to continue serving in the CNMI legislature, subject to certification by the CEC.Meanwhile, attorney general candidate Michael Evangelista, who has also acknowledged his Filipino ancestry, placed second in the three-way contest with 3,854 votes, or 30.2 percent.Evangelista finished just 18 votes ahead of Jonathan Glass, who received 3,836 votes, or 30.1 percent.Joaquin DLG Torres led the race with 5,073 votes, or 39.7 percent.With none of the

candidates securing more than half of the votes, a runoff is expected between the top two candidates following certification of the results.The narrow margin between Evangelista and Glass makes the official count particularly significant in determining who will face Torres in the runoff.In the broader election, former governor Ralph DLG Torres and running mate Ben Jones led the gubernatorial contest with 6,437 votes, or 49.5 percent, followed by independent candidates BJ T. Attao and Edmund Villagomez with 5,043 votes, or 38.7 percent.The third ticket of Lawrence F. Camacho and Edith Deleon Guerrero received 1,537 votes, or 11.8 percent.With neither leading ticket securing the required majority, the gubernatorial election is headed for a runoff.Incumbent US congressional Delegate Kimberlyn King-Hinds also secured a second term based on the unofficial results, receiving 8,194 votes against challenger Galvin Sablan Deleon Guerrero's 4,675 votes.In the legislature, independents occupied 14 of the 20 House seats, compared with five Republicans and one Democrat, while Republicans appeared headed for a five-seat majority in the nine-member Senate.All results remain unofficial and subject to verification and certification by the CEC.

- DPWH backs Senate removal of 295 projects from 2027 budget (2026-11-04 02:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has thrown its support behind the Senate's decision to strip P8.8 billion in funding for 295 projects from the proposed 2027 National Expenditure Program (NEP).The removal was due to insufficient documentation as the agency escalates its campaign against ghost infrastructure projects, DPWH Secretary Giovanni Lopez said on Wednesday.The move follows a directive from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. requiring the DPWH to ensure that every project proposed for the 2027 spending plan is backed by supporting documents, Lopez said. “It was very clear from the President himself: No complete documents, no projects,” the DPWH chief said.The issue surfaced after former Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon told the Senate that 295 projects lacked the required documentation from district engineering offices (DEOs) and recommended that they be dropped from the proposal.Lopez affirmed that the reforms launched under Dizon will carry forward, noting that project proponents must now submit an Approved Program of Work and validated geo-tagged photos, among others.They are also required to submit a Certificate of Implementability, and either a Masterplan, Feasibility Study, or Regional Development Council/Local Development Council endorsement—or a Certificate of Non-Objection—before any project can be included in the 2027 NEP, the DPWH said."The strict instruction of President Marcos to us is that no project lacking documents should be allowed to slip through, so that we can ensure our fellow Filipinos will physically and actually feel the projects we implement," Lopez said. "Secretary Vince Dizon made sure that projects included in the government budget must be transparent, which is why we must implement them properly and correctly," he said.

- Pangilinan calls for online dashboard to track El Niño funds (2026-11-04 01:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis Pangilinan on Wednesday urged President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to establish an online public accountability dashboard to track government spending

and monitor the delivery of interventions as the country braces for the potentially devastating effects of a strong El Niño.The chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform said the proposed platform should provide Filipinos with timely information on how public funds are allocated and spent, what government agencies are doing to mitigate the effects of the weather phenomenon, and whether these interventions are producing results. “I call on the President to direct the NDRRMC (National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council), through OCD (Office of Civil Defense) and the concerned agencies, to maintain a single, coordinated El Niño action plan with named leads, measurable targets, and regular public reporting,” Pangilinan said in his eight-point action plan. “The backbone of all these efforts is the proper use of taxpayers’ money. The public must know clearly where the funds are going, what the government is doing, and what results these measures are achieving,” he added.The proposed dashboard would consolidate critical information, including weather forecasts, damage assessments, water conditions, priority needs, funding allocations, relief supply inventories and price-control advisories.Pangilinan proposed requiring government agencies to submit updates every 24 hours, 48 hours or weekly, depending on the urgency and nature of the information.The platform should go beyond reporting available resources and track the actual release and utilization of funds, delivery of relief supplies, number of households assisted, completion of farm and water-system interventions, resolution of price complaints, and filing of cases against violators.

- Cagayan Valley to test response to magnitude 8.5 quake in drill (2026-11-04 01:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The government will again test its disaster preparedness on Thursday as emergency responders, local government units and communities simulate their response to a magnitude 8.5 earthquake and tsunami off Cagayan in yet another drill, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said.The full-scale exercise in Santa Ana, Cagayan, will simulate an earthquake triggered by movement along the East Luzon Trough, with the epicenter located 180 kilometers southeast of the coastal town.The simulation will be the highlight of the Fourth Quarter Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED) on November 5, which aims to assess the readiness of government agencies, emergency responders and communities to deal with a major earthquake and tsunami.The exercise will test the implementation of Santa Ana's Earthquake and Tsunami Contingency Plan and the Regional Disaster Response Plan of the Cagayan Valley Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.Among the response capabilities to be tested are early warning system activation, community evacuation, emergency telecommunications, search and rescue, mass casualty incident management and the activation of emergency operations centers.The drill will also simulate the management of evacuation camps and internally displaced persons, water search and rescue, management of the dead and missing, and responses to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear hazards and oil spills.The OCD will lead the exercise in coordination with member agencies of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and local government units.The NSED will begin at 8 a.m., with the ceremonial pressing of the button at 9 a.m. to signal the start of the nationwide "Duck, Cover and Hold" procedure and evacuation drills, followed by the full-scale

simulation.Similar earthquake drills and related exercises will be conducted in other parts of the country under the supervision of OCD regional offices.The fourth-quarter exercise will also coincide with the observance of World Tsunami Awareness Day 2026, which carries the theme " Resilience Starts with You."

• Duterte's lead over Robredo narrows to 7 points in OCTA survey (2026-11-04 01:20)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's lead over former vice president and current Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo in a hypothetical 2028 presidential matchup has narrowed to seven percentage points, the smallest recorded by OCTA Research in its 2026 surveys, as the number of undecided voters continued to increase.Duterte obtained 40 percent against Robredo's 33 percent in the third-quarter Tugon ng Masa survey conducted from September 28 to October 4 among 1,200 adult Filipinos nationwide.The seven-point margin was down from 11 points in the first quarter, when Duterte registered 46 percent against Robredo's 35 percent, and nine points in the second quarter, when the figures stood at 43 percent and 34 percent, respectively.OCTA said Duterte's preference had declined by six percentage points over the three survey rounds, while Robredo's remained relatively stable, ranging from 33 percent to 35 percent.The proportion of respondents who chose neither candidate or did not know whom to vote for rose to 26 percent in the latest survey, from 22 percent in the second quarter and 19 percent in the first quarter.The growing undecided bloc suggests that voters moving away from Duterte have not necessarily shifted their preference to Robredo, OCTA said.Despite the narrowing margin, Duterte remained ahead nationally, with her seven-point lead outside the survey's plus-or-minus three-percentage-point margin of error.The survey results also showed significant regional differences in the hypothetical matchup.Robredo led Duterte in the National Capital Region, with 39 percent against 32 percent, and in Balance Luzon, where she received 49 percent against Duterte's 24 percent.Duterte, meanwhile, maintained a commanding lead in Mindanao, with 71 percent against Robredo's 2 percent. She also led in Visayas, 46 percent to 27 percent.

• Ombudsman meets with restaurateurs, discuss business, regulatory problems (2026-11-03 22:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla on Tuesday met with restaurateurs to discuss industry challenges and identify government regulations and processes that could possibly be opportunities for corruption.The meeting was part of the agency's study on establishing an Investment Ombudsman to address regulatory bottlenecks, protect businesses, and encourage investments. "Let's make a compendium of the problems that we are facing," Remulla said, as he identified government agencies dealing with micro, small and medium enterprises and asked about processes requiring immediate attention.Representatives of about 1,000 restaurant business owners attended the dialogue and raised concerns, including the proliferation of fake persons with disability (PWD) identification cards as well as problems with tax collection.The proposed Investment Ombudsman would expand the agency's preventive mandate by identifying systemic problems that expose businesses to corruption and

unnecessary bureaucratic requirements.Prior to this, Remulla met with Cebu business owners last month to discuss ways to address difficulties investors face in dealing with government agencies.

• Malacañang urges scrutiny of proposed P7.2T national budget (2026-11-03 22:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacanang has urged budget watchdogs and civil society groups (CSGs) to help President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.Tie identify potential "red flags" in the proposed P7.2 trillion 2027 national budget.Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro on Tuesday said Malacañang is ready to cooperate with budget watchdogs and CSGs to review the budget to ensure transparency and efficiency in government spending.The Palace press officer urged them to directly submit documents containing potential irregularities to Malacanang. “To those monitoring the budget, if you have a copy of something you noticed and found to be a red flag, just let us know, give us a copy — the PCO itself — because the President will also need this,” Castro said during a press briefing."The president’s directive is that public funds must not be abused. Public funds should go to the people, not into anyone’s pockets,” she said in Filipino.Castro cited that the role of budget watchdogs in helping the government ensure the protection of public funds from abuse and corruption. "Budget watchdogs are needed by the government."Castro assured that the president will not allow budget amendments that lack sufficient documentation, clear descriptions, and concrete project bases.She noted that the proposed 2027 budget will still undergo review by the bicameral conference committee and the president’s economic team before being submitted to the Chief Executive for his signature.Budget watchdogs and CSGs recently raised concerns over alleged insertions in the House of Representatives’ version of the 2027 General Appropriations Bill.The House approved the P7.2 trillion spending measure on third and final reading on October 12.

• Palace denies PH blocked China's participation in ASEAN (2026-11-03 19:06)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang denied that the Philippines used its position as host of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit to hinder the participation of China.This comes after Beijing accused Manila of “erecting multiple obstacles” to its participation in the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting in Cebu last week.In a press briefing on Tuesday, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro maintained that the Philippines would continue to take a diplomatic approach in dealing with China. “No power or position will be used to gain an advantage over anyone,” said Castro in Filipino.

• Over 2.5M visit Manila cemeteries during Undas 2026 (2026-11-03 19:02)

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 2,556,607 people visited four major cemeteries in Manila from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 during Undas 2026, according to the Manila Police District (MPD).In a post on Tuesday, the Manila Public Information Office (PIO), citing MPD figures, reported that Manila North Cemetery recorded the highest number of visitors at 2,116,600.Manila South Cemetery recorded 390,327 visitors, followed by La Loma Cemetery with 41,600 and Manila Chinese

Cemetery with 8,080.The city government, led by Mayor Francisco “Isko” Moreno Domagoso, thanked the offices and personnel who provided services and helped ensure an orderly and safe observance of Undas 2026.

- No shoot-to-kill order vs dela Rosa – PNP (2026-11-03 16:18)

THE Philippine National Police (PNP) on Tuesday said that no shoot-to-kill order has been issued against Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa as security forces press on with their manhunt operations to arrest the fugitive lawmaker. Col. Allen Rae Co, PNP spokesman, issued the statement after Cagayan de Oro Rep. Lordan Suan denied calling for a resolution seeking the issuance of a shoot-to-kill order against the senator. “May I remind the public to only share or believe information coming from verified and official sources. Wala pong shoot to kill na inilalabas (No shoot-to-kill order was issued),” Co said.As to claims that police are raiding homes of dela Rosa’s relatives and friends, Co clarified that police operations are being done lawfully.The police intensified manhunt operations after the deadline given to the senator to surrender lapsed on Friday, Oct. 30.The PNP mobilized tracker teams to find dela Rosa, who was ordered arrested by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for alleged crimes against humanity linked to the implementation of the war on drugs under former president Rodrigo Duterte.A P50-million bounty was offered for information leading to the senator’s arrest.The PNP also said dela Rosa is still in the Philippines.The police said photos of dela Rosa in a cemetery in Davao del Sur that went viral on social media were not new. “It’s not true that he showed up,” Co told reporters in an interview on Tuesday.Malacañang said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has not shown any dissatisfaction in the progress of the manhunt for dela Rosa amid concerns that some policemen loyal to him were helping him escape the dragnet. “Right now, our president does not show any frustration, as long as he sees that our police force and the leadership of the DILG are fulfilling their duties. So, no frustration is being seen,” Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said in Filipino on Tuesday.Dela Rosa, who was named a co-conspirator of former president Duterte, refused to acknowledge the ICC arrest warrant and went into hiding last year.Meanwhile, Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson said that due process for dela Rosa does not mean shielding him from facing trial before the ICC.He said that the fugitive senator should be allowed to answer the charges against him without risking violence during his arrest.Lacson said his call for due process for his embattled colleague was not an appeal to protect him from the ICC’s jurisdiction, but to ensure that authorities carry out his arrest without bloodshed. “To me, due process means allowing Senator dela Rosa to face trial before the ICC rather than risk violence and, worse, tragedy,” Lacson said.He reiterated that due process is a fundamental right that applies to everyone, including dela Rosa, who served under him in the Philippine National Police and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.Dela Rosa is the subject of an arrest warrant issued by the ICC in connection with killings linked to the war on drugs implemented under former president Rodrigo Duterte.The senator has been in hiding since last year. He briefly surfaced at the Senate last May 11 to vote for Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano as Senate president then fled following a shooting incident. WITH CATHERINE VALENTE

• Ombudsman files cases vs 6 DPWH personnel (2026-11-03 16:17)

THE Office of the Ombudsman said Tuesday it has filed graft and malversation cases before the Sandiganbayan against six Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) personnel and seven private individuals over an alleged P491.9-million road right-of-way scam in General Santos City.The charges involve compensation for 18 parcels of land affected by the construction of the Digos-Makar National Road in Lagao, General Santos City.Former DPWH Region 12 regional director Subair Saro Diron and former assistant regional director Laureano Suan Jr. were among those charged.According to the Ombudsman, the DPWH Region 12 technical working group approved P491,931,120.20 in payments to claimants who were later found to have submitted falsified documents.The alleged scheme involved the use of a 2009 appraisal value of P3,500 per square meter to determine compensation for properties acquired by the government in the early 1990s, resulting in inflated right-of-way claims.Witness Roberto Catapang Jr., who admitted involvement in the alleged fraudulent act in a 2017 affidavit, said the group, "in collusion with respondent public officers," collected government funds by fabricating and submitting fake documents.The Ombudsman said the charges followed National Bureau of Investigation reports submitted in 2018 and 2019. It also ordered the dismissal of former DPWH Region XII legal officer Ansare Mariga Busran in a separate administrative decision.

• Ease tensions with China, business, labor groups urge gov't (2026-11-03 16:15)

A COALITION of 24 business, labor, industry and other organizations urged the government to ease tensions with China and pursue a more coordinated diplomatic approach, warning that strained bilateral relations could jeopardize trade, investments, jobs and other Philippine economic interests.In a joint appeal, the organizations called on the Philippine and Chinese governments to exercise restraint, avoid inflammatory rhetoric and resolve disagreements through established diplomatic channels rather than public exchanges.They stressed that the Philippines must protect its sovereignty and sovereign rights under international law while maintaining economic cooperation with China.The groups cited the two economies' deep trade and investment ties, noting that China and Hong Kong accounted for nearly 30 percent of Philippine international trade, with China accounting for 26.3 percent of exports and 27 to 29.5 percent of imports, based on figures cited in the appeal from the Philippine Statistics Authority for the first semester of 2026.In contrast, the Philippines represents only 0.3 to 0.5 percent of China's total global trade, they said.The organizations warned that worsening tensions could undermine investor confidence, disrupt supply chains, increase costs and affect businesses, workers, consumers and communities.They also pointed to China's role as a supplier of essential goods, industrial inputs, machinery, electronics, strategic raw materials and renewable energy technologies supporting Philippine industries and the country's clean energy transition. "The Filipino people deserve a government that protects sovereignty while expanding prosperity. Entrepreneurs need stable markets; workers, secure livelihoods; consumers, affordable essentials; and farmers and manufacturers, reliable inputs and wider market access. The country also needs investment, technology, energy security, clean energy

solutions, and sustained growth. These priorities should take precedence over public exchanges that distract from practical cooperation," they said.The signatories urged the government to adopt a centralized, coherent and consistent foreign policy, with diplomatic positions articulated by designated authorities through coordinated institutions and established channels.They also called for stronger economic cooperation in trade, investment, tourism, energy security, electric mobility and solar deployment, as well as technology transfer, local production and the creation of decent jobs.At the same time, the groups said the country should pursue strategic diversification by strengthening domestic industries, expanding local manufacturing and developing alternative sources of critical supplies. "Constructive relations with China do not require abandoning Philippine sovereignty, overlooking legitimate concerns, or compromising an independent foreign policy," the groups said. "Effective diplomacy means defending national interests while avoiding unnecessary escalation." The organizations said the Philippines should pursue a foreign policy that is principled but pragmatic, resolute but diplomatic, and anchored in protecting sovereignty, economic security and long-term development. "We respectfully appeal to Philippine and Chinese authorities to lower the temperature, restore disciplined diplomatic engagement, and build a stable, respectful, and productive bilateral relationship. Let us pursue principled diplomacy over public antagonism, economic cooperation over avoidable friction, and strategic foresight over short-term political posturing," they said. "The ultimate measure of diplomacy is whether it protects national interests, prevents avoidable conflict, creates opportunities, and improves the lives of our people — not who prevails in a public exchange," the groups added.Among the signatories were the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Free Workers, Philippine Exporters Confederation, Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc., and Foundation for Economic Freedom.

- NBI expands probe as more animal dumpsites found (2026-11-03 16:13)

THE National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said it will expand its investigation into a pet crematorium accused of illegal dumping of animal carcasses, following the discovery of additional suspected disposal sites in Bulacan.The Environmental Crimes Division of the NBI is leading the investigation into Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium in Bacoor City, Cavite, amid mounting complaints from pet owners for alleged improper disposal of animal carcasses intended for cremation.This comes after the remains of 25 dogs and cats were recovered from a vacant lot in Barangay Minuyan Proper, San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan.Animal welfare volunteers from Luna and Furry Siblings subsequently reported finding additional suspected dumping sites in Barangay Minuyan 4 and Minuyan 5, also in San Jose del Monte.The group estimated that around 14 animal remains were found in Minuyan 4 and 30 to 40 in Minuyan 5. The figures have yet to be verified by authorities.NBI Director Melvin Matibag said forensic examinations would be conducted to establish whether the recovered remains came from the Cavite crematorium.He added that the business permit, cremation equipment, closed-circuit television footage, and records documenting the handling and disposal of animal remains of

Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium would be reviewed.The NBI is looking into possible estafa charges under Article 315(2)(a) of the Revised Penal Code if evidence is found that the crematorium collected payments for services that were never performed.Bacoor Mayor Strike Revilla ordered the establishment closed on Oct. 31.Matibag urged affected pet owners to submit cremation receipts, certificates, transaction records, and communications with the establishment to help investigators build their case.Representatives of the Philippine Animal Welfare Society and the Animal Kingdom Foundation (AKF) went to the NBI headquarters on Tuesday in response to the call. “AKF is seeking answers and accountability. We are calling on the NBI to conduct a deeper investigation, including the verification of ashes returned to grieving pet owners,” AKF said in a Facebook post on Tuesday. “We hope this encourages more affected families to come forward and file complaints,” it added.The Philippine Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA) on Monday condemned the act. “The incident raises deeply troubling questions about the handling, transport, and proper disposition of animal remains, particularly in light of reports involving a pet afterlife service provider based in Bacoor, Cavite. The circumstances surrounding the incident warrant a thorough investigation and appropriate accountability from all parties found responsible,” PVMA said in a statement. “Pet owners entrust afterlife service providers with something deeply personal: the final care of their beloved companions. This trust carries a profound responsibility. Every animal deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, even in death. Any act of negligence, abandonment, misrepresentation, or failure to fulfill this responsibility is unacceptable,” it added.The Philippine National Police (PNP) urged pet owners who may have been victimized to file complaints and submit evidence to authorities. “Any form of deception that exploits the trust of grieving pet owners is deeply concerning and must be addressed with the full force of the law. We will not tolerate acts that victimize the public and undermine the trust that should exist between service providers and the communities they serve,” PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said. “Fraud is not measured solely by the amount of money taken, but also by the damage inflicted on the people whose trust has been betrayed. The PNP will support efforts to establish accountability and ensure that all evidence of possible criminal wrongdoing is properly investigated,” he said.Sen. Pia Cayetano said she would file a resolution seeking a Senate investigation into the incident. “Pets are beloved members of many families. As a pet owner, I understand the grief of losing a pet. Many of us observe rituals to give our beloved animals a proper farewell,” Cayetano said in a statement. “Pet owners have the right to demand that their contracts be honored and seek damages for the harm and distress they have suffered,” she said.Sen. Francis Pangilinan, meanwhile, demanded accountability for deceived pet owners, saying it was unacceptable to profit from the grief of families who paid for their animals to receive a proper and dignified final resting place. “It is unacceptable to take advantage of the grief of pet owners who paid to ensure that their beloved animals would have a proper and dignified final resting place,” Pangilinan said in a statement.He said the alleged dumping of animal carcasses could be a violation of Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, as well as local sanitation ordinances.The controversy has intensified calls for tighter government oversight of pet crematoriums and other animal aftercare businesses, with Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian seeking a nationwide inspection and

audit of service providers.Gatchalian said the inspections should determine whether these establishments were properly licensed, complied with environmental requirements, and observed clear standards of integrity. “The distressing discovery of 29 deceased pets abandoned in sacks in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, is a blatant violation of environmental and sanitation laws,” Gatchalian added.

• China turns to intl media to promote gains of Belt and Road Initiative (2026-11-03 16:12)

FUZHOU, China — China called on international media to report on the gains and benefits of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) program to participating countries.At the opening of the 2026 Media Cooperation Forum on Belt and Road here on Tuesday, Chinese officials and business leaders cited the need for global action in what they called “the world’s largest international platform for economic cooperation in terms of scale, reach and impact.” Xian Hui, vice chairman of the National Communist of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPC), said the BRI, which President Xi Jinping started in 2013, was no longer just focused on development and investment initiatives originally intended to link East Asia and Europe through physical infrastructure.He said it has evolved into “modernist socialization,” which called for a “deeper alignment of development strategies, improving connectivity networks and balancing development with security by providing an environment that would bring peace, prosperity, openness and civilization.” Hu Heping, the executive deputy head of publicity for the department of the CPC Central Committee, said that amid the “rise of conflicts, unilateralism and challenges of copyright infringements,” there was a need to “build a consensus for development, tell stories that benefit people and deepen exchanges of cooperation by building bridges of communication.” Zhang Tao, president of the China National Nuclear Corp.; Wang Jihang, president of the Agricultural Bank of China; Oleg Kopylov, deputy secretary general, Shanghai Cooperation Organization; Miao Jiianmin, chairman, China Merchants Group; Zhao Fei, board member and general manager, China Changan Automobile Group; Xu Siwei, chairman, China Reform Holdings Corp.; and Zhang Wenwu, vice chairman and president, CITIC Group Corp., were among the business leaders who pushed for greater “connectivity” through the media to help boost international cooperation by sharing “people-to-people experiences, cultural and financial integration.” The event brought together over 200 foreign representatives from 100 countries, as well as international and regional organizations, and 182 media outlets and institutions, People’s Daily, China’s English-language newspaper, said.BRI, sometimes referred to as the New Silk Road, is considered “one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects ever conceived.” To date, about 150 countries were known to have signed memoranda of understanding with China.The Philippines became a member of the BRI in 2018 under then-president Rodrigo Duterte, linking Chinese foreign investments to the administration’s “Build, Build, Build” program.The initiative involved proposed and active transport, water and energy projects — such as the Binondo-Intramuros Bridge, the Chico River Pump Irrigation Project, and the New Centennial Water Source (Kaliwa Dam).Under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., however, enthusiasm for the BRI waned over tensions in the South China Sea.

• OSG to ask court to review unprogrammed funds ruling (2026-11-03 16:11)

MALACAÑANG said Tuesday that the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) would submit today, Nov. 4, a motion for reconsideration to the Supreme Court on its ruling that the 2024 and 2025 General Appropriations Acts were unconstitutional due to unauthorized increases in unprogrammed funds. “They will file a motion for reconsideration tomorrow,” Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said in Filipino during a press briefing on Tuesday.Castro said she cannot give a definitive answer when asked which specific government programs could be impacted by the court’s decision. “Even if it has been discussed, I cannot provide the details once a motion for reconsideration has been filed,” she said.Solicitor General Darlene Berberabe earlier said that the OSG would clarify if the guardrails set by the Supreme Court were according to the separation of powers of the executive, legislative, and judiciary under the law. Berberabe said that guardrails are important to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of public funds. “The OSG will respectfully request clarification to ensure that the limits and standards set in the decision conform to the separation of these powers under the Constitution,” Berberabe said in Filipino in an earlier Palace briefing. “There is something that the president, in particular, wants to clarify because the execution of the budget will be affected,” she added.Berberabe said she has recommended to the Department of Budget and Management to put on hold the use of the affected funds. “For those that are not covered, we will assist the executive branch in making a determination by providing legal advice,” said Berberabe.

• Palace releases class suspension guidelines (2026-11-03 16:10)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has signed Executive Order No. 130, detailing the rules on suspension of classes, Malacañang said. “Every day of absence from school represents a significant loss; the new executive order aims to ensure that students remain safe and that their education continues,” Press Officer Claire Castro said in a press briefing on Tuesday.The order enumerated three types of suspensions: automatic suspension when specific criteria regarding weather or hazards are met, localized suspensions when local leaders decide to suspend classes based on their situation, and granular suspension, where schools themselves may suspend classes if hazards within the vicinity of the schools are seen. “This grants local governments greater authority to decide which specific areas or schools should suspend classes, based on the actual conditions on the ground,” Castro said. “This allows for more direct action and ensures that the response from local government units is appropriate. Schools will also have the discretion to suspend classes whenever it is truly necessary for the sake of the students, as the safety of the children is always the top priority,” she added.The executive order said that suspension of in-person classes does not automatically mean a halt to learning, as schools are mandated to implement alternative delivery modes and learning continuity measures consistent with guidelines set by the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and the Early Childhood Care and Development Council. “There is a need to rationalize and harmonize the rules governing the suspension and resumption of classes and activities, and on-site work in educational institutions and learning centers due to natural or human-induced hazards, while ensuring

uninterrupted delivery of quality education through risk-informed, science-based, locally responsive policies that support learning continuity," the order read.

• DepEd secures laptops for teachers, staff (2026-11-03 16:09)

THE Department of Education (DepEd) said it has secured 172,654 units of Apple MacBook Neo laptops for public school teachers and administrative staff through a proper bidding process.Each unit, it said, costs approximately P43,000 and comes with a five-year warranty, longer than the standard one-year retail warranty. The procurement price is about P6,900 lower than the MacBook Neo base model's Philippine suggested retail price of P49, 900.Distribution of the units was set from November 2026 to March 2027. "For the longest time, our teachers have carried the heavy personal burden of buying their own laptops or maintaining outdated equipment just to keep up with lesson plans. Under the vision of President Marcos, we are changing the narrative," Education Secretary Sonny Angara said in a statement on Tuesday. "We welcome Apple's participation in this procurement to bring MacBook Neo to our teachers. It isn't just about handing out world-class hardware with five-year warranties; it's about giving our educators the best tools, backed by robust training so they can focus on what matters most: teaching our children," he added.DepEd has so far awarded procurement contracts for 231,725 laptops for teachers nationwide under its computerization program. These include 169,008 MacBook Neo units and 62,717 Windows-based laptops.The deal also covers 3,646 MacBook Neo laptops for administrative officers. "As one example, we recently secured our biggest education deal ever for Mac, with the Department of Education in the Philippines. They're going to deploy 170,000 MacBook Neos to teachers and staff," Apple Chief Executive Officer John Ternus said.

• Go pushes full implementation of disaster law (2026-11-03 16:08)

SEN. Bong Go renewed his call for the full implementation of Republic Act (RA) 12076, or the Ligtas Pinoy Centers Act, and the creation of a Department of Disaster Resilience, after the Philippines topped a new global disaster risks survey.The 2026 World Risk Poll conducted by Gallup for the Lloyd's Register Foundation showed that 80 percent of Filipino adults reported being personally affected by disasters in the past five years — the highest proportion among 140 countries surveyed. Tropical storms were the most cited hazard (52 percent), hitting 67 percent of respondents in the Visayas, while 44 percent of Mindanao respondents reported earthquake impacts. "We cannot prevent every disaster, but we can prepare for them. There must be safe evacuation centers, adequate equipment, a rapid response, and continuous support for the affected families," Go said.Signed into law on Dec. 6, 2024, RA 12076, which Go principally authored, mandates the construction of permanent, disaster-resilient evacuation centers in every city and municipality to replace makeshift shelters such as public school classrooms. Coordinated by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, constructed by the Department of Public Works and Highways, and maintained by LGUs, these facilities require dedicated sleeping quarters, sanitation, healthcare areas, and emergency power and water systems.Go refiled Senate Bill 173 in the 20th Congress to establish the

Department of Disaster Resilience. The proposed Cabinet-level agency would streamline risk reduction, emergency response, and recovery efforts across national and local agencies during large-scale calamities. Go also introduced SB 415 to provide rental housing subsidies for displaced families.

- 'Evidence vs VP Sara will speak for itself' (2026-11-03 16:07)

THE evidence presented against Vice President Sara Duterte will stand on its own merit whether or not she will testify in her impeachment trial, a member of the House prosecution team said on Tuesday. "Irrespective of whether the vice president actually presents herself in the proceedings, the staggering weight of the evidence will probably speak for itself," Bicol Saro Party-list Rep. Terry Ridon said in Filipino in an interview.Ridon was responding to Deputy Speaker Janette Garin's assessment that the prosecution could secure the 16 votes needed for conviction even if Duterte refuses to take the witness stand. "Let us see how this trial will conclude. We do not want to preempt the Senate impeachment court on this matter," he said.The prosecution's remaining case, Article II, involves alleged unexplained wealth and inaccurate asset declarations.Forensic accounting expert and lawyer Alexander Cabrera earlier identified approximately P817.87 million in alleged unexplained wealth involving Duterte and her husband, lawyer Manases "Mans" Carpio, from 2022 to 2025. A broader computation placed the amount at about P1.5 billion, which the defense has disputed. "Our hope is that the defense will answer each and every allegation, each and every piece of evidence that has been submitted for the consideration of the Senate impeachment court," Ridon said. "We will see when the vice president takes the witness stand," he added.He likewise cited a recent Social Weather Stations survey showing that 78 percent of Filipino adults considered it important for Duterte to testify. "The surveys are clear. I think a majority of the nation would want to see the vice president there explaining each and every part of her defense, particularly those properties that were not declared in her statements of assets, liabilities and net worth," the lawmaker said.Blanket objectionRidon said the defense team has objected to all documentary evidence submitted by the prosecution, including Duterte's asset declarations and financial records from banks and government agencies. "The defense's formal offer of evidence objections consists of objections to every single piece of evidence submitted by the prosecution for the consideration of the Senate impeachment court," he said in Filipino in an interview.He said the objections covered all statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs); bank records; insurance documents; Bureau of Internal Revenue records; and Anti-Money Laundering Council documents. "So, that means all the documents, all the SALNs, all the bank records, all the insurance documents, BIR records, AMLC documents, every single piece of evidence is being denied and objected to by the defense," he said.The lawmaker questioned the blanket objections, noting that the defense had participated in the proceedings and cross-examined prosecution witnesses who identified and authenticated the financial records.The prosecution presented testimony from banking officials and financial regulators. "It is somewhat amusing that they have a blanket objection to every single piece of evidence submitted by the prosecution," Ridon said. "I don't think the Senate Impeachment Court will grant their

blanket objection because that would mean there would no longer be any evidence available for our trial, and I don't think that is something the Senate Impeachment Court will allow," he added.

• Tighter police ties with LGUs (2026-11-03 16:05)

SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian on Tuesday called for stronger collaborative ties among school communities, local governments, and law enforcement agencies.The appeal follows a wave of malicious bomb threats targeting major universities in Metro Manila, disrupting academic operations and raising public anxiety. "Amid the various threats to the safety of our schools, it is crucial that we strengthen community involvement in bolstering school security," Gatchalian said. "We can achieve this through the Comprehensive School Safety Act, which we approved in the Senate." Gatchalian's call follows a directive from the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), which ordered an intensified bomb threat awareness campaign in Metro Manila campuses.The alert was triggered after several institutions — including the University of Santo Tomas (UST), De La Salle University (DLSU), and Emilio Aguinaldo College (EAC) — received threatening messages that prompted campus evacuations and a temporary shift to remote learning mode.In response, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. ordered an exhaustive review of explosive-threat response protocols.Concurrently, NCRPO authorities reminded the public that circulating false bomb scares is a severe criminal offense under Presidential Decree (PD) 1727, also known as the Anti-Bomb Joke Law. Violators face up to five years of imprisonment, a fine of up to P40,000, or both.Furthermore, because these recent threats were transmitted online, the PNP warned it will file charges under the Cybercrime Prevention Act (Republic Act (RA) 10175), which raises the criminal penalty by one degree.To build a proactive defense framework against these disruptions, Gatchalian sought the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 2426, or the Comprehensive School Safety Act.The Senate unanimously approved the bill on its third and final reading, and it seeks to institutionalize a permanent National Comprehensive School Safety Framework.At its core, the measure mandates enhanced physical infrastructure and security hardware. The bill strictly requires both public and private schools to integrate upgraded safety screening systems at all campus access points.This includes installing closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in common areas, mandating walk-through or handheld metal detectors, and requiring trained security personnel to conduct strict bag checks to prevent weapons and hazardous materials from entering school grounds.Once fully enacted, the law mandates the Department of Education (DepEd) to lead the implementation and regular updating of safety standards alongside local government units (LGUs) and the PNP.Under this system, the PNP will actively assist schools with infrastructure security, screening procedures, and visible campus policing, while LGUs will finance and support localized safety programs. "It is important to ensure the safety of our students so that their studies can proceed smoothly and without interruption," Gatchalian emphasized, reiterating that a whole-of-community approach is paramount to shielding learners from campus terror.

• SKorean fugitives linked to online scams nabbed (2026-11-03 16:04)

PHILIPPINE immigration authorities have intercepted two South Korean fugitives wanted for their alleged involvement in online fraud that reportedly raked in more than 3.7 billion won, roughly $2.8 million (around P160 million).The two suspects, identified as Lee Jaeryeon, 32, and An Intae, 29, were separately intercepted by Bureau of Immigration (BI) officers at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 1 while preparing to board flights to Vietnam.Immigration officers flagged the two after confirming they were subjects of International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) Red Notices issued in connection with criminal cases filed against them in South Korea.BI-Interpol acting chief Peter De Guzman reported the interceptions to Immigration Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado, who ordered the bureau to place the two foreigners on its blacklist to prevent their return to the Philippines.Investigators accused Lee of working as an agent and operator for a romance scam syndicate based in Sihanoukville, Cambodia.In 2024, Lee allegedly targeted people who responded to the group’s advertisements on Facebook and other social media platforms, building romantic relationships with unsuspecting victims before directing them to a fraudulent website.Victims were then allegedly made to pay charges, including so-called verification and “woman’s choice” fees, with the money collected by the website’s administrator.An, meanwhile, was allegedly involved in a stock investment scam that used fake websites and social media platforms, including KakaoTalk and Instagram, to lure investors with fraudulent investment opportunities.Authorities said victims were persuaded to deposit money into bank accounts owned or controlled by An and his accomplices.The latest interceptions underscore the growing reach of Southeast Asia-based online fraud networks, which exploit social media, fake investment platforms and fabricated romantic relationships to defraud victims across borders.The Philippines has repeatedly encountered foreigners allegedly involved in similar operations, prompting intensified immigration and law enforcement operations against online scam hubs and fugitives.In March 2026, the BI reported intercepting another South Korean, Kim Kwangsin, at NAIA Terminal 3 as he tried to fly to Taipei.Kim was wanted over an alleged stock investment scam syndicate operating in Cambodia that reportedly defrauded at least 57 victims, mostly South Koreans, of more than 3.5 billion won.In May 2026, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) also dismantled an alleged online love-scamming and cryptocurrency fraud operation in Parañaque City, arresting 17 people, including three foreigners.Investigators said the operation used fake online identities, dating applications, and deceptive romantic approaches to gain victims’ trust and induce them to send money.On July 21, 2026, the NBI announced the arrest of a Nigerian allegedly involved in an online love scam, following an investigation into the sale of pre-registered SIM cards to suspected operators of scam hubs and other cybercriminals.Viado said the BI would not allow the Philippines to become a transit point or refuge for foreign nationals wanted for transnational crimes. “Fraud syndicates operate across borders, and our response must be just as coordinated. We will not allow individuals linked to these criminal networks to pass through our airports unchecked or use the Philippines to evade accountability,” he said.The two South Koreans are currently detained at the BI detention facility in Taguig City pending deportation proceedings.

- BOC joins dialogue on air cargo modernization (2026-11-03 16:03)

THE Bureau of Customs-Ninoy Aquino International Airport (BOC-NAIA) participated in a logistics roundtable late last month to discuss the digitalization of global air cargo.According to the bureau, District Collector Yasmin Mapa attended the ONE Record Roundtable on Oct. 27, 2026.Logistics technology provider Champ, e-commerce service provider E-Konek Pilipinas, and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) hosted the event.The gathering brought together key government officials, airline representatives, and freight forwarding stakeholders to discuss cargo digitalization, standard data exchange protocols, and the local adoption of the IATA ONE Record standard.BOC-NAIA's participation underscores the bureau's proactive commitment to strengthening public-private sector collaboration and advancing comprehensive digital transformation.By integrating cutting-edge data solutions into customs processes, the agency aims to drive trade facilitation, enhance border security, and elevate operational efficiency to meet world-class modernization standards.

- Belmonte: QC contributed P1.4T to economy (2026-11-03 16:02)

QUEZON City Mayor Joy Belmonte on Tuesday said the local government contributed P1.4 trillion to the national economy in 2025, accounting for roughly 6 percent of the country's gross domestic product.Belmonte told The Manila Times that she reported this to her constituents at her State of the City Address early last week, where she also presented stringent measures that effectively cut red tape and simplified government transactions.She praised her co-workers at City Hall, particularly the local department and bureau heads led by City Treasurer Edgar "Edvil" Villanueva, for their dedication and competence, which led to record-breaking revenue collections. “Fewer forms, easier payments, and documents delivered straight to business establishments are the results of these efforts,” said the mayor, citing the city's key role as a major engine of the Philippine economy.Ranking first among all cities in the country in revenue collection for 2025 and surpassing its previous years' figures, Quezon City is home to more than 70,000 registered businesses.Belmonte reiterated that the city government is building on this momentum by reducing paperwork, connecting government systems, and making services more accessible to business owners.She said QC was the first local government unit (LGU) to integrate with the Philippine Business Hub, eGovPH, and the Department of Trade and Industry's Business Name Registration System. “These linkages help streamline registration and eliminate the need to submit the same information to multiple government offices,” Belmonte said.A recent agreement with the Bureau of Fire Protection would further simplify applications for Fire Safety Inspection Certificates. By year-end, the BFP could retrieve information directly from the city's online business permit applications, reducing duplicate data entry, she said.Extending digital payments to its 142 villages, Belmonte said that under its barangay e-payment ordinance, each village will have an electronic payment system linked to the city's online business permit system.These reforms build on QC BizEasy for business registration, QC Pay Easy for electronic payments, and QC Delivers, which has delivered more than 289,000 official documents to establishments, sparing business owners trips to City Hall.The mayor said these efforts have earned Quezon City Hall of Fame recognition as the Most Business-Friendly LGU from the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as well as a

Gold Asia-Pacific Stevie Award for Innovation in Government earlier this year."We will continue to break barriers, modernize our services, and build an environment where businesses can grow with confidence, because when our businesses succeed, our people succeed," Belmonte vowed.

• Suspect in Parañaque fatal stabbing arrested (2026-11-03 16:01)

SWIFT police action led to the arrest of a 41-year-old man linked to the fatal stabbing of a victim in Barangay San Isidro, Parañaque City.Southern Police District (SPD) operatives said a 30-year-old man was stabbed dead on Nov. 2, 2026.Immediately after the incident, police personnel launched an investigation and follow-up operations to establish the motive and identify the suspect.During the investigation, witnesses positively identified the suspect as the alleged perpetrator. CCTV footage from a nearby establishment supported their accounts.Initial findings indicated that the victim was attacked suddenly, leaving him totally off guard and defenseless.In light of these circumstances, the investigation is considering treachery, which may warrant the filing of a murder complaint against the suspect.BGen. Rodel Pastor highlighted the importance of swift police response and decisive action against criminality."We will continue to act swiftly and decisively against criminal activities. We will pursue those responsible, uphold the rule of law, and ensure that justice is served while keeping our communities safe," he said.

• UP top PH university in 2027 QS Asia rankings (2026-11-03 15:24)

MANILA, Philippines - The University of the Philippines (UP) remained the top Philippine university in the 2027 edition of the QS World University Rankings: Asia.QS Quacquarelli Symonds released the latest edition on Tuesday.UP was ranked 123rd. It topped other institutions in the Philippines in the rankings for the 16th consecutive year, based on a statement from QS.It is followed by the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) which was ranked 151st.ADMU was followed by the University of Santo Tomas (UST) which was ranked 202nd.UST was followed by the De La Salle University which was ranked 204th.Based on the statement from QS, there were 45 universities from the Philippines in the rankings. "This means the Philippines is the 13th most represented higher education system in the rankings this year," QS said.Aside from those already mentioned above, some of them were: Mapúa University was ranked 494th; Adamson University, 509th; University of San Carlos, 549th; Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology, 678th; Silliman University, 741st to 750th; Polytechnic University of the Philippines, 751st to 760th; Far Eastern University, 781st to 790th; and Ateneo de Davao University, 951st to 1000th."The rankings evaluate more than 1720 universities across 26 locations in Asia," QS said."The University of Hong Kong is ranked first in the region for another year, with second place Peking University also remaining unchanged. Tsinghua University climbs six places to rank third," QS said.

• 3,988 out of 10,746 examinees pass CPA exam (2026-11-03 11:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) on Tuesday announced that 3,988 out of 10,746 (37.11 percent) examinees passed the Certified Public Accountant Licensure Examination (CPALE) held last October.The top examinees are as follows:1. Tyron Jones Timoteo Acuña – Kingfisher School of Business and Finance (92 percent)2. Andrea Rose Lapid Yanson – University of Saint La Salle (91.83 percent)3. Vincent Noel Cuaresma – Far Eastern University-Manila (91.50 percent)4. Carlos Miguel Ngie Legaspi Jr. – De La Salle University-Manila, Cesar Paul Jr. Tumaljuan Quilang – University of Saint Louis-Tuguegarao (91.33 percent)5. Leonardo Navarrete Galang II – Far Eastern University-Manila (91 percent)6. Princess Michaela Dellagas Base – University of Nueva Caceres (90.83 percent)7. Wymvee Claire Manlunas Bugna – Mindanao State University-General Santos City, Razilee Panday De Vera – Kingfisher School of Business and Finance (90.67 percent)8. Roxine Anne Bucana Barrion – University of the Philippines-Visayas-Iloilo City, Hanz-Aron Tañedo Mendoza – University of Caloocan City, Robert Cuyong Toledano Jr. – University of San Jose-Recoletos (90.50 percent)9. Luis Gabriel Seneta Ante – De La Salle University-Manila, Maria Alliza May Cruz – Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Josh Machlian Gallera Espino – University of Mindanao-Davao City, Marion Andrei Dela Cruz Lopez – University of Caloocan City (90.33 percent)10. Lawrence Dave Estrada Macaraeg – Kingfisher School of Business and Finance, Marynvi Datu Timbol – De La Salle University-Manila (90.17 percent)The CPA Licensure Examinations were held on Oct. 23 and 24, 2026 in testing centers in the National Capital Region, Baguio, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Calapan, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Koronadal, Legazpi, Lucena, Pagadian, Palawan, Pampanga, Rosales, Tacloban, Tuguegarao, and Zamboanga.

- No Filipinos in Markle's videos — police (2026-11-03 11:44)

CEBU CITY — No Filipinos appeared in the alleged child sexual abuse materials that the police recovered from digital devices linked to Thomas Markle Sr., the Philippine National Police (PNP) said.Major General Wilson Asueta, assistant director for Investigation and Detective Management of the PNP, disclosed the initial findings during a press conference in Cebu on Tuesday.Asueta said the Regional Anti-Cybercrime Unit Central Visayas (RACU 7) identified several files containing alleged child sexual abuse and exploitation materials during its initial forensic examination."Initially those materials or videos examined, based from RACU-7, they are not from here..., not here in the Philippines," he said.Asueta said some of the recovered videos showed minors engaged in sexual activities, while other files contained explicit materials involving individuals who were not minors."There's a video that a female minor and male doing sexual activities. We can say that they are from foreign countries, Asian, Caucasian, no [one from] Philippines," he said.Authorities have yet to identify the individuals in the recordings or establish whether Markle Sr. owned, possessed or appeared in any of the recovered materials.The initial findings have also not established that the alleged abuse depicted in the videos occurred in the Philippines.Markle Sr.'s son, Thomas Markle Jr., turned over the devices to the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking on Oct. 23, 2026.Investigators examined nine mobile phones, three SD cards, five hard drives and one camera, along with other non-digital items, after securing a warrant to access the devices' contents.The Women and Children

Protection Center, RACU 7 and Police Regional Office Central Visayas (PRO 7) are conducting the investigation. PRO 7 has formed a task force to gather evidence and determine possible violations of Republic Act 11930, or the Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials Act.Asueta said investigators continue to examine the recovered files and verify information through field investigations.Asueta confirmed that Markle Sr. had left the Philippines.The United States Federal Bureau of Investigation and other American authorities are conducting their own investigations in coordination with Philippine law enforcement agencies.Markle Sr. moved from Mexico to Cebu in 2025 and reportedly lived with his son. He stayed in a high-rise apartment in Cebu City from January 2025 until May 2026.

• Pasig opens free EV charging station (2026-11-03 10:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Pasig City has opened a charging station for electric vehicles (EV) in Barangay Manggahan, which is available to the public for free, Mayor Vico Sotto said.In a Facebook post on Monday, Sotto said that the station is open to the public and may be used on a “first come, first served” basis, with priority given to city buses and other local government vehicles.“New electric vehicle charging station in Pasig (Manggahan). For now, it is open to the public and may be used for FREE,” he said in Filipino.“The whole project cost around P4 million, including the bathrooms, pavement, and, of course, the station itself,” the mayor said.

• Staggering evidence vs VP Sara will speak for itself — Ridon (2026-11-03 08:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The evidence presented against Vice President Sara Duterte will stand on its own merit whether or not she testifies in her impeachment trial, a member of the House prosecution team said on Tuesday.“Irrespective of whether the vice president actually presents herself in the proceedings, the staggering weight of the evidence will probably speak for itself,” Bicol Saro Party-list Rep. Terry Ridon said in Filipino in an interview.Ridon was responding to Deputy Speaker Janette Garin's assessment that the prosecution could secure the 16 votes needed for conviction even if Duterte refuses to take the witness stand.“Let us see how this trial will conclude. We do not want to preempt the Senate impeachment court on this matter,” he said.The prosecution's remaining case, Article II, involves alleged unexplained wealth and inaccurate asset declarations.Forensic accounting expert and lawyer Alexander Cabrera earlier identified approximately P817.87 million in alleged unexplained wealth involving Duterte and her husband, lawyer Manases “Mans” Carpio, from 2022 to 2025. A broader computation placed the amount at about P1.5 billion, which the defense has disputed.“Our hope is that the defense will answer each and every allegation, each and every piece of evidence that has been submitted for the consideration of the Senate impeachment court,” Ridon said.“We will see when the Vice President takes the witness stand,” he added.He likewise cited a recent Social Weather Stations survey showing that 78 percent of Filipino adults considered it important for Duterte to testify.“The surveys are clear. I think a majority of the nation would want to see the Vice President there explaining each and every part of her defense, particularly those properties that were not declared in her statements of

assets, liabilities and net worth," the lawmaker said.Meanwhile, Ridon said the prosecution expects a shorter defense presentation following the withdrawal of three impeachment articles on October 13, leaving unexplained wealth as the sole remaining charge. "Our expectation is that they will need less time to present their evidence on this matter," he said, adding that the prosecution expects the defense to submit its witness list by Wednesday or Thursday ahead of the trial's resumption on November 9.

- 15 Metro Manila prosecutors back Zalameda for chief justice (2026-11-03 07:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Supreme Court Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda has secured the unanimous endorsement of 15 Metro Manila chief prosecutors for the country's top judicial post, as Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo prepares to retire on November 6.The NCR Chief Prosecutors Association Inc. declared Zalameda its sole choice to succeed Gesmundo, citing his extensive experience in prosecution and the judiciary, legal expertise, leadership capabilities and record of public service.In Resolution No. 03, Series of 2026, the association said Zalameda possessed the professional qualifications and personal attributes needed to lead the Supreme Court and strengthen public confidence in the justice system.The endorsement was unanimously approved by the association's members and trustees during a meeting in Muntinlupa City on September 2.The resolution was signed by the chief prosecutors of Caloocan, Las Piñas, Makati, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Manila, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Navotas, Parañaque, Pasay, Pasig, Quezon City, Taguig and Valenzuela.The prosecutors described Zalameda's career in public service as evidence of his commitment to justice and his ability to lead the country's highest court.

- No shoot-to-kill order vs Bato — PNP (2026-11-03 06:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Tuesday that no shoot-to-kill order has been issued against Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa.Col. Allen Rae Co, PNP spokesman, issued the statement after Cagayan de Oro Rep. Lordan Suan denied calling for a resolution seeking a shoot-to-kill order against the fugitive senator. "May I remind the public to only share or believe information coming from verified and official sources. Wala pong shoot to kill na inilalabas (No shoot-to-kill order was issued)," Co said.As to claims that police are raiding homes of Dela Rosa's relatives and friends, Co clarified that police operations are being done lawfully.The PNP also said Dela Rosa is still in the Philippines.

- No price hikes until December — Palace (2026-11-03 06:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The prices of basic necessities and prime commodities will remain the same until the end of the year, Malacañang said on Tuesday.These include 190 products that are monitored by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), serving as a guide for stores and consumers regarding the prices of goods, Presidential Communications Office Claire Castro said.Castro said Trade and Industry Secretary Cristina Roque gave the assurance in line with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. that prices of basic necessities and prime commodities included in the DTI's suggested retail price (SRP) should not increase."According to

the DTI report, the prices of DTI-supervised basic necessities and prime commodities will remain unchanged until December 31, 2026," Castro said in a press briefing.The DTI also confirmed that the supply of essential goods nationwide will not be affected, she said."To ensure the public knows which products are covered, the official SRP bulletin will be displayed in supermarkets and groceries across the country," Castro said in Filipino.

• Lacson: Due process does not mean shielding Bato from ICC trial (2026-11-03 05:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Due process for Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa does not mean shielding him from facing trial before the International Criminal Court (ICC), Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson said Tuesday, stressing that the senator should be allowed to answer the charges against him without risking violence during his arrest.Lacson said his call for due process for his embattled colleague was not an appeal to protect him from the ICC’s jurisdiction, but to ensure that authorities carry out his arrest without bloodshed.“To me, due process means allowing Senator dela Rosa to face trial before the ICC rather than risk violence and, worse, tragedy,” Lacson said.He reiterated that due process is a fundamental right that applies to everyone, including dela Rosa, who served under him in the Philippine National Police and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.Dela Rosa is the subject of an arrest warrant issued by the ICC in connection with killings linked to the war on drugs implemented under former President Rodrigo Duterte.The senator has been in hiding since last year. He briefly surfaced at the Senate last May 11 to vote for Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano as Senate president then fled following a shooting incident.

• Ombudsman files graft raps vs 6 DPWH personnel, 7 others (2026-11-03 05:21)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Tuesday filed graft and malversation charges before the Sandiganbayan against six personnel of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and seven private individuals over an alleged P491.9-million road right-of-way scam in General Santos City.The charges involve compensation for 18 parcels of land affected by the construction of the Digos-Makar National Road in Lagao, General Santos City.Former DPWH Region 12 regional director Subair Saro Diron and former assistant regional director Laureano Suan Jr. are among those charged.The Ombudsman said that the DPWH Region XII technical working group approved P491,931,120.20 in payments to claimants who were later found to have submitted falsified documents.The alleged scheme involved the use of a 2009 appraisal value of P3,500 per square meter to determine compensation for properties acquired by the government in the early 1990s, resulting in inflated right-of-way claims.Witness Roberto Catapang Jr., who admitted involvement in the alleged syndicate in a 2017 affidavit, said the group, “in collusion with respondent public officers,” collected government funds by fabricating and submitting fake documents.The Ombudsman said the charges followed National Bureau of Investigation reports submitted in 2018 and 2019. It ordered the dismissal of former DPWH Region 12 legal officer Ansare Mariga Busran in a separate administrative decision.

• Pinoy groups in Netherlands await arrest of Bato (2026-11-03 03:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Filipino groups based in the Netherlands said they are awaiting the arrest of Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, who is the subject of an intensified police manhunt.Joel Vega, convenor of Panagutin Netherlands Network, said the former police chief should be brought before the International Criminal Court (ICC). “The ICC warrant must be enforced, and he must be brought to The Hague to answer for his crimes,” Vega said.Fiona Magallanes of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan Netherlands agreed. “The pursuit of justice cannot stop with Rodrigo Duterte. Bato dela Rosa, one of the principal implementers of the so-called war on drugs, must now be brought to The Hague. Bato once declared that he was willing to join Duterte in prison. He must now make good on those words and face accountability alongside his former boss,” Magallanes said.The groups issued the statements hours after the ICC held its final status conference in the Duterte case on Monday.Duterte was absent in the fifth pre-trial status conference. His trial will start on Nov. 30.

- DOLE launches Hotline 15/30 for distressed workers (2026-11-03 02:52)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has replaced its former 1349 hotline with Hotline 15/30, a 24-hour service for workers seeking assistance with labor-related concerns.Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino announced the new hotline during the agency's flag-raising ceremony on Tuesday.Tolentino said that the service operates nationwide manned by personnel ready to respond to workers' concerns. “By dialing 15/30, there will be someone available nationwide, 24/7, to answer concerns about workers' problems,” Tolentino said.The hotline was named after the 15th and 30th days of the month, when many Filipino workers receive their salaries.DOLE and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) are also working on a referral mechanism to direct concerns received through the hotline to the appropriate agency.TESDA Director General Kiko Benitez said that inquiries received by DOLE through the hotline could be referred to TESDA when these concern the agency's services.

- DPWH to start C-5 rehabilitation in late November (2026-11-03 01:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) will begin rehabilitating a 23-kilometer stretch of C5 Road from Kalayaan Interchange to Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City in the last week of November, Secretary Giovanni Lopez said on Tuesday.Lopez said the project will follow the model of the ongoing EDSA rehabilitation, including wider sidewalks to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists.The project will undergo post-qualification of bids while the notice of award could be issued on Nov. 18, followed by a notice to proceed a week later, the DPWH chief said.He said the rehabilitation will address the deteriorating condition of C5 Road, where sections have developed potholes and uneven surfaces.The funding for the C5 project will come partly from savings generated by the EDSA rehabilitation, whose original budget of about P15 billion to P17 billion was reduced to P6 billion under the supervision of Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon, who previously headed the DPWH.The government aims to complete improvements to both major thoroughfares during the term of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Lopez said.Meanwhile, the DPWH reopened

the northbound and southbound lanes of the C5 flyovers in Pasig ahead of schedule following retrofitting work.Lopez said the northbound lane of the Boni Serrano flyover was reopened at 3 p.m. on Monday, while the Pasig Boulevard flyover's northbound lane reopened at noon and its southbound lane at midnight.The early reopening was intended to ease traffic for motorists returning from the provinces and those heading to work on Tuesday, he.Lopez credited Dizon for helping monitor the projects, including the work of DPWH regional directors and district engineers, to ensure their timely completion.

- Private vehicles allowed to use EDSA busway for two weeks (2026-11-03 01:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Private vehicles will be temporarily allowed to use a portion of the EDSA busway from Nepa Q-Mart to Boni Avenue while the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) completes rehabilitation works, Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon said on Tuesday.Dizon said the temporary measure will help minimize traffic disruptions as the government continues the second phase of the EDSA rehabilitation project.The busway section was reopened to motorists after the DPWH completed reblocking work covering about 990 square meters, Dizon said during an inspection of the area.He said the department will continue asphalt paving to improve the road surface, but private vehicles could use the section in the meantime while barriers remained open.The DOTr chief said the temporary arrangement will remain in place until the rehabilitation work is completed, which could take about two weeks.He said busway officials were instructed to inform bus operators about the temporary arrangement.Once the work is finished, the busway will return to its normal operation.Dizon said the decision was in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to ensure the continuity of government projects and accelerate their implementation while minimizing inconvenience to motorists.The EDSA rehabilitation is part of the government's efforts to improve road conditions along Metro Manila's main thoroughfare while managing the impact of construction on daily commuters and motorists.

- ICC adopts hourly hearing blocks for Duterte trial (2026-11-03 00:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The International Criminal Court (ICC) will hold the trial of former president Rodrigo Duterte in one-hour hearing blocks separated by 30-minute breaks, taking into account his age and medical condition.During the fifth status conference on Nov. 2, Presiding Judge Joanna Korner said the court will follow the experts' recommendations by dividing the daily proceedings into shorter sessions with regular breaks.Under the schedule, hearings will run from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Manila time), followed by a 30-minute break before the second session from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m (6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Manila time).The court will then break for lunch from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m (7:30 p.m to 8:30 p.m. Manila time). Afternoon proceedings will resume from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Manila time), followed by another 30-minute break before the next session from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (10 p.m. to 11 p.m. Manila time).The schedule may be adjusted as the trial progresses.In a ruling made public on Oct. 8, the ICC Trial Chamber III declared Duterte fit to stand trial after considering the findings of a panel of medical experts who assessed his ability

to participate in the proceedings.Duterte's defense had raised concerns about his cognitive abilities, particularly his memory and capacity to follow the proceedings and assist in his defense.The medical assessment considered whether he could understand the charges against him, follow the evidence, comprehend the proceedings and communicate effectively with his lawyers.Duterte, 81, faces three counts of crimes against humanity involving murder and attempted murder allegedly committed in connection with his administration's war on drugs and related operations between November 2011 and March 2019.The trial is scheduled to begin on Nov. 30.

• Gatchalian sees BARMM moving toward lasting peace, economic development (2026-11-02 21:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian on Monday expressed optimism that the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) is moving closer to lasting peace and economic development following the election of Abdulraof Macacua as the region's new chief minister.In a statement, Gatchalian congratulated Macacua on his election, saying he expected the new leadership to prioritize good governance, economic progress and the welfare of residents across the region. "We congratulate our fellow Filipinos in BARMM and Abdulraof Macacua on his election as chief minister. We believe the new leadership will advance good governance and, with the support of stakeholders, promote economic development and the welfare of everyone in the region," he said.The Senate President made the statement after members of the Bangsamoro Parliament convened for their inaugural session, during which Macacua was elected chief minister.Gatchalian said political blocs, civil society organizations and local government units should unite behind the newly elected administration to help ensure political stability and inclusive development. "Everyone has long hoped for lasting peace and prosperity in BARMM and throughout Mindanao. We are confident that we can achieve our dream of building more prosperous communities for our Muslim brothers and sisters and the entire region," he said.

• Heightened security maintained as Undas travelers head home (2026-11-02 21:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) maintained heightened security at major transport terminals and key thoroughfares as millions of Filipinos began their return trips after spending this year's "Undas" holidays with their families.PNP Chief, Police General Jose Melencio C. Nartatez, Jr. ordered police personnel nationwide to prevent criminal activities, maintain peace and order, and ensure the safety of motorists and commuters amid the expected surge in passenger traffic.This is in line with the directive of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos, Jr., through the guidance of DILG Secretary Jonvic Remulla, to ensure peace and order, public safety, and ease traffic flow as millions travel back from the provinces. "As travelers make their way back to their homes, schools, and workplaces, the PNP remains fully mobilized to keep roads secure, maintain public order, and respond swiftly to any incident that may disrupt travel. Our priority is to ensure that every Filipino reaches their destination safely," Nartatez said in a statement on Monday. The top cop has directed all

Police Regional Offices to sustain heightened visibility patrols along major highways, bus terminals, seaports, airports, and transport interchanges, particularly in areas where large volumes of passengers and vehicles are expected.With long journeys and heavy traffic expected during the return rush, Nartatez also reminded motorists to exercise caution and strictly observe road safety regulations. “No destination is worth risking lives for. We urge motorists to follow traffic laws, avoid speeding, never drive under the influence of alcohol, refrain from using mobile phones while driving, and take adequate rest before long trips,” he said.More than 1.16 million people visited Manila’s two major public cemeteries on Nov. 1 to observe All Saints’ Day. Elsewhere in other parts of the country, millions more also visited their departed loved ones with their families.Nartatez called on the public to remain vigilant and responsible as they return to their respective destinations. “As we conclude this meaningful observance, let us carry home not only cherished memories of our loved ones but also a renewed commitment to protect one another through responsible and law-abiding behavior. The PNP stands with every Filipino in ensuring a safe journey back to daily life,” he said.

- DOH includes HIV testing in YAKAP program expansion (2026-11-02 19:03)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) is including HIV testing in the Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP) as part of its measures to expand access to HIV services in the country.The department also cited plans to expand access to HIV services in primary care facilities and social hygiene clinics, promote HIV awareness in schools, workplaces and communities, and strengthen treatment monitoring.The measures also include ensuring adequate supplies of HIV medicines and improving access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), the DOH said.Health Secretary Edwin Mercado said that HIV can be controlled through consistent medication.The DOH also reported that the annual coverage of PhilHealth's Outpatient HIV/AIDS Treatment (OHAT) package was raised to P58,500 from P30,000.These initiatives are part of the Unified National Agenda for Health, the health department said.Mercado presented the measures during the Philippine National Convention on AIDS 2026, the DOH said in a statement issued on Saturday, Oct. 31.

- Oplan Galugad nets 2 most wanted persons in Pasay (2026-11-02 18:56)

The Pasay City Police Station's Oplan Galugad operation netted a top most wanted person on November 1, 2026, at the corner of F.B. Harrison and Valhalla streets in Barangay 70, Pasay City.Operatives identified the suspect as alias "Jude," 48, Filipino, single, a construction worker and a resident of Barangay 181, Pasay City.The arrest was carried out by personnel of the Pasay City Police Station led by PSMS Czairon Paul M. Joson, officer-in-charge of the Warrant and Subpoena Section (WSS), along with eight other personnel, under the leadership of Police Col. Robert Baesa, officer-in-charge of the Pasay City Police Station.The operation stemmed from a warrant of arrest for violation of Section 5(a) of Republic Act 9262, or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004, under Criminal Case No. R-PSY-24-00406-CR.The warrant was issued on October 19, 2026, by Judge Jehan Batua Sampao-Hassiman, presiding judge of the Family Court, Branch 11, Pasay City, for service of sentence.In compliance with

Supreme Court Resolution A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC, or the Rules on the Use of Body-WornCameras in the Execution of Warrants, the arresting officers used an alternative recordingdevice because body-worn cameras were unavailable.The accused is currently detained at thePasay City Police Station's custodial facility. The warrant of arrest will be returned to the issuingcourt for proper disposition.In a separate operation, police arrested another most wantedperson, ranked ninth on the list, during a manhunt operation at around 9 p.m. at the corner ofCommandante Garcia and Park Avenue streets in Barangay 88, Pasay City.The arrestedindividual was identified as alias "Burnok," 33, Filipino, single, unemployed and a resident ofBarangay 88, Pasay City.The arrest was carried out by Pasay City Police Station personnel led byPSMS Czairon Paul M. Joson, officer-in-charge of the WSS, along with eight other personnel,under the leadership of Police Col. Robert Baesa.The suspect was arrested under OplanGalugad by virtue of a warrant of arrest for violation of Section 11, Article II of Republic Act9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, under Criminal Case No.R-PSY-21-02449-CR.The warrant was issued on October 15, 2026, by Judge Gidget Rose VertidoDuque, presiding judge of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 119, Pasay City. Bail was set atP200,000.The arrested individual was informed of the reason for his arrest and apprised of hisconstitutional rights in a language he understood. He, however, opted to remain silent.Theaccused is currently detained at the Pasay City Police Station's custodial facility, while thewarrant of arrest will be returned to the issuing court for proper disposition.

- Marcos recalls scary childhood experiences at Baguio Mansion (2026-11-02 18:04)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. recalled his spooky childhood memories of visiting the Baguio Mansion House.In a statement during All Souls’ Day on Monday, Marcos said the haunting experiences were not limited to visitors but also to those who lived and worked inside the mansion. “When we were young, we used to go there during Holy Week. Perhaps—I don’t know, maybe it was just our imagination—but it really felt like we were sensing something,” Marcos said in Filipino. “Those who lived there—especially the caretakers—would say themselves that they truly sensed things, heard things, and experienced events that they couldn’t quite explain,” he added

- PHIVOLCS warns of possible Mayon Alert Level 4 escalation (2026-11-02 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Following Mayon Volcano’s recorded explosive eruption, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) warned of a possible upgrade to Alert Level 4 after continued signs of heightened volcanic activity.In an interview with state-run media PTV’s “Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon” program on Monday, PHIVOLCS Director Dr. Teresito Bacolcol said that while the volcano remains under Alert Level 3, volcanic activity has persisted, including a minor strombolian activity observed at dawn lasting 41 seconds with a plume reaching 300 meters above the crater. “We also monitor what we call RSAM—or Real-Time Seismic Amplitude Measurement—which measures the average strength of recorded seismic signals over a set interval,” he said in both English and Filipino. “These are the indicators we look at to determine if the situation might escalate—potentially requiring us to raise the alert

level to 4. However, based on what we are seeing right now, it remains at alert level 3," he added.On October 30, Mayon Volcano had a moderate eruption which prompted the agency to raise the status to Alert Level 3.

- MNLF denies giving refuge to dela Rosa (2026-11-02 16:16)

THE Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has denied harboring Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, saying the claim it was providing refuge to the fugitive lawmaker was "speculation, not a confirmed fact."The MNLF's denial came as the Philippine National Police (PNP) intensified its manhunt for dela Rosa following the lapse of a one-week deadline for his surrender and the government's offer of a P50-million reward for information leading to his arrest.In a statement dated Oct. 30, the MNLF said it has no formal relationship with dela Rosa."The claim that the MNLF may be protecting him is speculation, not a confirmed fact," the group said.The group acknowledged that dela Rosa had personal and political connections to figures associated with the organization, particularly through former president Rodrigo Duterte's relationship with MNLF founder Nur Misuari.But it stressed that such connections did not establish that the senator was an MNLF member, an operational ally or someone currently under its protection.The group also pointed to divisions within the MNLF, saying it remained uncertain whether Misuari's faction would be willing or able to prevent dela Rosa's arrest.The senator has been out of public view since leaving the Senate on May 14, when authorities tried to serve him an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court (ICC) over alleged crimes against humanity linked to the Duterte administration's war on drugs.Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla said on Oct. 20 dela Rosa was in Mindanao under the protection of a powerful armed group.Remulla warned that a forcible arrest could trigger a bloody confrontation and that as many as 10,000 people could die.Remulla did not identify the group or disclose the specific location where dela Rosa was allegedly hiding.He said he preferred to negotiate the senator's arrest to prevent a potentially deadly confrontation.LtGen. Wilson Lopez, PNP deputy chief for administration and head of the task force leading the manhunt for dela Rosa, said Remulla's claim was being validated.Remulla announced the P50-million reward for information on dela Rosa's arrest, declaring him "armed and dangerous."He said the reward was intended to boost efforts to locate the senator.The PNP has organized task groups in all 18 police regions and deployed tracker teams to go after dela Rosa.The National Bureau of Investigation said it was coordinating with the PNP and the Department of the Interior and Local Government in efforts to track down the senator.The MNLF said dela Rosa's public references to the organization had largely concerned the conflict in Marawi and peace-building initiatives.As a student in Marawi, dela Rosa had experienced fighting between government forces and the MNLF, it said.He had also supported programs benefiting former combatants and their children.The MNLF cited his advocacy for the faster integration of qualified MNLF and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) members into the police and the military.It said these activities reflected policy-level engagement rather than evidence of personal or organizational ties.The MNLF acknowledged reports that Misuari and dela Rosa knew each other personally, but they did not prove that the organization was harboring the

senator.

- Senate majority united in purging budget (2026-11-02 16:15)

THE Senate majority bloc is united in stripping the proposed P7.2 trillion 2027 national budget of questionable and corruption-prone allocations, including projects inserted by lawmakers without proper vetting, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said.In a social media post, Lacson said the majority was all for weeding out unwarranted allocations and ensuring transparency at every stage of the budget-making process. “The majority of senators are rallying behind Senate Finance Committee Chairman JV Ejercito’s efforts to cleanse the 2027 budget of unwarranted, whimsical, and corruption-prone items,” Lacson said.Over the weekend, Ejercito secured a commitment from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to strike out infrastructure projects without complete supporting documents from the House-approved budget bill before plenary debates, unless the agency submits the required papers by Nov. 3.Budget advocacy groups had flagged the lack of supporting documents in the House version of the proposed spending measure.A Senate review found that the number of DPWH projects had increased from 11,420 in the National Expenditure Program, the executive branch’s original spending proposal, to 16,244 in the House-transmitted General Appropriations Bill.Of these, 6,271 projects were introduced by lawmakers without prior vetting by the executive branch, raising questions about how the additional infrastructure allocations were selected, evaluated and justified.Ejercito also said civil society organizations would be invited to observe the bicameral conference committee’s budget deliberations, where the Senate and House of Representatives reconcile their versions of the spending measure.The proceedings would also be livestreamed to allow the public to monitor discussions and proposed changes.The transparency measures are part of efforts to prevent the return of questionable budget practices, particularly the insertion of projects and allocations outside the regular planning and evaluation process.Lacson said the Senate majority had agreed to uphold transparency in the budget process by adopting reforms introduced by former Senate finance committee chairman and now Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian.The Senate has also been pushing for tighter controls on unprogrammed appropriations — standby funds that may be released only when specific legal conditions are met.The Supreme Court has previously struck down certain provisions governing such appropriations.Lacson said senators were taking a “gung-ho” or united approach to scrutinizing questionable allocations in the House version, and that no one would be spared, including lawmakers considered close to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.Asked in an interview on One News whether the Senate’s scrutiny would extend to the congressional district of presidential son and Ilocos Norte Rep. Sandro Marcos, who recorded the largest net increase in public works allocations in the House-approved budget, Lacson replied: “Yes, absolutely.” He said he was not aware of any member of the majority bloc attempting to insert favored projects into the proposed budget.The Senate will resume plenary sessions on Nov. 9, when debates on the proposed 2027 budget are expected to begin.It hopes to approve the spending bill in time for President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to sign the measure by the second week of December.Ejercito said the Senate aims to submit its committee report on the proposed

budget on Nov. 9, with plenary debates scheduled from Nov. 23 to Dec. 1.He said the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, budget deliberations and other official commitments had made the legislative calendar particularly challenging.Ejercito said he had discussed the budget timeline with his counterparts in the House to find common ground before the bicameral conference committee deliberations.Among his priorities are restoring funding for foreign-assisted infrastructure projects and the Health Facilities Enhancement Program, which he said had suffered substantial cuts.Delays in foreign-assisted projects could slow down infrastructure development and job creation, Ejercito said.He also wants to improve provincial and locally operated hospitals, many of which he said were overcrowded and needed additional support and facilities. “My advocacy is infrastructure development. We do not want foreign-assisted projects or other nation-building initiatives to be delayed. We are already lagging behind our neighboring countries,” he said.Ejercito stressed the need for a comprehensive master plan to guide infrastructure spending and ensure that public funds support projects with long-term national benefits.He said district-level projects should complement national priorities, particularly major infrastructure initiatives involving flood control and road development.On Monday, Navotas Rep. Toby Tiangco backed Ejercito’s call for complete documentation and justification of 6,271 infrastructure projects added by the House to the proposed 2027 budget. “I fully support Senator JV Ejercito. Every peso included in the national budget must have a clear justification, complete documentation, and someone who can be held accountable. Projects cannot simply be inserted without sufficient explanation,” Tiangco said in Filipino in a statement.Tiangco, who voted against the House-approved 2027 budget over transparency and accountability concerns, said Congress must be able to justify every allocation it approves. “If we cannot explain why a project is needed, why it is a priority, and how it will be implemented, why should we fund it?” he said.Tiangco has made public the proposed infrastructure projects and corresponding allocations for his city, urging other lawmakers to adopt the same disclosure standard.He warned that questionable allocations could come at the expense of essential public services, stressing the need for stricter scrutiny of taxpayers’ money. “Transparency is how we prevent corruption. Accountability is how we make sure it doesn’t happen again. If we are serious about cleaning up the national budget, every project must be explainable and every peso must be accounted for,” Tiangco said.

- Pangilinan calls for price freeze, crackdown on hoardersPangilinan calls for price freeze, crackdown on hoarders (2026-11-02 16:14)

TO prepare for a severe El Niño, Sen. Francis Pangilinan on Monday urged the government to automatically freeze prices in areas placed under a state of calamity and intensify its crackdown on hoarders, profiteers and cartels.In a statement, Pangilinan called on the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Health and Price Coordinating Council to step up market monitoring, enforce price controls, and recommend price ceilings to protect consumers from unreasonable increases. “We must not allow anyone to profit from an impending calamity at the expense of Filipinos who are already struggling, particularly farmers and fisherfolk who also have to buy food in the markets. During a crisis,

consumers must be protected from exploitation," he said.He cited Section 6 of Republic Act 7581, or the Price Act, as amended by Republic Act 10623, which sets an automatic price freeze on basic necessities in areas declared under a state of calamity.Under the law, prices are generally frozen at their prevailing levels for the duration of the condition that triggered the declaration, but for no more than 60 days.For wholly imported and deregulated basic necessities, such as household liquefied petroleum gas and kerosene, the price freeze is limited to 15 days, taking into account existing inventory and supply levels.Pangilinan, chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform, said government agencies and law enforcement authorities must also go after individuals and companies involved in hoarding, profiteering and cartel activities during periods of drought and water shortages.Section 5 of the Price Act prohibits hoarding, profiteering and cartels involving basic necessities and prime commodities.Pangilinan said the crackdown "must not end with frontline sellers. We must target those at the very top." "If we go after only small retailers, our efforts will be meaningless. We must hold big business operators, owners and the masterminds behind syndicates involved in hoarding and price manipulation accountable," he said.Under the Price Act, illegal price manipulation is punishable by imprisonment of five to 15 years and a fine ranging from P5,000 to P2 million.Violations of automatic price freezes or mandated price ceilings are punishable by imprisonment of one to 10 years, a fine of P5,000 to P1 million, or both.Pangilinan also warned that public officials who conspire in or knowingly conceal violations of the law could be held accountable.He said consumer protection must go hand in hand with safeguarding food production and the livelihoods of farmers and fisherfolk, who are particularly vulnerable to prolonged droughts and water shortages. "We know that a severe El Niño is approaching, so there is no reason for us not to prepare for its effects. It is time to be proactive rather than reactive. Our people will once again suffer if we fail to take the right, effective and immediate action," Pangilinan said.He urged the DA, National Irrigation Administration, concerned water agencies and utilities, and LGUs to repair and maintain irrigation facilities, communal water systems, pumps and distribution lines, while publishing irrigation schedules and water-supply advisories.Pangilinan said the Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Act (RA 12287) sets contingency plans to mitigate damage to agricultural products and the food supply in areas declared under a state of imminent disaster.The Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (RA 10121), meanwhile, provides for the programming or reprogramming of funds for the repair and safety upgrading of public infrastructure and facilities following a declaration of a state of calamity.

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- ICC expects Duterte to attend trial daily (2026-11-02 16:13)

THE International Criminal Court (ICC) on Monday said it expects former president Rodrigo Duterte to attend his trial for crimes against humanity daily when it opens on Nov. 30.Presiding Judge Joanna Korner said the chamber had allowed Duterte to skip Monday's status conference in his case. "Once the actual trial starts, we will expect, as we said, attendance on a

daily basis," Korner told the parties during the open session.The chamber also agreed to allow Duterte's defense team to outline its position at the start of the trial, even if it does not deliver a formal opening statement.Korner said Duterte's counsel, Peter Haynes, could explain the defense's position to the public before the prosecution and the Common Legal Representatives of Victims deliver their opening statements.The arrangement would not prevent the defense from making an opening statement at the beginning of its case, although the chamber may shorten the time allotted for it.Haynes said he was inclined to make an opening statement at the start of the trial, citing Duterte's status and the nature of the case.He said the defense would finalize its position within the next few days.The prosecution said it was working to reduce its opening statement from six hours to about three hours.The victims' representatives also plan to deliver an opening statement after the prosecution. Their counsel, Paolina Massidda, said the team was working on shortening its presentation.During the same hearing, the chamber rejected a request by the victims' representatives to use Tagalog for limited portions of their opening statement.Massidda told the judges that the team wanted to quote portions of victims' accounts in Tagalog to help Filipino victims following the proceedings connect with the experiences being presented to the court.She said the use of Tagalog would be limited to about 15 to 20 minutes of the overall presentation, with individual passages lasting only a minute or two.Korner said the Rome Statute identifies English and French as the ICC's working languages and that exceptional grounds would be needed to permit the use of another language.She noted that not all victims speak Tagalog, with some using other Philippine dialects.The judge said the court would ensure interpretation of the proceedings and consider whether Tagalog translations or transcripts could be made available on the ICC website.The chamber affirmed that the opening statements must be delivered in English, citing the court's language requirements and concerns that allowing exceptions could lead to additional requests, greater complexity and higher costs.Duterte faces three counts of crimes against humanity involving murder and attempted murder in connection with killings allegedly committed during his term as Davao City mayor and president.The charges cover alleged killings in Davao City between 2013 and June 2016, killings of so-called high-value targets nationwide from July 2016 to July 2017, and killings during barangay "clearing" operations from July 2016 to September 2018.Duterte was turned over to the ICC in March 2025 and is being held at the court's detention center in The Hague, the Netherlands.He has denied the allegations.

- Senate urged to probe slay of 'green warriors' (2026-11-02 16:12)

SEN. Jinggoy Estrada wants the Senate to investigate the killings of environmental defenders in the Philippines, which Global Witness has again ranked as Asia's deadliest country for people protecting land, natural resources and communities.In Senate Resolution 697, Estrada urged the appropriate Senate committees to examine the findings of the Global Witness 2026 report and determine what legislative measures are needed to protect environmental defenders and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable. "We must not turn a blind eye, especially as these killings continue. Ordinary people are simply defending their land, livelihoods and the

environment, yet they end up losing their lives. This should never happen,” Estrada said.The report identified the Philippines as the deadliest country in Asia for environmental defenders for the 13th consecutive year. It documented at least 124 land and environmental defenders killed worldwide in 2025.The Philippines recorded 12 killings, the highest number outside Latin America, tying with Honduras for the third-highest total globally, behind Colombia with 39 and Brazil with 26.Of the 12 victims in the Philippines, six were Indigenous people, three were small-scale farmers and one was a journalist.Environmental defenders include individuals and communities who peacefully protect land rights, natural resources and the environment. They include Indigenous leaders, farmers, journalists and community advocates who speak out against activities they believe threaten their land, livelihoods or surroundings.Global Witness noted that land disputes were linked to more than half of the killings recorded worldwide in 2025. Mining, logging and agribusiness interests were also identified as contributing factors in attacks against defenders.The report flagged five killings in the Philippines in which members of the military were suspected of involvement. One of the cases cited was that of 65-year-old farmer Veronico Anterio, who was allegedly shot dead by soldiers after speaking out against restrictions on residents’ working hours and movement.Global Witness also raised concerns over the use of criminalization and “red-tagging” — the practice of labeling individuals or groups as communist insurgents or terrorists — which exposes environmental advocates to threats, harassment and other forms of reprisal.The Commission on Human Rights has warned about the continuing threat posed by red-tagging. Following a nationwide inquiry in 2025, the commission called for stronger government action to protect human rights defenders, citing the practice of publicly labeling individuals and organizations as communists, terrorists or enemies of the state, often without due process.From 2012 to 2024, Global Witness recorded a total of 306 killings and disappearances in the Philippines.The organization cautioned that its figures may underestimate the actual scale of violence because attacks can go undocumented or remain difficult to verify, particularly in areas where conflict, restrictions on civic space and limited independent monitoring hamper investigations.Estrada said the figures tarnished the country’s international reputation, particularly given its commitments under international human rights agreements, and pointed to shortcomings in protecting Filipinos from violence.He said the proposed Senate inquiry would allow lawmakers to scrutinize the report’s findings, assess whether existing safeguards are adequate and identify gaps in the law that leave environmental defenders vulnerable to violence and intimidation. “More than a decade has passed, yet the killings continue. Those responsible must be held accountable, and justice must be served for the victims and their families,” Estrada said.

- Puno backs Marquez’s bid for chief justice post (2026-11-02 16:11)

THE next chief justice must be able to work beyond the Supreme Court and coordinate with other branches of government to speed up the delivery of justice, retired Chief Justice Reynato Puno said in endorsing Associate Justice Jose Midas Marquez for the top post in the judiciary.In a letter to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. dated Oct. 14, Puno said Marquez’s extensive administrative background, familiarity with the Supreme Court’s internal operations and

experience coordinating with other branches of government make him a strong candidate to lead the judiciary.Puno stressed that the country's mounting challenges require a coordinated, whole-of-government approach, including in the delivery of justice." Our problems today need the whole nation approach, and we need officials like Justice Marquez who can work out the speedy delivery of justice to our people in seamless coordination with the Executive and Legislative branches of our government," Puno said. Puno, who served as chief justice from December 2006 to 2010, said he had personally witnessed Marquez's work ethic and professional competence during his 17 years at the Supreme Court.When Puno assumed the chief justice post in December 2006, Marquez served as his chief of staff while concurrently holding key positions as assistant court administrator, head of the Public Information Office and Supreme Court spokesman.Puno said Marquez performed these responsibilities with consistent excellence. Marquez has served the Supreme Court for 30 years, including about 12 years as court administrator before becoming an associate justice five years ago.His extensive administrative experience has given him an intimate understanding of the Judiciary's operations, particularly the internal processes and management demands involved in running the country's highest court, Puno said." More than any aspirant, Justice Marquez is most familiar with how the Supreme Court works, especially its internal processes," he added.Beyond his experience within the Judiciary, Puno highlighted Marquez's exposure to inter-branch relations through assignments that required him to coordinate with officials of the Executive and Legislative departments.He described Marquez as possessing "cerebral competence, compassionate heart and unquestionable dedication to public service." Puno also expressed confidence that Marquez enjoys the trust and respect of the Judiciary's various components, including Supreme Court justices, judges and court personnel." Given all his qualifications vis-à-vis the other aspirants, I am certain that Justice Marquez can lead the Judiciary to higher heights of achievements, for he is beloved by all its components, the Justices, the Judges and the Court Personnel," Puno said.He told Marcos that endorsing Marquez was not simply a privilege but a responsibility in the interest of the Filipino people." Mr. President, I do not only consider it a privilege but a duty to endorse Justice Midas P. Marquez as the next Chief Justice, as it is the demand of the greatest interest of our people," he said.Marquez is among the possible successors to Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo, whose retirement will pave the way for the selection of the Supreme Court's next leader through the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) nomination process.

- Gasoline prices up (2026-11-02 16:10)

OIL companies raised the prices of gasoline on Tuesday but lowered the cost of diesel and kerosene.Shell, Seaoil, PetroGazz, and Jetti Petroleum hiked gasoline prices by P3.50 per liter, and lowered diesel prices by P1 per liter. Shell and Seaoil reduced kerosene prices by P1.90 per liter. Last week, gasoline prices went down by P0.30 per liter, while diesel and kerosene prices went up by P1.20 per liter and P0.50 per liter.

- BRP Sierra Madre: Eight decades of service (2026-11-02 16:09)

THE Philippine Navy's BRP Sierra Madre, an aging warship that has served as a military outpost at Ayungin Shoal for more than 27 years, carries a legacy of service spanning generations of Filipino servicemen who have stood watch in the West Philippine Sea, often far from their families.As the country observed All Souls' Day, the vessel's 82-year history offers an occasion to remember those who served aboard it and have since passed away, honor those who continue to defend the country's maritime interests, and recognize the families who have supported them through years of separation and uncertainty.Originally commissioned as USS LST-821 on Oct. 27, 1944, the landing ship tank was built during World War II, when vessels of its class transported troops, vehicles and supplies for amphibious operations.The ship was transferred to the Philippines in 1976 and became part of the country's naval fleet as BRP Sierra Madre.More than two decades later, on May 9, 1999, it was deliberately grounded at Ayungin Shoal, also known internationally as Second Thomas Shoal, to establish a Philippine military outpost in the disputed waters.Since then, the vessel has assumed a role far removed from its original purpose. Once designed to transport military personnel and equipment, it became a fixed outpost for Filipino troops maintaining the country's presence in the West Philippine Sea.RefurbishmentAfter decades of exposure to the elements, the rusting vessel requires continued maintenance to sustain the Philippine outpost and improve conditions for the personnel stationed aboard it.The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has been pursuing measures to maintain the ship and improve its habitability, including better facilities for troops living aboard the vessel.AFP spokesman for the West Philippine Sea Rear Adm. Roy Vincent Trinidad said that funds had long been allocated for the ship's upkeep and improvements to living conditions. He maintained that despite its weathered appearance, the commissioned warship remained structurally sound and would continue serving its purpose at Ayungin Shoal.The refurbishment effort follows earlier initiatives to repair the vessel and provide more decent sleeping and dining facilities for personnel assigned to the remote outpost.In 2023, then-AFP chief Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. said the military was undertaking superficial repairs to improve the troops' living conditions, including their sleeping quarters, dining facilities and internet access.Keeping the vessel serviceable and habitable helps sustain the Philippine military presence at Ayungin Shoal, where the country faces persistent challenges from China's maritime activities.China has objected to the repair and construction activities involving the ship. However, the Department of Foreign Affairs said the provisional understanding between Manila and Beijing governing rotation and resupply missions contained no provision prohibiting repairs or construction aboard the BRP Sierra Madre.The Philippines maintains that it has the right to maintain its commissioned naval vessel and sustain its personnel at the shoal.Beyond its strategic importance, the vessel's history is defined by the generations of military personnel who have lived and worked aboard it.For troops assigned to Ayungin Shoal, service means enduring isolation, difficult living conditions and the uncertainty of operating in waters where encounters with Chinese coast guard and maritime militia vessels can escalate into dangerous confrontations.The regular rotation and resupply missions that sustain the outpost have repeatedly faced challenges from Chinese vessels seeking to block or disrupt Philippine operations.These confrontations have drawn international attention to the shoal, but the daily realities of deployment extend beyond the geopolitical dispute.For servicemen stationed aboard

the aging ship, their responsibilities include maintaining the outpost and carrying out their duties despite the hardships of living in a remote location far from their families.Their loved ones, meanwhile, must contend with prolonged separation and the anxiety that comes with having family members assigned to a contested maritime area.The vessel's legacy is therefore measured not only by its decades of service or its role in the Philippines' territorial position, but also by the sacrifices of the servicemen who have served aboard it and the families who have supported them.Sustaining PH presenceMore than 80 years after its launch, the BRP Sierra Madre connects the country's wartime naval history with its present-day maritime challenges.Its continued presence at Ayungin Shoal demonstrates Manila's determination to maintain its position in the West Philippine Sea. The shoal lies within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, although China also claims the area.The 2016 arbitral ruling in the Philippines' case against China invalidated the legal basis for China's expansive claim to historic rights within the so-called nine-dash line. Beijing has rejected the ruling.The vessel remains a focal point of Philippine-China tensions, with Filipino personnel relying on regular resupply missions for food, water, fuel and other necessities.Maintaining the aging ship and improving conditions for its occupants are part of the broader effort to sustain that presence.But its story is also one of continuity: a vessel launched during World War II that has outlived its original purpose and became a symbol of national resolve, supported by generations of servicemen whose duties have taken them far from home.The ship's history recalls not only the passage of time but also the people who have given meaning to its service — the personnel who have stood watch, those who have passed on and the families who continue to wait for their loved ones to return safely home.

- Lazaro ends Myanmar trip with no Suu Kyi meeting (2026-11-02 16:08)

YANGON, Myanmar — Asean’s special Myanmar envoy, Foreign Secretary Theresa Lazaro, wrapped up a two-day visit to the nation Thursday, with no sign of meeting detained democratic ex-leader Aung San Suu Kyi.The Philippines, which holds the rotating chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), has repeatedly called this year for access to Suu Kyi, detained since being unseated in a 2021 military coup.The status of the 81-year-old has long been a sticking point for the 11-nation Asean bloc, which has frozen Myanmar’s leaders out of its summits since the putsch.Lazaro and Foreign Minister Tin Maung Swe “held substantive discussions on ways to restore Myanmar’s original role and rights within Asean,” according to a statement from Myanmar’s foreign ministry.It did not mention any meeting with the Nobel Peace Prize laureate Suu Kyi, who authorities say is under house arrest in the capital Naypyidaw.The foreign ministry earlier said Lazaro had spent Wednesday in the eastern state of Shan, overseeing humanitarian schemes aiding those displaced in the civil war triggered by the coup.This year, analysts say authorities have allowed Suu Kyi increasing — albeit still extremely limited — contact with the outside world in a bid to shake off their pariah status abroad.Last week, there were two rare updates on Suu Kyi.On Monday, authorities in Myanmar said she received a package from Britain’s King Charles, including two books about soil and a “sealed diplomatic communication” from the monarch.Her UK-based son Kim Aris was then allowed a

20-minute consular phone call with her last Thursday, their first spoken communication in more than half a decade.He told Agence France-Presse (AFP) his mother sounded “fairly healthy” but he feared she was being used as a pawn to improve the public image of those detaining her.The Philippines requested “brief access” for Lazaro to meet Suu Kyi in April, after authorities said she was moved from prison to house arrest.In August, when she met Myanmar’s senior Red Cross official, they made a renewed call for access.

- PH joins Asian countries, US in fight vs online scams (2026-11-02 16:07)

THE Philippines has joined eight other Asia-Pacific countries and the United States in strengthening cross-border law enforcement cooperation against online scams, fraudulent recruitment, and other transnational crimes.Rendel Ryan Sy, acting chief of the Bureau of Immigration’s (BI) Fugitive Search Unit, represented the country in the US Department of State’s three-week International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) held from Oct. 3 to 24, 2026. The program, titled "Law Enforcement Solutions to Combat Online Scams and Transnational Crime," brought together regional leaders to address the growing intersection of digital fraud and organized crime.The program gathered officials from the Philippines, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand.Through this exchange, the BI aims to improve intelligence-sharing mechanisms, enhance its ability to track fugitives, and better protect potential victims from exploitative situations often linked to international criminal network.The three-week exchange covered Washington, D.C.; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Seattle, Washington, where delegates engaged with US government agencies, courts, financial institutions, technology organizations and community groups.Discussions focused on the growing threat of online fraud, including scams targeting ordinary citizens and fraudulent overseas job offers used to lure unsuspecting workers into potentially exploitative situations.Participants also explored ways to improve intelligence-sharing and coordination among law enforcement agencies, financial institutions and telecommunications companies to detect scams, gather digital evidence and disrupt criminal networks operating across borders.US officials shared strategies on fraud prevention, victim assistance and public-private partnerships, while community organizations discussed ways to protect vulnerable groups, particularly senior citizens, from online criminals.The exchange highlighted the increasingly blurred lines between online scams, human trafficking and other forms of organized crime, underscoring the need for countries to work together in tracking suspects, protecting victims and prosecuting offenders. “Behind every scam are real victims and families,” Sy said, stressing that stronger partnerships with regional neighbors, US counterparts and communities are essential in confronting increasingly sophisticated criminal networks.BI Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado said Sy's participation would help strengthen the agency's ability to track fugitives, exchange intelligence and prevent foreign criminal groups from using Philippine territory as a base for illegal activities. “Transnational crime demands a coordinated response that goes beyond borders,” Viado said.He added that sharing intelligence and law enforcement expertise with international partners would improve the country's ability to dismantle criminal networks and protect Filipinos.

• Gatchalian wants pet crematoriums probed (2026-11-02 16:05)

SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian has called for a nationwide inspection of pet crematoriums and other animal aftercare businesses after 29 dead pets were found dumped along a roadside in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.Gatchalian said pet owners who paid for what they expected to be a dignified final farewell for their beloved companions were instead left with the distressing discovery that the animals had been discarded like garbage. “Grieving pet owners paid for a decent final farewell for their beloved companion animals, only for them to be dumped like garbage on a roadside,” he said in a statement. “This is a clear case of fraud, and those responsible for such an offense must be held accountable,” he added.The remains of the dogs and cats were discovered in a vacant lot in Barangay Minuyan Proper. The animals were found inside plastic bags placed in several large sacks, with labels bearing their names and weights.Linked to the incident was Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium in Bacoor City, Cavite, after pet owners raised complaints over the fate of their deceased animals entrusted to the establishment for cremation.Bacoor Mayor Strike Revilla ordered the crematorium closed after its owner failed to present sufficient documentation and CCTV footage proving that the cremations had actually been carried out. The owner reportedly said some animals had been brought to another facility in Caloocan City for cremation but could not provide adequate proof of the procedures.More than 30 pet owners sought answers from the establishment, with some considering legal action and seeking compensation for the alleged failure to deliver the services they had paid for.The Philippine Animal Welfare Society also urged affected pet owners to pursue legal action, saying the alleged misrepresentation of cremation services could constitute estafa under Article 315(2)(a) of the Revised Penal Code.Against this backdrop, Gatchalian urged local government units (LGUs) nationwide and concerned government agencies, particularly the Bureau of Animal Industry, to inspect and audit all operating pet service providers, including crematoriums.He said authorities must verify whether these establishments are properly licensed, comply with environmental and sanitation regulations, and observe clear standards of integrity in handling deceased animals.Gatchalian said he could relate to the grief of pet owners who consider their animals members of the family. “As a pet parent myself, it is heartbreaking and alarming to hear about our beloved pets being treated this way when we consider them members of our family,” he said.

• Go bats for stronger fire prevention (2026-11-02 16:04)

SEN. Christopher “Bong” Go has called for stronger fire prevention measures, including more firefighting equipment, additional personnel and regular public safety campaigns, warning that a blaze in one house can put an entire neighborhood at risk.During his recent visit to fire-affected families in Barangay 75-A Matina Aplaya, Davao City, Go said the government must strengthen the capabilities of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and intensify community education to prevent fires and minimize their impact on neighboring households. “People must really be taught to take precautions because whenever one house catches fire, the neighbors are affected, too,” Go said. “We cannot always predict what life will bring. We may encounter misfortune and suffer a house fire. That is why, as one of the authors of the Bureau of Fire

Protection Modernization Act in the Senate, we are pushing for additional firefighting equipment, more personnel, and monthly public education campaigns," he said.Go's visit came three days after a fire struck the community on Oct. 25. Together with his Malasakit Team, he provided 42 families with financial assistance, water containers, grocery packs, snacks, vitamins, shirts, and basketballs and volleyballs.The senator has pushed for legislative measures aimed at strengthening fire prevention, emergency preparedness and disaster response, particularly by improving the capabilities of frontline responders and providing communities with better protection during emergencies.Among them is RA 11589, or the Bureau of Fire Protection Modernization Act, which he principally authored and co-sponsored.Go also cited RA 12076, or the Ligtas Pinoy Centers Act, signed into law on Dec. 6, 2024. As principal author and co-sponsor, he helped advance the measure requiring the establishment of permanent, safe and well-equipped evacuation centers in every city and municipality.

- Police maintain tight security measures (2026-11-02 16:03)

THE Philippine National Police (PNP) maintained heightened security at major transport terminals and key thoroughfares as millions of Filipinos return home from a long holiday weekend. "As travelers make their way back to their homes, schools, and workplaces, the PNP remains fully mobilized to keep roads secure, maintain public order, and respond swiftly to any incident that may disrupt travel. Our priority is to ensure that every Filipino reaches their destination safely," said PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. in a statement on Monday.Nartatez directed all police regional offices to sustain visibility patrols along major highways, bus terminals, seaports, airports, and transport interchanges, particularly in areas where large volumes of passengers and vehicles are expected.He also reminded motorists to exercise caution and strictly observe road safety rules. "No destination is worth risking lives for. We urge motorists to follow traffic laws, avoid speeding, never drive under the influence of alcohol, refrain from using mobile phones while driving, and take adequate rest before long trips," he said.Millions flocked to cemeteries across the country during the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. In Manila alone, more than 1.16 million people visited the city's two major cemeteries.The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) reported confiscating 4,922 prohibited items from cemetery visitors during All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day in Metro Manila.LtCol. Hazel Asilo, NCRPO spokesman, said Monday there were no reported disturbances in cemeteries, bus terminals and other places of convergence in the capital region.The confiscated items included cigarette lighters, cigarettes and electronic cigarettes or vapes, Asilo said.Despite annual reminders about cemetery regulations, some visitors continued to bring prohibited items, either because they were unaware of the restrictions or ignored the rules, she said.

- American with P17.46M marijuana stash nabbed (2026-11-02 16:02)

AN American passenger was arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) after authorities seized P17.46 million worth of suspected marijuana kush concealed in his luggage, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) said.The seizure at NAIA Terminal 3 over the weekend brought to

nearly P24.8 million the value of marijuana kush intercepted at the airport within four days.The bureau, in coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the NAIA Inter-Agency Drug Interdiction Task Group, recovered 17,464 grams of marijuana kush from the American, who arrived from Bangkok, Thailand.Customs personnel flagged the passenger's two checked-in suitcases after X-ray screening showed suspicious images. A subsequent K9 inspection also indicated the possible presence of illegal drugs, prompting a thorough physical examination.Inspectors discovered the illegal substance in 15 vacuum-sealed packets concealed in food packages.Five packages weighing 5,122 grams, with an estimated street value of P5.12 million, were recovered from the first suitcase. The second contained 10 packages weighing 12,342 grams and valued at P12.34 million.The American's arrest came three days after the interception of 7,335 grams of suspected marijuana kush worth P7.33 million from abandoned luggage at NAIA Terminal 3 on Oct. 26.The bags also originated from Bangkok, and were concealed in aluminum food pouches and sealed plastic bags.The seized contraband was turned over to the PDEA for proper disposition and the filing of appropriate charges.BOC-NAIA District Collector Yasmin Obillos-Mapa credited the seizures to intensified airport surveillance and close coordination among law enforcement agencies.Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno commended the BOC personnel, PDEA and NAIA-IADITG, and said the fight against illegal drugs requires sustained vigilance and cooperation among law enforcement agencies.

- Science-based climate action pushed for LGUs (2026-11-02 16:01)

THE Climate Change Commission (CCC) stressed the need to make local climate plans better by using scientific data and creating practical solutions that fit each community's specific risks and goals.The agency said there is a need to strengthen the Enhanced Local Climate Change Action Plans (eLCCAPs) of local government units (LGUs) to ensure that their climate actions are scientifically sound and inclusive by conducting a workshop with officials from Iloilo, Misamis Oriental, and Oriental Mindoro. "It is through a science-driven eLCCAP that a provincial government can determine with mathematical precision which barangay requires an early warning system first, which critical watershed demands immediate ecological restoration, and which agricultural assistance programs must be restructured to withstand rising heat index levels," said CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera during the workshop, stressing that the initiative aims to cater to the local needs of each community to fortify their climate resilience.As of October 2026, 91 percent of LGUs nationwide submitted their climate plans. However, only 68 percent relied on science, highlighting the need to improve LGUs' technical skills so their plans are based on actual evidence and local vulnerabilities. Allen LimosThe two-day Transformative Actions for Climate and Ecological Protection and Development was held to review climate data, share best practices, and improve their eLCCAPs.During the workshop, the provinces reviewed climate hazards, impacts, and adaptive capacity, refined impact chain analyses, and created priority recommendations. Their feedback will help improve the eLCCAP Quality Assurance Tool and guide the creation of an eLCCAP Quality Assurance Guide. "The eLCCAP turns our highest national commitments — our National Adaptation Plan and our

Nationally Determined Contribution — from high-level policy declarations into concrete, life-saving local actions," Herrera added.The workshop also highlighted the need for climate action plans to be gender-responsive and socially inclusive. Herrera stressed the importance of including women in climate consultations and planning, noting that climate change disproportionately burdens women due to their household and caregiving roles.

- Intramuros home to some final resting places, memorials (2026-11-02 15:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Intramuros, the Walled City of Manila, is indeed historic: Within its walls are stories of many people who lived, or died, throughout Manila's history starting from the precolonial era.Some of its sites serve as final resting places or memorials through which the Intramuros Administration (IA) remembered the departed on All Souls' Day."Let us take a moment to honor the departed and remember the lives that continue to be part of Intramuros' rich heritage," the IA said in a post on Facebook wherein it shared photos of the sites.Among these are the White Cross in Fort Santiago and Memorare-Manila 1945 Monument.The White Cross is "a marble monument marking the mass grave of about 600 civilians found after the 1945 Battle of Manila," the IA said, adding, "It also honors those imprisoned in the fort whose remains were never recovered."Beside the White Cross stands a copy of St. Gertrude's prayer for the commemorated souls.The Memorare-Manila 1945 Monument was erected on the battle's 50th anniversary and "honors the 100,000 civilians who perished, including those whose remains were never recovered," the IA said.Also included in its post was the site of the World War II mass graves found in the 80s."In 1981, workers from the Intramuros Administration uncovered four graves at the Revellin del Parian containing the remains of 123 people, including Japanese soldiers and civilians," the IA said. The soldiers' remains have since been turned over to and interred in Japan while the civilian remains have likewise since been given a final resting place.Also included in its post was the Palacio del Gobernador which, it said, "served as the seat of executive power from the 1640s to 1863." The IA said, "It witnessed the 1719 assassination of Governor-General Fernando Bustamante, the 1823 Novales mutiny, and the 1945 massacre of 120 civilians by Japanese troops in air raid shelters within its ruins."General Luna St., which runs along the Palacio del Gobernador, leads visitors to the Memorare-Manila 1945 Monument and also to the San Agustin Church, a survivor of World War II."Miguel López de Legazpi, the founder of Manila and the Philippines' first governor-general, was buried at San Agustin Church after his death in 1572. His tomb, east of the main altar, also contains the remains of Juan de Salcedo and Guido de Lavezaris, which were desecrated during the British invasion in 1762," the IA said.The church has a crypt which, the IA said, "features a memorial to priests killed during the 1945 Battle of Manila and the tombs of patriots Juan Luna and Maria Orosa."While Luna is best known for the Spoliarium, Maria Orosa is known as the inventor of the banana ketchup.Meanwhile, a part of Jose Rizal's spine is at the National Historical Commission of the Philippines' Museo ni Rizal in Fort Santiago. The IA said the fragment is "believed to bear marks from the bullets fired during his execution on" Dec. 30, 1896. "The rest of his remains lie beneath the Motto Stella, or Rizal Monument, at" the Rizal Park, the IA said.The other church in Intramuros, the Manila Cathedral, also has a crypt which, the IA said, "serves as the burial place

of former Archbishops of Manila, including" Michael O'Doherty, Gabriel Reyes, Rufino Santos, and Jaime Sin."As we observe All Souls' Day, we remember the departed through the historic sites across Intramuros that serve as their final resting places and lasting memorials," the IA said."From tombstones and church crypts to war memorials, these heritage sites preserve the stories, sacrifices, and legacies of those who have become part of the Walled City's history," it said.And today, while some of the people mentioned above might have stood on sides opposite each other when Spain ruled the Philippines or during World War 2 and while their stories are not forgotten, the Philippines now has better relations with other countries including Spain and Japan whose envoy to the Philippines, Ambassador Kitagawa Katsuro, its embassy in the Philippines said about a week ago, "emphasized the importance of remembering the devastation of war and the preciousness of peace" and "reaffirmed his commitment to further strengthen the friendship between Japan and the Philippines."From the information in the embassy's post on Facebook, he made the emphasis and the reaffirmation in a message for the memorial service for the war dead which was organized by an association and held at the Philippine-Japanese Friendship Memorial Shrine in Baguio. The embassy said that Chief Consul Yamazaki Masakazu delivered the message on his behalf.

- 14 Filipino seafarers rescued from sunken ship return home (2026-11-02 15:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Fourteen Filipino seafarers who were rescued after their ship was hit by maritime drones in the Black Sea returned to the Philippines on Monday, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) said.The seafarers arrived at Clark International Airport aboard Qatar Airways Flight QR926 from Doha, Qatar.They were among the 18 crew members of the Liberian-flagged container ship M/V Contship Jet, which was hit by three maritime drones on Oct. 28 while sailing from Haifa, Israel, to Constanta, Romania. The other four crew members were Ukrainians.All 18 crew members were rescued with the assistance of the Bulgarian Navy and border police vessels and brought to Varna, Bulgaria, for medical checks. The vessel later sank, according to the Bulgarian Maritime Administration.The Filipino seafarers temporarily stayed at a hotel in Varna while Bulgarian authorities interviewed them and their repatriation arrangements were being completed.OWWA Regional Welfare Office III provided airport assistance to the returning seafarers at Clark International Airport and said it was prepared to provide post-repatriation services.

- Fair weather forecast for most parts of PH on Tuesday (2026-11-02 13:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Generally good weather is expected in a large part of the Philippines on Tuesday."The weather will continue to be good in a large part of our country. Isolated light rain showers or drizzles are just possible here in the Ilocos Region, Cordillera Administrative Region as well as Cagayan Valley. This is still due to the northeast monsoon," Weather Specialist Grace Castañeda-Carpio said in Filipino and English the 5 p.m. weather update of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).As to the rest of Luzon including Metro Manila, she said that the skies would be partly cloudy to cloudy on Tuesday. It is possible that localized thunderstorms will cause isolated rain showers, based on

Pagasa's forecast.Castañeda-Carpio said the skies would continue to be partly cloudy to cloudy on Tuesday in Palawan, the Visayas, and Midnanao. It is possible that localized thunderstorms will cause isolated rain showers by afternoon and evening, based on the forecast. "During severe thunderstorms, it is still possible for us to experience heavy rain," she said, cautioning the public.No gale warning was issued.

- ICC urges prosecution to limit nearly 20,000 evidence items in Duterte case (2026-11-02 12:32)

MANILA, Philippines — International Criminal Court (ICC) judges urged prosecutors to narrow their nearly 20,000-item evidence list in the crimes against humanity case against former president Rodrigo Duterte, saying they should select documents most capable of proving the charges rather than submit every piece of material connected to the alleged killings.During the fifth status conference on Monday, defense counsel Peter Haynes said the prosecution's evidence list contained 15,529 non-witness items and another 3,712 witness-related items, bringing the total to 19,241.The list has grown nearly fourfold from approximately 5,000 items presented during the confirmation of charges stage, Haynes told the chamber.Prosecutors said that a substantial portion of the evidence came from a large dataset of government and Philippine National Police records on drug-related killings.The dataset contained information on approximately 3,422 deaths nationwide that authorities attributed to police operations during the period under investigation.The prosecution said the material was initially unstructured and required years of manual review, with analysts coding individual pages and organizing the records into a searchable database.The prosecution said it had removed about 10,000 duplicate documents from the dataset and selected materials relevant to the 57 incidents identified in its trial brief, as well as alleged killing hotspots and matters particularly relevant to the third count.It maintained that it had not submitted the entire dataset as evidence but had selected what it considered the most important documents to support its case.Presiding Judge Joanna Korner, however, questioned the need to include so many documents, particularly if several exhibits established the same facts.She said prosecutors should choose the strongest evidence rather than include every document connected to an incident.The defense, she noted, would have access to the other materials and could seek to introduce documents it considered necessary.The prosecution acknowledged that it could further reduce its evidence list and said it would review which items could be removed or streamlined.The prosecution explained that the list had been kept relatively broad partly because the team did not know which witnesses would ultimately be available to testify. It also wanted to avoid having to seek repeated permission to introduce additional documents during the trial.Duterte faces three counts of crimes against humanity involving murder and attempted murder allegedly committed during his tenure as Davao City mayor and president. He has denied the allegationsHis trial is scheduled to open on Nov. 30 before ICC Trial Chamber III in The Hague, the Netherlands.

- ICC rejects request to use Tagalog in Duterte trial (2026-11-02 11:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The International Criminal Court (ICC) has rejected a request by victims' representatives to use Tagalog in portions of their opening statement in the trial of former president Rodrigo Duterte, ruling that the presentation must be delivered in English.Paolina Massidda, counsel for the victims, asked the court to allow limited use of Tagalog to quote portions of victims' accounts during the opening statement when Duterte's trial begins on Nov. 30.Massidda said the request was intended to help Filipino victims following the proceedings connect with the experiences being presented to the judges.She told the chamber that the use of Tagalog would be limited to about 15 to 20 minutes of the overall presentation, with individual passages lasting only a minute or two.Presiding Judge Joanna Korner, however, said the Rome Statute identifies English and French as the ICC's working languages and that exceptional grounds would be needed to permit the use of another language. “The Rome Statute is quite clear. The working languages of the court are English and French,” Korner said.The judge also noted that Tagalog was not spoken by all victims, some of whom speak other Philippine languages.Korner said the court would ensure that the proceedings were interpreted and that it would consider whether Tagalog translations or transcripts could be made available on the ICC website.The ruling means the victims' representatives must deliver their opening statement in English, although interpretation will be provided during the proceedings.The prosecution is expected to deliver its opening statement first, followed by the victims' representatives. The prosecution said it was working to limit its presentation to about three hours or less, while the victims' team was also reviewing the time allotted for its statement.Duterte's trial is scheduled to open on Nov. 30 before ICC Trial Chamber III in The Hague, the Netherlands.The former president faces three counts of crimes against humanity involving murder and attempted murder in connection with killings allegedly committed during his tenure as Davao City mayor and president.The charges cover alleged killings in Davao City between 2013 and June 2016, killings of so-called high-value targets nationwide from July 2016 to July 2017, and killings during barangay clearance operations from July 2016 to September 2018.

- Mayon continues to show heightened volcanic activity — Phivolcs (2026-11-02 08:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Mayon Volcano continued to show signs of heightened volcanic activity following its eruption last week, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said Monday.Phivolcs Director Dr. Teresito Bacolcol said that while the volcano remains under Alert Level 3, volcanic activity has persisted, including a minor strombolian activity observed at dawn lasting 41 seconds with a plume reaching 300 meters above the crater. “We also monitor what we call RSAM—or Real-Time Seismic Amplitude Measurement—which measures the average strength of recorded seismic signals over a set interval,” he said in both English and Filipino in an interview with PTV. “These are the indicators we look at to determine if the situation might escalate—potentially requiring us to raise the alert level to 4. However, based on what we are seeing right now, it remains at alert level 3,” he added.On October 30, 2026, Mayon Volcano had a moderate eruption which prompted the agency to raise its status to Alert Level 3.

• BuCor denies charging NBP inmates for water (2026-11-02 07:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The superintendent of the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) has denied allegations that persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) were made to pay for their water supply amid the repair of the national penitentiary's water pumps.NBP Superintendent Gary Garcia said on Monday that the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) was purchasing additional water from Maynilad Water Services Inc. and deploying fire trucks to ensure adequate supply.Garcia stressed that water delivered by Maynilad and BuCor fire trucks to inmates is free.He issued the clarification following reports that inmates were being required to pay for their water supply. "I held a dialogue with the PDLs yesterday, and they confirmed that the water supplied by Maynilad and the water delivered by BuCor fire trucks are free of charge because the agency is shouldering the expenses," Garcia said.From Oct. 29 to Nov. 1, Maynilad delivered 80 cubic meters of water to the prison's Reception and Diagnostic Center (RDC).BuCor fire trucks made five deliveries during the same period.The RDC reported a daily cost of P14,538.54 and a total cost of P58,154.16 for the four days of Maynilad deliveries.Garcia said the prison's water pumps remained under repair, echoing BuCor Director General Gregorio Pio P. Catapang Jr.'s disclosure last week.The BuCor said it would continue working to restore the prison's water pumps while maintaining water deliveries through Maynilad and the use of fire trucks.

• PH, US ties stronger than ever — ambassador (2026-11-02 05:35)

MANILA, Philippines — United States Ambassador to Manila Lee Lipton said the recent visit of Secretary of War Pete Hegseth underscored the "genuine importance" the US places on Southeast Asia and on its "extraordinary alliance" with the Philippines.Hegseth attended the 13th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Cebu on October 29."Our commitment to Philippine security is ironclad," Lipton said on Monday, adding that Washington and Manila pursue a shared vision for a peaceful, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific."As we mark 75 years of the US-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty, our message is clear: our alliance is stronger than ever," the ambassador said."We stand firmly with the Filipino people in defending sovereignty, protecting territorial integrity, and upholding the freedom of navigation on which we all rely for vibrant global commerce," Lipton stressed."With President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., the United States and the Philippines have built a powerful partnership grounded in shared principles, mutual respect, and an unwavering commitment to regional stability," Lipton said."That partnership is demonstrated every year through hundreds of joint exercises and training events, hundreds of millions of dollars in US security assistance, expanded maritime cooperative activities, disaster response support, public health assistance, and frequent engagements between our senior defense and security leaders. We're in this for the long-term," he said.

• MNLF denies sheltering Bato (2026-11-02 05:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has denied sheltering Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, dismissing as speculation claims that the fugitive lawmaker may have sought refuge with an armed group in Mindanao.In a statement, the MNLF said it had no relationship

with dela Rosa.The group said dela Rosa's public references to the MNLF stemmed mainly from his experiences during the Marawi conflict and his support for peace-building programs benefiting former combatants and their children.It also cited the senator's advocacy for the faster integration of qualified MNLF and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) members into the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), saying this reflected policy-level engagement rather than personal or organizational ties.The MNLF acknowledged that its founder, Nur Misuari, was known to be a friend of dela Rosa's political patron, former president Rodrigo Duterte. It also noted reports that Misuari and dela Rosa personally knew each other.However, the organization stressed that these connections did not establish that dela Rosa was an MNLF member, an operational ally or someone currently under its protection.It said claims that the MNLF was protecting the senator remained speculative, adding that the organization was fragmented and it was uncertain whether Misuari's faction would be willing or able to shield him from arrest.The statement came amid speculation over dela Rosa's whereabouts and possible links to an armed group in Mindanao.

- On All Saints' Day, Philippine town honors dead with fire (2026-11-02 02:55)

SAGADA Philippines — Tiny pinewood bonfires burned through the night at a mountain cemetery as the largely Christian Philippines remembered its dead, turning the fog-shrouded hilltop into a vast, fragrant altar of light.The eerie Panag-aapoy ("to light a fire") ceremony in the tourist town of Sagada has marked All Saints' Day for the past 122 years, said Winston Garlejo Menong, director of the Episcopal Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, which owns the cemetery.As night crept in and darkness blanketed the four-hectare burial ground, the hum of activity and thick smoke gave way to a sepulchral glow as fires burned for its more than 2,000 dead.The Cordillera mountain region's animist residents adopted Christianity only after Spain ceded the Philippines to the United States in 1898, four centuries after Spanish friars had converted the people of the coasts to Catholicism.US Protestant missionaries encouraged Sagada's residents to bury their dead and light candles on their graves, he said."In our Biblical context, Christ is the light," Menong said.Be it with candles or the pine sticks preferred in Sagada, lighting a flame is " inviting the presence of Christ with us, having fellowship with our departed loved ones", he said.Respecting boundariesSagada's first Christians burned pinewood because candles were expensive and their flames were easily snuffed out by wind -- unlike the brisk burn of the aromatic, sap-rich pines that cover the Cordilleras, Sagada tourism officer Maria Teresa Abad said.The practice echoes the burning of incense in Buddhist rituals, though pine's sharp natural scent makes it stand out from the aromatic powders used in joss sticks.Cybil Domoguen returned to Sagada this year with her father and a bundle of 20-inch (51 centimetre) pine sticks to honour the grandparents who had raised her there."It's very unusual that people actually come here to watch. Usually one comes to the cemetery to pray for a dead relative," the 31-year-old teacher told AFP."If a grave does not have any visitors, people make sure to light some sticks for them."Like others participating in the ceremony, she has conflicted feelings about the growing tourist presence."Last year, there were tourists who were taking pictures of us, which was uncomfortable," she added."We have no problem with strangers as long as they

respect boundaries."Hanging coffinsThe people of Sagada did not always light flames over their dead, or even bury them.Before the missionaries arrived, the preferred practice was to hang coffins from the walls of cliffs or wedge them into the mouths of caves, a custom that only fully died out in 2010, Abad, the tourism officer, said.Some of the "hanging coffins" can still be seen on nearby Sagada cliffs."Traditional burial beliefs associate caves and elevated burial places with the spirit's passage toward the ancestral realm", something burial would hinder, she said.It also had the practical benefit of keeping remains safe from wild animals and flooding.Over time, as Sagada's mild climate and abundant waterfalls turned it into a popular refuge from the tropical heat, the Panag-aapoy -- and the hanging coffins -- became massive tourist draws in themselves, to the chagrin of residents.The church and local government have since taken steps to protect the region's cultural heritage. AFP

- Police deny Bantag escaped arrest in Ifugao (2026-11-02 02:21)

MANILA, Philippines — The Police Regional Office Cordillera Administrative Region (PROCOR) on Monday denied reports that former Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) chief Gerald Bantag escaped arrest during a police operation in Lamut, Ifugao.PROCOR clarified that no arrest was made during the operation, meaning Bantag remains at large.It said the Ifugao Police Provincial Office and the 15th Special Action Company of the 1st Regional Mobile Force Battalion conducted an operation in Sitio Alupapan, Barangay Pugol to verify information about Bantag's whereabouts.However, the former corrections chief was not found at the location.Lamut Mayor Mariano Bayawagan Jr. earlier claimed that Bantag escaped during the police operation.According to the mayor, police received information that Bantag was hiding at a poultry farm in Barangay Pugol and allegedly posing as a worker there.Bantag faces murder charges over the October 2022 killings of broadcaster Percival “Percy Lapid” Mabasa and New Bilibid Prison inmate Cristito “Jun” Villamor Palaña, the alleged middleman in the journalist’s murder.The Department of Justice (DOJ) indicted Bantag and his former deputy, Ricardo Zulueta, in March 2023 for the two killings.Lapid was shot dead by motorcycle-riding gunmen near his residence in Las Piñas City on Oct. 3, 2022.Villamor, who was allegedly involved in arranging the killing, died inside the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City on Oct. 18, 2022, shortly after the suspected gunman, Joel Escorial, surrendered to authorities and admitted his role in the broadcaster’s killing.A forensic examination found that Villamor died of asphyxia due to plastic-bag suffocation, prompting a separate murder investigation.Prosecutors alleged that Bantag masterminded Lapid’s killing and that Villamor was killed to prevent him from revealing details of the plot.Bantag and Zulueta denied the allegations. Arrest warrants were issued against them in 2023.Zulueta died in March 2024.

- Lacson: Senate majority to strip 2027 budget of ‘pork' (2026-11-02 01:41)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate majority bloc is united in stripping the proposed P7.2 trillion 2027 national budget of questionable and corruption-prone allocations, including projects inserted by lawmakers without proper vetting, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said.Lacson said on Monday the majority, including himself, backed efforts to weed out unwarranted allocations and ensure

transparency at every stage of the budget-making process. “The majority of senators are rallying behind Senate Finance Committee Chairman JV Ejercito’s efforts to cleanse the 2027 budget of unwarranted, whimsical, and corruption-prone items. — ALL MEANS ALL!” Lacson said in a social media post.Over the weekend, Ejercito secured a commitment from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to remove infrastructure projects without complete supporting documents from the House-approved budget bill before plenary debates, unless the agency submits the required documents by Nov. 3.Budget advocacy groups earlier cited the lack of supporting documents as one of the red flags in the House version of the proposed spending measure, warning that projects without clear documentation and proper justification could become vehicles for questionable spending.A Senate review found that the number of DPWH projects had increased from 11,420 in the National Expenditure Program, the executive branch's original spending proposal, to 16,244 in the House-transmitted General Appropriations Bill.Of these, 6,271 projects were introduced by lawmakers without prior vetting by the executive branch, raising questions about how the additional infrastructure allocations were selected, evaluated and justified.Ejercito also announced that civil society organizations would be invited to observe the bicameral conference committee deliberations on the budget, where the Senate and House of Representatives reconcile their respective versions of the spending measure. The proceedings would also be livestreamed to allow the public to monitor discussions and proposed changes.The transparency measures are part of broader efforts to prevent the return of questionable budget practices, particularly the insertion of projects and allocations outside the regular planning and evaluation process.

- Gatchalian seeks crackdown on pet crematoriums (2026-11-02 01:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian has called for a nationwide inspection of pet crematoriums and other animal aftercare businesses after 29 dead animals were found in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.Gatchalian said pet owners who paid for what they expected to be a dignified final farewell for their beloved companions were instead left with the distressing discovery that the animals had been discarded like garbage.He denounced the incident as a “clear case of fraud.” “Those responsible for such an offense must be held accountable,” he said.The pet dumping was linked to Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium in Bacoor City, Cavite.Bacoor City Mayor Strike Revilla ordered the crematorium closed after its owner failed to present sufficient documentation and CCTV footage proving that the cremations had actually been carried out. The owner reportedly said some animals had been brought to another facility in Caloocan City for cremation but could not provide adequate proof of the procedures.Gatchalian urged local government units (LGUs) nationwide and concerned government agencies, particularly the Bureau of Animal Industry, to conduct inspections and audits of all operating pet service providers, including crematoriums.He said authorities must verify whether these establishments are properly licensed, comply with environmental and sanitation regulations, and observe clear standards of integrity in handling deceased animals.He stressed that businesses offering pet cremation and aftercare services must be “licensed, environmentally compliant, and held to clear standards of integrity” to ensure that

no other family experiences similar treatment.Gatchalian also expressed dismay over the incident, saying he could relate to the grief of pet owners who consider their animals members of the family. “As a pet parent myself, it is heartbreaking and alarming to hear about our beloved pets being treated this way when we consider them members of our family,” he said.

- Govt urged to extend soft loans to MSMEs, farmers (2026-11-01 22:16)

SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian called on the government to make available urgent financing assistance, including soft loans, to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and the agriculture sector as the economy faces mounting risks of slower growth.In a statement, Gatchalian said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas’ (BSP) recent 50-basis-point interest rate hike could make borrowing more expensive and further restrict access to credit at a time when businesses need support to stay afloat. “Economic growth is already slowing, and now interest rates have gone up. We do not want more Filipinos to lose their jobs and the unemployment rate to rise further,” he said.The Monetary Board raised the BSP’s target reverse repurchase rate to 5.5 percent on Oct. 22, its fourth consecutive rate increase this year and its first 50-basis-point hike since February 2023.The overnight deposit and lending facility rates were also raised to 5 percent and 6 percent, respectively.The central bank said it decided on a larger rate adjustment to address broadening price pressures and rising inflation risks. It warned that inflation could accelerate further in the coming months and remain elevated through 2027, with higher global oil prices, transportation fare increases and the potential effects of El Niño on agricultural production and food prices contributing to the outlook.The BSP also raised its 2027 inflation forecast to 6 percent from its previous projection of 5.4 percent, while keeping its 2026 forecast at 6.1 percent.It said the rate adjustment was intended to contain the wider effects of price increases and keep inflation expectations anchored.Gatchalian said the government should be ready to offer concessional loans to MSMEs and agricultural producers to help them manage higher financing costs, sustain operations and avoid layoffs.MSMEs account for the vast majority of businesses in the Philippines and provide a significant share of employment, making access to affordable credit important to business continuity and livelihood protection.Farmers, meanwhile, need financing for seeds, fertilizer, fuel and other production expenses, particularly as climate-related risks and volatile oil prices threaten agricultural output and incomes.While the BSP’s rate increases are aimed at curbing inflation, higher policy rates can also translate into more expensive borrowing for businesses and consumers, depending on how banks adjust their lending rates.Gatchalian also cited other downside risks, including elevated inflation driven by rising petroleum prices amid continuing tensions in the Middle East, the threat of an extreme El Niño, and weak investor confidence amid corruption issues in government. “These challenges are piling up at a time when our economy is already facing difficulties. We must ensure that businesses, particularly MSMEs and those in the agriculture sector, have access to the financing they need,” he said.Higher fuel prices could increase transportation, production and logistics costs, while prolonged dry conditions could affect farm output and drive up agricultural production expenses. Together with tighter credit conditions, these pressures could weigh on business activity, household purchasing power and employment.Gatchalian said

timely government assistance would be crucial in helping businesses weather the economic headwinds and preventing further job losses. “We cannot afford to abandon the private sector, especially at a time when economic growth is slowing. The government must take the lead in providing support,” he added. CATHERINE VALENTE

- BOC holds first Export Summit for Filipino businesses (2026-11-01 22:14)

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) said that Filipino products boast world-class quality but still struggle to break into foreign markets.Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno said the BOC is stepping up efforts to help Filipino businesses penetrate international markets by bringing exporters face-to-face with government agencies at its first-ever Export Summit over the week to address trade barriers and simplify export procedures.Nepomuceno said the BOC wants to make exporting easier and more predictable so Filipino entrepreneurs can concentrate on growing their businesses and reaching more customers abroad. “The quality of Filipino products is already there. What we need are more opportunities for them to reach more markets,” he said. “Our job at the Bureau of Customs is to make the process simpler and more efficient so our exporters can focus on growing their businesses,” he added.Organized under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Agaton Teodoro Uvero of the Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), the summit focused on customs procedures, free trade agreements, regulatory requirements and government support programs.The initiative comes as the government seeks to expand the country’s export footprint, with many Filipino businesses still struggling to navigate complex customs rules, comply with changing regulations, and maximize opportunities under existing trade agreements.Port Operations Service Director Melon Carlo Santiago said government agencies must remain responsive to exporters’ concerns and ensure policies and services keep pace with industry demands.Participants received updates on customs processes, Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), export assistance programs, and developments involving the Asean Single Window. They also had the opportunity to raise operational concerns directly with government representatives.For Kayrel P. Buenafe, chief of the BOC Export Coordination Division, the summit was an opportunity to strengthen trust between government and the private sector. “Every shipment leaving our ports carries more than goods. It carries the hard work of our producers, the aspirations of our workers, and the promise of a stronger Philippine economy,” Buenafe said.Beyond facilitating shipments, the BOC also helps local producers compete internationally, opening opportunities for business expansion, increased export earnings, and wider access to foreign markets.The export summit is part of BOC’s trade facilitation reforms aligned with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.‘s directive to improve the country’s competitiveness and expand opportunities for Philippine-made products in the global marketplace.

- ‘No sacred cows in budget review’ (2026-11-01 16:20)

NO LAWMAKER will be spared scrutiny in the Senate's review of the proposed 2027 national budget, as senators correct questionable allocations and budget insertions, Sen. Panfilo Lacson

said.Lacson said he and fellow members in the Senate majority bloc fully support Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sen. JV Ejercito in raising red flags in the House-approved version of the proposed General Appropriations Act (GAA). “Our attitude now is to go gung-ho. If anyone gets hit, so be it,” he said in an interview with One News.Asked whether the scrutiny would cover the biggest net increase in public works allocations for the congressional district of presidential son and Ilocos Norte Rep. Sandro Marcos in the House-approved budget, Lacson replied: “Yes, absolutely.” “If we make exceptions, many will ask for exceptions, and we won't succeed because there will be plea bargaining,” he said.The Senate is scheduled to resume plenary sessions on Nov. 9, when debates on the proposed 2027 budget will begin.Lacson said he had submitted his subcommittee reports on the proposed budgets of government agencies assigned to him, which are now being reviewed by the Legislative Budget Research and Monitoring Office (LBRMO). “Once the plenary sessions resume, the LBRMO would have finished its review, and we can introduce amendments to restore the changes the House made to its version of the General Appropriations Bill,” he said.Lacson expressed confidence that questionable insertions would not find their way into the Senate version of the budget, citing the sentiments of his colleagues in the majority bloc. “In the Senate, I don't know if someone sneaked in funds for pet projects, but I don't think so. When we in the majority bloc chat, I can feel my colleagues' sentiments,” he said.The Senate may invite civil society organizations (CSOs), particularly budget advocacy groups, to observe the bicameral conference committee proceedings and expose lawmakers who attempt to insert questionable allocations, he said.He said he had challenged budget watchdogs to be prepared to sit through lengthy deliberations so they could witness the proceedings firsthand. “We must not just be vigilant. We may have to resort to shaming because there are those who are shameless in making insertions, and we are still reeling from the flood control scandal,” Lacson said.The country, he added, needs a fundamental overhaul of its budget process to curb political patronage and ensure that government allocations reflect the actual needs and priorities of local government units (LGUs).He lamented that political affiliations appeared to influence budget allocations, with administration allies receiving larger funding while lawmakers in the minority were given little or nothing.He cited instances when contractors for infrastructure projects appeared to have been predetermined even before the contracts were awarded. “In Taguig, for example, before the contract is awarded, the contractor is already known. This is a matter of record. The evidence is with the Ombudsman,” he said.Lacson likewise raised concerns over the continued issuance of guarantee letters (GLs), despite provisions in the 2026 GAA banning it. “We need a re-engineering of the budget. We cannot have more of the same. Up to now there are guarantee letters even if the 2026 GAA banned them. These may be residues of past budgets. But I know congressmen who still offer GLs,” he said.He said reforms should begin with the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), which prepares the government's proposed spending program, to prevent questionable insertions from entering the National Expenditure Program (NEP) even before it reaches Congress.The proposed 2027 budget amounts to P7.2 trillion, about P407 billion or 6 percent higher than the 2026 budget.The House of Representatives approved its version of the General Appropriations Bill on third and final reading on Oct. 12, incorporating about P116 billion in amendments.The Senate is conducting its own review before

the two chambers reconcile their respective versions in the bicameral conference committee.The bicameral stage is critical because lawmakers from both chambers settle differences in their respective budget proposals before submitting the final version for ratification and presidential approval.Ejercito said opening the bicameral proceedings to public observation would build on the transparency measures adopted by the Senate Finance Committee throughout its budget review. “All Senate Finance Committee budget hearings were livestreamed, which allowed the public to follow agency deliberations in real time,” he said.The committee held a dedicated hearing for CSOs on Oct. 26.Ejercito welcomed the groups’ calls to remove budget insertions without technical justification and restore funding cuts to foreign-assisted infrastructure projects, disaster preparedness and preventive health programs.The push for closer scrutiny comes amid concerns raised by budget watchdogs over the details and locations of some proposed projects.The House Appropriations Committee has said the bicameral conference could still address reported discrepancies in farm-to-market road project coordinates, including locations allegedly pointing to bodies of water.Ejercito said public participation should extend beyond congressional hearings to citizens' access to budget information and tools for scrutinizing government spending.The committee has incorporated digital tools developed by civil society groups, including independent research organization BetterGov.ph, into the Senate’s budget transparency portal (https://budget-transparency-portal.senate.gov.ph).Through the portal, citizens can review agency budget documents, submit position papers and flag allocations they consider questionable. “Transparency is not just a policy statement; it is an active mechanism. These tools were built by watchdogs themselves, and we are glad to give them a home on the Senate website so ordinary citizens can scrutinize where public funds are going,” Ejercito said.

- What to expect at Duterte’s ICC trial (2026-11-01 16:09)

FORMER president Rodrigo Duterte’s trial at the International Criminal Court (ICC) will open on Nov. 30, with judges set to read the charges, ask him to enter a plea, and hear opening statements before the prosecution begins presenting its evidence.The proceedings, scheduled to start at 10 a.m. in The Hague (5 p.m. Manila time) will examine allegations that Duterte committed crimes against humanity of murder and attempted murder in the Philippines between Nov. 1, 2011, and March 16, 2019.The charges have been confirmed for trial. Prosecutors must prove the charges beyond reasonable doubt, and the defense will have the chance to challenge the evidence and present its own case.Here is how the trial is expected to proceed.Opening dayThe three-judge Trial Chamber III will first verify that Duterte understands the nature of the charges against him. The judges will then ask whether he admits guilt or pleads not guilty.The court will read the charges previously confirmed by the ICC’s Pre-Trial Chamber.The prosecution will deliver its opening statement first, followed by the Common Legal Representatives of Victims (CLRVs).The defense may also deliver an opening statement at the start of the trial or immediately before presenting its evidence.The prosecution has six hours to present its opening statement, while the victims’ representatives have three hours. The judges have yet to determine how much time to give to the defense.Duterte faces three

counts of crimes against humanity involving alleged killings during his time as Davao City mayor and president.The first count concerns alleged murders in Davao City during his mayoral period, from 2013 to June 2016.The second concerns the killings of people described as “high-value targets” during his presidency, from around July 2016 to July 2017.The third involves alleged murders and attempted murders during barangay clearing operations across the country from July 2016 to September 2018.Prosecutors allege that the crimes were committed as part of a widespread and systematic attack against a civilian population.The charges relate to crimes committed between November 2011 and March 2019. Duterte has not been convicted of these charges.The prosecution's caseAfter the opening statements, the prosecution will call its first witness. It will also present testimony and documentary, digital or physical evidence against Duterte.The judges have asked the prosecution for a detailed trial brief, which is intended to identify the principal facts the prosecution seeks to establish, the witnesses who will testify, relevant exhibits and the legal arguments.The prosecution must establish the accused’s guilt to the standard required by the ICC.The party calling a witness will generally question that witness first. The victims’ legal representatives may ask questions, followed by the prosecution.The defense can challenge prosecution witnesses by questioning their credibility and the reliability of their testimony.Not all testimony or evidence will necessarily be presented in the same way. Under the court’s rules, certain previously recorded testimony may be submitted through procedures that do not require the witness to physically testify.The victims' representatives Victims will participate through the Common Legal Representatives of Victims, who can present their views and concerns and make submissions on matters affecting their personal interests.Their role is distinct from that of the prosecution, which carries the burden of proving the charges.The chamber’s directions allow for a possible presentation of evidence by the representatives.The ICC intends, insofar as possible, to hear witness testimony in public.However, some portions of the proceedings may take place in private or closed session when necessary, including to protect sensitive information or witnesses.The court’s directions require the parties to respect protective measures ordered for witnesses and to limit private or closed sessions to what is strictly necessary.After the prosecution completes its presentation, the victims’ legal representatives may submit observations and, if authorized by the judges, present evidence.The defense will then present its case and call witnesses. It may challenge the prosecution’s evidence and offer its own evidence in response to the charges.The chamber has directed the defense to identify the principal factual or legal issues it disputes with the prosecution and outline the general nature of its defense.The court has also clarified that this does not prevent the defense from raising additional issues later if they emerge during the trial or its investigations.Trial Chamber III, composed of Presiding Judge Joanna Korner and Judges Keebong Paek and Nicolas Guillou, will examine the arguments and evidence presented during the trial before delivering a judgment. They may convict Duterte only if they are satisfied that the charges have been proved beyond reasonable doubt.If the prosecution fails to meet that standard, the court cannot convict him.

- Secrecy key in hunting fugitives – LacsonSecrecy key in hunting fugitives – Lacson (2026-11-01 16:08)

SEN. Panfilo Lacson on Sunday stressed the importance of keeping sensitive information confidential when pursuing high-profile fugitives.Lacson made the remark as authorities intensified the hunt for Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, whose one-week deadline to surrender had lapsed.“SSSHHH... When pursuing a high-profile target or handling a sensitive live case, secrecy discipline is key — unless disinformation is necessary to flush the quarry into the open,” Lacson said on a social media post.He said disclosing sensitive information ahead of an operation should be done only as a tactic to draw a wanted person out of hiding.Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla announced a P50-million reward for information leading to dela Rosa’s arrest.Dela Rosa is the subject of an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court in connection with the administration of former president Rodrigo Duterte’s campaign against drugs. He has not attended Senate sessions since late last year.He briefly resurfaced on May 11 to vote for Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano as Senate president but was sneaked out of the Senate premises during a shooting incident two days later.Sen. JV Ejercito urged authorities to ensure a peaceful resolution to the manhunt for dela Rosa, stressing that the senator must be treated fairly and accorded due process.Ejercito’s appeal followed a plea from dela Rosa’s wife, Nancy, who called on her husband’s influential former allies to help him rather than persecute him.In a DWIZ radio interview, Ejercito said he hopes “the situation involving Senator dela Rosa can be resolved peacefully. After all, he is a former chief of the Philippine National Police.”Dela Rosa’s wife, Nancy, made her appeal in a Facebook post addressed to what she described as the “powerful few” who were once her husband’s friends.“Please do not use him for your personal agenda. He has helped you in countless ways, and he has done you no wrong personally. He needs your help, not your persecution,” she said.

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- China denies ex-ambassador's claim in column (2026-11-01 16:07)

THE Chinese Embassy in Manila described as "utterly wrong" the claim that China avoids conflict in the South China Sea because of the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Philippines.The embassy objected to what retired ambassador Jaime Yambao wrote in his The Manila Times column titled "Concerning the loose tongue of an ambassador." It said the column was "filled with serious historical falsehoods, blatant bias, and unprofessional judgment." Yambao wrote that "if China has not attacked the Philippines, it is not for love of peace, it is the deterrent effect of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the two countries." "China's consistent commitment to peace, dialogue, and regional stability stems from its independent foreign policy and sincere respect for regional peace, not external military deterrence," the embassy said in a statement. "China chooses restraint out of goodwill for its neighbors, not fear of any alliance," it added.Yambao said that if the Chinese truly love peace, they would abide by the United Nations (UN) Charter of solving disputes by peaceful means. "They would have followed the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on disputes settlement." "They would have considered as settled the dispute it has with the Philippines by the conclusions of the arbitral tribunal of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague," he said.The PCA in July 2016 invalidated China's claim in the South China Sea, which encroached on the Philippines' exclusive economic zone (EEZ).The embassy stressed that the arbitral award "is legally invalid, politically biased, and lacks any binding force." "China has never recognized this unlawful ruling, and no country can legitimately rely on it to make policy judgments or provoke maritime tensions," it said.Yambao also mentioned calls from lawmakers and some sectors to declare Ambassador Jing Quan persona non grata for saying that "if we want to use force, we may easily win" — which was viewed as a "veiled threat against the Philippines. "It is quite likely that China would take the side of its ambassador and retaliate by declaring our innocent ambassador (Jaime FlorCruz) in Beijing persona non grata," Yambao said.The embassy replied that "openly attacking another country's political system in a public commentary demonstrates a severe lack of basic diplomatic courtesy and sovereign respect." "Regrettably, the author Jaime Yambao, though a retired Philippine ambassador, shows none of the professionalism expected of a seasoned diplomat," it said. "If a senior retired Philippine diplomat cannot objectively and accurately understand China's consistent stance of promoting stable and peaceful China-Philippines relations, it reflects either poor cognitive judgment or regrettable diplomatic incompetence," it said. "Such biased, confrontational, and factually erroneous remarks are truly unfortunate," the embassy said.It also described as "entirely misleading and factually wrong" Yambao's account of the Yultong Battle during the Korean War. "No official US or Chinese military

archives support the exaggerated claim that 900 Filipino troops defeated 40,000 Chinese soldiers. In reality, Filipino forces retreated on US orders after the engagement, and Chinese troops secured full control of the battlefield," it said.

- House prosecution: Defense could shorten impeach trial (2026-11-01 16:06)

THE impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte could be over before the end of November if the defense team limits its presentation of evidence to 10 trial days, House lead prosecutor and Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro said Sunday.Luistro said the prosecution expects a shorter defense presentation following the withdrawal of three of the four impeachment articles.The defense originally requested 30 trial days to present evidence on all four articles.Luistro said the prosecution expects the defense to seek only 10 full trial days for the remaining charge.The Senate impeachment court has scheduled hearings on Nov. 9 to 13, 19, 20 and 23, with some sessions extending into the evening.Completing the defense presentation within November, however, would depend on additional hearing dates or adjustments to the calendar.Luistro warned that the proceedings could extend into December if the defense requires more than 10 trial days to present its witnesses and documentary evidence. "Nevertheless, we are all hoping and praying that this impeachment trial will be over before Christmas so we can have closure and move on," she said in Filipino.The withdrawal of the articles involving confidential funds, bribery and grave threats was approved on Oct. 13, leaving Article II, which accuses Duterte of amassed unexplained wealth, financial declarations, and maintaining income and business interests while serving as vice president.The impeachment proceedings stem from allegations against Duterte that have been the subject of congressional investigations since 2024.The senator-judges will decide the case after the presentation of evidence by both sides.Meanwhile, Luistro reiterated that officials of the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Office of the Vice President (OVP) implicated in the alleged misuse of confidential funds and bribery could still face criminal or civil proceedings despite the withdrawal of three articles.Separate investigations by the Office of the Ombudsman cover allegations involving personnel of both agencies, while the prosecution remains prepared to provide evidence gathered during congressional hearings and the impeachment proceedings. "As a matter of fact, as early as 2024, the issue of confidential funds and bribery — involving officials from the Department of Education and the Office of the Vice President — has already been under investigation by the Ombudsman," Luistro said.The House Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability had investigated P612.5 million in confidential funds allocated to the Office of the Vice President and the Department of Education during Duterte's tenure, including questions involving liquidation records, acknowledgment receipts and the disbursement of public funds.The committee transmitted its findings to the Ombudsman in 2024, while investigators have continued examining whether the financial transactions and supporting documents warrant further proceedings against Duterte or other responsible officials.Ombudsman Jesus Crispin "Boying" Remulla has said his office was gathering and evaluating evidence, including documents presented during the Senate impeachment trial, to determine whether there were sufficient grounds to file cases over the

alleged misuse of confidential funds.The grave threats allegations are also subject to separate proceedings before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, following the filing of criminal charges over Duterte's November 2024 statements concerning President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., first lady Liza Marcos, and former speaker Martin Romuladez.

- Don't let El Niño worsen learning loss (2026-11-01 16:05)

SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian urged the Department of Education (DepEd) to adopt localized class suspension measures during El Niño, warning that blanket cancellations could put students' learning further at risk.In a statement on Sunday, Gatchalian said the agency's protocols must protect students from extreme heat without worsening learning loss and deepening the country's education crisis.He stressed that class suspensions should be based on actual weather and heat conditions in specific communities, rather than imposed across entire cities, provinces or regions.Gatchalian urged DepEd to ensure that its response to extreme heat does not unnecessarily interrupt instruction, particularly for elementary pupils who depend heavily on classroom teaching to develop foundational reading and literacy skills.A policy note by the Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2), released in September, highlighted the learning costs of widespread class suspensions.The study found that a typical public elementary school lost approximately 20 teaching days during the previous school year because of class suspensions prompted by various hazards, equivalent to about one in every 10 days in the official school calendar.It also found that every suspended school day was associated with the loss of approximately 1.4 days of reading progress among early-grade learners, underscoring the long-term consequences of disruptions to classroom instruction.The findings were based on preliminary estimates from an ongoing study covering more than 37,000 public elementary schools.Edcom 2 emphasized that while suspensions are necessary when students face actual danger, blanket orders could unnecessarily deprive schools in unaffected areas of learning time.The commission has called for more granular, evidence-based decisions that allow school heads and local authorities to suspend or resume classes depending on actual conditions in their communities.The Philippines is bracing for a potential super El Niño, which the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration expects to persist through the first half of 2027, peaking before the end of 2026.Aside from extreme heat, it could bring prolonged dry spells and water shortages, potentially affecting school operations, students' health and the delivery of education services.To address these risks, DepEd has introduced its four-level Hayo, Hinay, Hinga and Hinto (4H) framework, which allows schools to adjust learning arrangements according to local heat conditions and water availability.Under the guidelines, schools may continue face-to-face classes with appropriate precautions during manageable conditions, including scheduled water breaks and adjustments to outdoor activities.As heat stress increases, school heads may shorten class hours or shift to hybrid and home-based learning.When conditions become more severe, academic requirements may be reduced, with learning materials and other alternative delivery methods used to maintain continuity.All physical and home-based learning activities will be suspended when temperatures reach the danger threshold of 42 degrees Celsius or higher.

• Tulfo pushes oil hub deal with UAE (2026-11-01 16:04)

THE Philippines is pursuing a partnership with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to build a strategic oil storage hub that could help protect consumers from global price shocks and fuel supply disruptions.Sen. Erwin Tulfo, chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy, led a Philippine delegation in talks with UAE officials on Oct. 29 on the proposed project, following an earlier meeting involving Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian, Tulfo and Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. (Adnoc) representatives.The initial meeting, held at the Senate, was attended by UAE Ambassador Mohamed Obaid Alqataam Alzaabi and Adnoc officials.Gatchalian described the discussions as meaningful.During the Oct. 29 discussions, Tulfo said he has been pushing for the oil hub "because we see how beneficial it would be for Filipinos who are experiencing price shocks from high oil prices because we lack access to it." The Philippine delegation included Ambassador to the UAE Alfonso Ver and Special Envoy to the UAE for Trade and Investment Kathryna Yu-Pimentel.The UAE delegation, led by Adnoc Chairman Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, expressed willingness to pursue the partnership.Adnoc supplies Petron Corp. with about 40,000 barrels of oil a day, and UAE officials said the proposed hub could help increase supply volumes.The UAE team also proposed sharing an existing storage contract framework for Philippine review as discussions move forward.The proposed partnership gained further backing from Gatchalian, who, on Oct. 26, urged the state-owned Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) to move quickly on the opportunity.Gatchalian said Adnoc was prepared to shoulder the cost of storage tanks and oil inventory, provided PNOC made suitable land available for the facility.He also said Adnoc wanted an arrangement granting the Philippines the right of first refusal to purchase the stored oil when needed. "PNOC should not dilly-dally because Adnoc is ready," Gatchalian said.The parties identified the second quarter of 2027 as a target for the project's rollout, subject to further agreements on the site, infrastructure responsibilities, commercial terms and implementation schedule.The hub would anchor a broader energy partnership covering crude oil supply, refinery investments, fuel retail networks, renewable energy and gas-to-power development.Tulfo said such a partnership had yet to be finalized but vowed to lead follow-up discussions to move the project forward.

• CFO joins in celebrating the lives of saints (2026-11-01 16:03)

THE Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) joined the faithful in celebrating the lives of saints, including St. Lorenzo Ruiz, the first Filipino saint and patron saint of overseas Filipino workers and migrants.The Asian Catholic Initiative said Ruiz, of Chinese-Filipino parentage, became the Philippines' protomartyr after his execution by the Tokugawa Shogunate during its persecution of Japanese Christians in the 17th century.St. Pedro Calungsod, a young catechist from Visayas, is the second Filipino saint. He joined Spanish Jesuit missionaries in Guam to catechize the native Chamorros. He was killed when someone spread a rumor that the baptismal water used by missionaries was poisonous. "On this All Saints' Day, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas joins the faithful in celebrating the lives of saints whose faith, courage, and devotion continue to inspire people across generations," the CFO said on Sunday. "Their examples remind us of the enduring values of compassion, perseverance, and

service that guide us in our daily lives," it added.Senate leaders urged Filipinos to draw inspiration from the saints, strengthen their faith, and cherish the memories of departed loved ones as the country observes All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian called on Filipinos to remain steadfast in doing what is right. "May the saints serve as our inspiration to have strong faith and the conviction to do what is right," Gatchalian said in his message on Sunday.Marking All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day on Nov. 2 is a longstanding Filipino tradition when families gather in cemeteries to offer prayers, flowers and candles in remembrance of their departed loved ones.Sen. Francis Escudero said it was an opportunity to honor the memories of loved ones whose influence and lessons continue to shape the lives of those they left behind. "Through our prayers and the light of every candle we light, the memories of our loved ones who helped shape who we are remain alive," Escudero said.He added that the observance reminds Filipinos that relationships do not end with death but continue to live in the hearts and memories of those left behind.Sen. JV Ejercito also urged Filipinos to look to the saints for guidance in choosing the right path in life and to offer sincere prayers for their departed loved ones.Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the teachings and examples of the saints should inspire Filipinos to live with love and concern for others.Sen. Camille Villar honored the saints for their faith, devotion and selfless service, saying their legacy should encourage people to practice kindness and compassion.Sen. Bam Aquino said the love, lessons and happy memories left by those who had passed away continued to provide strength and hope to grieving families.

- DPWH activates 24/7 hotlines (2026-11-01 16:02)

THE Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has institutionalized a nationwide 24/7 motorist assistance hotline that connects motorists directly with regional and district engineering offices. This extends beyond the observance of All Saints' Day to enhance public safety and improve infrastructure responsiveness for all travelers.Public Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez said motorists heading to the provinces or visiting cemeteries during and after the All Souls' Day break can now seek immediate assistance from the DPWH for road-related emergencies.He said the initiative is part of the agency's Lakbay-Alalay 2026 program.Lakbay Alalay is the agency's annual motorist assistance initiative that deploys personnel and equipment to help travelers experiencing vehicle trouble or other roadside emergencies.According to the DPWH chief, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered the activation of hotlines so travelers can access DPWH assistance when they encounter incidents, including damaged roads and other hazards during their trip.Lopez ordered all DPWH Regional and District Engineering Offices "to keep their contact numbers open 24 hours a day, seven days a week" to ensure a prompt response to motorists' concerns.He added that DPWH teams maintain around-the-clock shifts to provide emergency assistance and keep major thoroughfares free from obstructions.The initiative strengthens government efforts to make roads safer and travel more convenient during one of the country's busiest travel periods, when highways leading to provinces, transport hubs, and cemeteries typically experience unusual traffic flow.The DPWH is coordinating with other government entities, such as the Land

Transportation Office, the Philippine National Police, and local government units.

• Cayetano renews push for PDL rehab, reintegration (2026-11-01 16:01)

SENATE Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano reaffirmed his commitment to rehabilitate and reintegrate persons deprived of liberty (PDLs), urging inmates to embrace change and work toward a better life.Cayetano made the pledge during a visit to the Taguig City Jail, where he distributed food and hygiene supplies to thousands of inmates as part of his annual birthday outreach. “We want to do more because we know that God is not yet finished with your lives,” Cayetano told the inmates during his Oct. 31 visit.The senator urged the inmates not to let setbacks discourage them from pursuing personal transformation, stressing that changing their lives requires determination and a willingness to persevere. “He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus,” Cayetano said, quoting Philippians 1:6. “Even if we make mistakes, the Bible says that He will complete the work He has begun. But we must first have the desire to change,” he added.Cayetano’s appeal for individual change comes amid efforts by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) to strengthen rehabilitation programs that prepare inmates for their eventual return to their families and communities.These programs include education through the Alternative Learning System, livelihood projects, vocational and skills training, health services, religious and spiritual activities, and behavioral management. The bureau also provides referrals for aftercare services, including employment assistance, educational opportunities, and medical and psychological interventions for PDLs preparing for release.The BJMP’s rehabilitation efforts are anchored on the principle that jail management goes beyond safekeeping of inmates and includes providing opportunities for personal development and successful reintegration into society.

• Pagasa sees fair weather Monday (2026-11-01 12:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said fair weather was expected in most of Luzon on Monday but extreme northern Luzon will have light rains."Because of the effect of the northeast monsoon, we will still experience light rains or drizzles in extreme northern Luzon," Pagasa weather specialist Daniel James Villamil said on Sunday."But for the rest of Luzon including Metro Manila, we expect generally fair weather with a chance of localized thunderstorms in the afternoon to evening," Villamil said.Palawan, Visayas, and Mindanao will also have fair weather but thunderstorms are possible in the afternoon or evening, he said.No gale warning was issued but Villamil cautioned those who would go out to sea because of gusts of winds and huge waves.

• Marcos joins Filipinos in honoring their dead (2026-11-01 09:32)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. joined the Catholic faithful and the entire nation in remembering their dearly departed on November 1.The president visited the tomb of his father, former president Ferdinand Marcos Sr., at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City on Friday, ahead of the observance of All Saints’ Day.The president was

accompanied by his mother, former first lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos, his sister Irene Marcos-Araneta, and close family and friends.The family offered prayers and paid their respects during the private visit.In his message, the president invited Filipinos to extend the same devotion they show in remembering the departed to the way they treat one another, making time to listen to those who struggle and showing concern for their fellow Filipinos."As we observe All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, we remember our departed loved ones and the lives and legacies they have left behind," Marcos said."Though they are no longer with us, the memories we shared and the values they taught us continue to bring our families closer together," he said."May we also draw inspiration from the saints, whose lives of selfless service and devotion remind us to show greater kindness and compassion toward one another," Marcos said.He asked Filipinos to "honor those who have passed not only through our prayers, but also through the way we care for those who remain.""May these solemn days bring peace to those who mourn and remind us to cherish the people we hold dear," the president said.

- Bishop lauds peaceful election of BARMM officials (2026-11-01 09:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Kidapawan Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo lauded all stakeholders for the peaceful and democratic election of the first chief minister and other officials of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).Abdulraof Macacua was elected chief minister with 51 votes against former chief minister Ahod Ebrahim. The members of the first regular BARMM parliament elected the chief minister during their first session on Oct. 30. One abstained and another was absent.Bagaforo, the chairman of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines-Episcopal Commission on Interreligious Dialogue (CBCP-ECID) welcomed Macacua's election and described it as "a historic step for the peace process."The bishop lauded the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and its leaders led by Ahod Ebrahim and Vice Chairman Mohagher Iqbal for the peaceful and democratic transition from the transitional administration.Previously, the BARMM was administered by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority.The CBCP-ECID also recognized the role of the MILF in the peaceful and orderly leadership transition."On behalf of the CBCP-ECID, we express our support and solidarity with the new Bangsamoro government and parliament," Bagaforo said."The Church will continue to walk with our Muslim brothers and sisters, with Indigenous Peoples, and with all communities in the region in dialogue, friendship, and the common work of building a just and lasting peace," he said.The bishop expressed hope that the new administration would pursue open and just governance.The peaceful election of BARMM leaders reflected the message of President Ferdinan Marcos Jr. during the inaugural session which he described as a milestone in the peace process.The President called on the new parliamentary coalition to uphold unity, statesmanship and cooperation, stressing that the political arrangement is measured by their capacity to translate the gains of peace into responsive governance, economic opportunities and better public service. "It means ensuring that the dividends of peace are felt in the daily lives of every Bangsamoro family," Marcos said.He reaffirmed the government's support for Bangsamoro autonomy and its democratic institutions. "Your success is the success of the country," the President said.

• Be vigilant in cemeteries, public urged (2026-11-01 08:22)

MANILA, Philippines — National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Officer-in-Charge Brig. Gen Christopher Abrahano reiterated his call for the public to remain vigilant while visiting cemeteries and memorial parks as large crowds present opportunities for criminals to prey on unsuspecting visitors.With hundreds of thousands expected to flock to cemeteries in Metro Manila, Abrahano reminded the public not to be complacent and to remain mindful of their personal belongings.He stressed the importance of keeping wallets, mobile phones, and other valuables secured, avoid the display of expensive jewelry, and never leaving bags or personal belongings unattended. Parents and guardians were likewise reminded to keep children and elderly family members within sight, especially in congested areas.The NCRPO chief also cautioned visitors against individuals who may exploit the occasion through fraudulent activities, including those posing as religious ministers offering unauthorized prayers or blessings in exchange for money. “Do not let your guard down just because you are in a place of remembrance and prayer. Criminals can take advantage of even a moment of distraction. Stay alert, secure your belongings, and look after your family members. We want everyone to fulfill this meaningful tradition without becoming victims of crime,” he said.Visitors to the Manila's north and south cemeteries reached 997,550 as of Sunday afternoon.Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso said on Facebook that about 811,200 people visited the Manila North Cemetery as of 2 p.m.He said that about 186,350 people visited the Manila South Cemetery as of 2 p.m. on Nov. 1.

• De Lima seeks tougher animal welfare laws (2026-11-01 07:16)

MANILA, Philippines — House Senior Deputy Minority Leader and Mamamayang Liberal Party-list Rep. Leila de Lima on Sunday called for stricter animal welfare laws and accountability following the recent discovery of 29 dead dogs and cats dumped in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.In a statement, De Lima condemned the incident as an act of cruelty, saying the animals were not garbage and that their deaths had caused grief among families who considered them members of their households. “What was done to the 29 furbabies found in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, is absolutely despicable,” she said in Filipino. “How could they have committed such an evil act against innocent souls and the families who are grieving the loss of their loved ones? THEY ARE NOT TRASH TO BE JUST THROWN AWAY!” she added.The lawmaker called for the identification and prosecution of those responsible, including others who may be involved in similar acts of animal cruelty. “This kind of violence should never be tolerated. It will not be the last unless we implement comprehensive and stricter laws to promote and protect animal rights and welfare,” De Lima said. “We call upon our fellow lawmakers: Let us also make it a priority to enact our proposed Animal Welfare Enforcement Act and the Revised Animal Welfare Act, in order to put an end to violence and foster a better understanding of the proper and humane treatment of animals,” she added.Bacoor City Mayor Strike Revilla ordered the closure of Ahjay Paws Aftercare Crematorium following complaints from pet owners.

• Ejercito seeks fair treatment, due process for Dela Rosa (2026-11-01 05:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. JV Ejercito called on authorities to ensure fair treatment and due process for Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa following the latter’s wife’s appeal for help, urging them to resolve the situation peacefully.Ejercito said that Dela Rosa, a former chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and his former Senate colleague, deserves the same legal protections as anyone else. “As much as possible, I hope the situation involving Senator Dela Rosa can be resolved peacefully. After all, he is a former chief of the Philippine National Police. Everyone deserves to be given due process,” Ejercito said in an interview with DWIZ radio on Saturday. “I hope everything will be handled properly and peacefully. Senator Dela Rosa has also served our country. He was our colleague in the Senate and served as PNP chief,” he added.Ejercito appealed to all parties concerned to avoid confrontation and work toward a peaceful resolution. “I am calling on both sides, on everyone, to resolve this peacefully. I hope he will be treated fairly and given due process,” he said.Asked about Dela Rosa’s wife's appeal for assistance, Ejercito said, “That is what I am also saying. I hope he is given due process and treated fairly."

• FBI: Saipan child sex abuse suspect fled to PH (2026-11-01 04:23)

SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands — A Filipino accused of sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl in Saipan fled to the Philippines in May 2024, prompting federal authorities to seek his arrest.The case against Rommel Bacani was disclosed in an FBI affidavit filed in the US District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands in May 2025 but only unsealed recently.Based on the affidavit, Bacani departed Saipan for the Philippines on May 10, 2024 following a police investigation into allegations that he sexually abused a minor with her mother's knowledge.FBI special agent Richard J. Bauer said Bacani was charged in the CNMI Superior Court on May 12, 2025 with first-and second-degree sexual abuse of a minor and disturbing the peace.The affidavit said that sexual abuse of a minor carries a possible prison sentence of up to 30 years.The case stems from a March 7, 2024 investigation by the Department of Public Safety after officials at Francisco M. Sablan Middle School raised concerns about a 13-year-old student who had been frequently absent from classes.The girl's relatives told police that she had an adult boyfriend and had moved with her mother and two younger siblings into his apartment.The boyfriend was later identified as Bacani.The girl's special education teacher told investigators that the student disclosed her mother had forced her into the relationship.During a forensic interview on March 12, 2024, the girl claimed that Bacani sexually assaulted her on several occasions.The affidavit also detailed allegations that Bacani sexually abused the girl's younger sister, who was 8 years old at the time.Investigators said the children's mother knew about the relationship and allowed her daughter to sleep in the same bed as Bacani.In a Jan. 8, 2025, interview with the FBI, the mother reportedly admitted witnessing Bacani having sex with her daughter on four or five occasions.She also told investigators that Bacani became nervous after being questioned by DPS detectives in March 2024 because he feared getting into trouble over his relationship with the minor.The mother subsequently moved out of Bacani's apartment and lost contact with him.Federal authorities determined through database checks that Bacani left Saipan for the

Philippines on May 10, 2024.Bauer said there was probable cause to believe Bacani traveled outside the CNMI with the intent to avoid prosecution, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1073.The federal offense carries a possible prison sentence of up to five years, a fine, or both.The affidavit was sworn before US District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on May 22, 2025.

- EDSA southbound section from Boni to Guadalupe to reopen Monday (2026-11-01 03:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is set to reopen the rehabilitated southbound section of Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (EDSA) from Boni Avenue to Guadalupe at 5 a.m. on Monday, November 2.Public Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez said on Sunday that he will conduct an overnight inspection of the completed section prior to its reopening.The reopening marks another milestone in the second phase of the EDSA rehabilitation project, which aims to improve the condition of the capital's busiest thoroughfare, provide a smoother ride for motorists and make the highway more commuter-friendly.The latest round of repairs covered three southbound sections, including the stretch from the NEPA Q-Mart Bus Station, past the EDSA Kamuning Flyover, the EDSA Shaw underpass to Boni Avenue; and Boni Avenue to Guadalupe.The DPWH scheduled the work from October 30 to November 2, with activities including breaking up damaged pavement, debris hauling, base preparation, installation of reinforcing steel bars, concrete pouring, sealant application and curing.Temporary lane closures were implemented during construction, while the remaining lanes were kept open to motorists.

- Parts of Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite to have water interruptions this week (2026-11-01 03:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Some areas in Metro Manila, Rizal and Cavite will have water interruptions this week because of maintenance works, Manila Water Company Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. said on Sunday.Manila Water said some areas in the villages of Nangka and Concepcion Uno in Marikina City will have water interruptions on November 3-4 between 10 p.m. and 4 p.m. because of line declogging activities.Some locations in the villages of Concepcion Uno, Concepcion Dos and Marikina Heights will have no water on November 4-5 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of line declogging works near the Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College.Also, some areas in the villages of San Roque and Sta. Elena will have water service interruptions on November 4-5 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to line maintenance works at Shoe Ave. cor. H. Roxas St.Some parts of Brgy. Parang will have service interruptions on November 5-6 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of line declogging activities at Dahlia St.Some portions of Brgy. Bagumbuhay in Quezon City will have water interruptions on November 3-4 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to line maintenance works at F. Castillo St. cor. A. Luna.Some places in Brgy. UP Campus will have service interruptions on November 5-6 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of pipe maintenance activities.In Rizal province, some sections of Brgy. San Jose in Rodriguez will have no water on November 3-4 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of mainline interconnection works at Kasiglahan Village Phase 1K, and

Phase 1K1 to Phase 1K2.Maynilad meanwhile announced that some areas in the villages of 168 and 169 in Caloocan City and some sections in the villages of Kaligayahan, Nova Proper, San Agustin and Sta. Monica in Quezon City will have water interruptions on November 4-5 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. because of network diagnostics activities at Quirino Highway to detect possible leaks.Several locations in the villages of Alabang, Bayanan, Poblacion, Putatan and Tunasan in Muntinlupa City will have water service interruptions on November 5-6 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. due to facility maintenance activities at Putatan Water Treatment Plant 2.In Cavite, various areas in the villages of Alapan I-C, Anabu I-A, Anabu I-B, Anabu I-C, Anabu I-D, Anabu I-E, Anabu I-F, Anabu II-A, Anabu II- B, Anabu II-C, Anabu II-D, Anabu II-E, Bayan Luma I, Bayan Luma II, Bayan Luma III, Bayan Luma IV, Bayan Luma V, Bayan Luma VI, Bayan Luma VII, Bayan Luma VIII, Bayan Luma IX, Bukandala III, Bukandala IV, Bukandala V, Carsadang Bago I, Carsadang Bago II, Malagasang 1-A, Malagasang I-B, Malagasang I-C, Malagasang I-D, Malagasang I-E, Malagasang I-F, Malagasang I-G, Medicion I-B, Poblacion III-B, Poblacion IV-B, Poblacion IV-D, and Tanzang Luma VI in Imus City will have water service interruptions everyday on November 2-8 between 5 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. because of network and facility limitations of the Patindig Araw pumping station.

- No room for shady insertions: Ejercito says watchdogs allowed to join budget bicam proceedings (2026-11-01 02:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate Finance Committee Chairman JV Ejercito said that civil society organizations (CSOs) will participate in the bicameral deliberations on the proposed 2027 national budget, saying more public scrutiny is needed to catch unvetted projects and prevent last-minute insertions.Ejercito said the move responds to calls from business coalitions, civic groups and budget watchdogs for greater transparency and accountability in the budget process. He also confirmed that the bicameral proceedings would be livestreamed. “We are continuing to build on our best practices. This year, we will be inviting CSOs to sit in and observe the bicameral proceedings. Having more eyes on the budget will help us spot any unvetted projects or last-minute insertions that may be introduced during the bicam,” he said in a statement.Ejercito said the planned public access to the deliberations would extend the transparency measures adopted by the Senate Finance Committee throughout its review. “All Senate Finance Committee budget hearings were livestreamed, which allowed the public to follow agency deliberations in real time,” he said.The committee also held a dedicated hearing for CSOs on Oct. 26, giving participating groups an opportunity to present recommendations and raise concerns about proposed allocations.Ejercito welcomed the groups’ call to remove budget insertions without technical justification and restore funding cuts to foreign-assisted infrastructure projects, disaster preparedness and preventive health programs.He said public participation should extend beyond congressional hearings to citizens' access to budget information and tools for scrutinizing government spending.The committee has incorporated digital tools developed by civil society groups, including independent research organization BetterGov.ph, into the Senate’s budget transparency portal (https://budget-transparency-portal.senate.gov.ph).Through the portal, citizens can examine

agency budget documents, submit position papers and flag allocations they consider questionable. “Transparency is not just a policy statement; it is an active mechanism. These tools were built by watchdogs themselves, and we are glad to give them a home on the Senate website so ordinary citizens can scrutinize where public funds are going,” Ejercito said.

• No sacred cows in Senate budget review — Lacson (2026-11-01 02:05)

MANILA, Philippines — No lawmaker will be spared scrutiny in the Senate's review of the proposed 2027 national budget as senators take a “gung-ho” approach in correcting questionable allocations and budget insertions, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said.Lacson said he and fellow members of the Senate majority bloc fully support Senate Finance Committee chairman Sen. JV Ejercito in addressing red flags in the House-approved version of the proposed General Appropriations Act. “Our attitude now is to go gung-ho. If anyone gets hit, so be it. There will be no exceptions, otherwise the exception could become the general rule,” Lacson said in an interview with One News.Asked whether the scrutiny would also cover the biggest net increase in public works allocations for the congressional district of presidential son and Ilocos Norte Rep. Sandro Marcos in the House-approved budget, Lacson replied: “Yes, absolutely.” “If we make exceptions, many will ask for exceptions and we won't succeed because there will be plea bargaining,” he said.The Senate is scheduled to resume plenary sessions on Nov. 9, when debates on the proposed 2027 budget will begin.Lacson said he already submitted his subcommittee reports on the proposed budgets of government agencies assigned to him, which are now being reviewed by the Legislative Budget Research and Monitoring Office (LBRMO). “Once the plenary sessions resume, the LBRMO would have finished its review and we can introduce amendments to restore the changes the House made to its version of the General Appropriations Bill,” he said.Lacson expressed confidence that questionable insertions would not find their way into the Senate version of the budget. “In the Senate, I don't know if someone sneaked in funds for pet projects, but I don't think so. When we in the majority bloc chat, I can feel my colleagues' sentiments,” he said.

• Some areas in Metro Manila, four provinces to have power interruptions due to maintenance works (2026-11-01 01:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Some areas in Metro Manila and the provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal will have power interruptions this week due to maintenance works, Meralco said on Sunday.Some parts of Marikina Heights in Marikina City and some sections of Brgy. Cupang in Antipolo City, Rizal will have power interruptions on November 4 between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. because of the retirement of electricity facilities and line reconstruction works along Rumbler St. and Villa Grande St. in Villa Grande Subd.Some locations in the villages of Malibong Bata and Malibong Matanda in Pandi, Bulacan will have no electricity on November 3-4 between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of the replacement and installation of electricity facilities and line reconductoring works along Malibong Matanda Road.Some portions of Gateway Business Park in Brgy. Javalera, General Trias in Cavite will have no power on November 2 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. because of line reconstruction works.Several places in

the villages of Barandal, Batino, Mayapa, Paciano Rizal, and Punta in Calamba City, Laguna will have power service interruptions on November 2-3 between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. because of the relocation of electricity facilities affected by a road widening project along Batino Road.Some places in Brgy. Mayamot, Antipolo City, Rizal will have no electricity on November 4 between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. because of line reconstruction works along Kaimito Ave. and Mahogany Ave.

- Thousands join zombie-themed fun run in Manila (2026-11-01 01:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Three thousand people participated in the 5-kilometer, zombie-themed Run For Your Life early on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026.The route started and ended at Magallanes Drive in Intramuros.Participants passed historic sites in Manila as the route traversed Padre Burgos Avenue which gave a view of the lit Manila City Hall before taking them to Victoria Street, beside Intramuros' walls at Muralla, Anda which runs along the Memorare Manila 1945 monument as well as the former site of what is now Ateneo de Manila University, Sta. Lucia where the Cuartel de Santa Lucia ruins are, Muralla, a part of General Luna, back to Padre Burgos, then Bonifacio Drive, and Soriano Avenue from which one can see the Manila Cathedral, Ayuntamiento, and Aduana.A halloween street party will be held today under the Intramuros Administration’s Intramumu program.

- Pet crematorium in Bacoor shut down (2026-11-01 01:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Bacoor, Cavite Mayor Strike Revilla said the city has shut down the pet crematorium that was linked online to the alleged dumping of dead animals in Bulacan.In a Facebook post on Saturday night, Revilla said that Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium was ordered closed in response to several complaints.The closure came amid the discovery of 29 deceased dogs and cats at a vacant lot in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan late on Friday. “In response to the complaints we received from our fellow citizens, we immediately directed the City Legal Office and the Business Permit and Licensing Department (BPLD), together with our police force and other concerned offices, to conduct an investigation. We have officially implemented a closure order against the establishment in question,” Revilla wrote in Filipino. “The investigation is ongoing to establish the full truth and ensure that anyone found to have violated the law is held accountable,” he added.He also met with representatives of the crematorium and 30 pet owners.Revilla said the establishment had two cremation machines in Bacoor and in Caloocan City. “The owner admitted that some pets were brought to Caloocan for cremation. However, there is still insufficient documentation or evidence to prove that the cremations were actually carried out,” the mayor said.He added that the columbarium owner could not confirm whether or not the animals that were dumped in Bulacan were among those entrusted to them.Whose ashes?Rose Ann dela Peña said she lost her dog Blue, also known as B2, on May 29.She told The Manila Times in a message early on Sunday that while B2 was not among the animals discovered in Bulacan, she was concerned about whether or not she got the ashes of her pet. “We entrusted B2 to Ahjay’s, believing that we would receive her ashes and nothing else. But with everything that has come to light, how can we be sure? We deserve the truth, transparency, and proper answers from Ahjay’s. We just want to make sure that the

ashes we received truly belong to our beloved B2," dela Peña said. "We trusted them during one of the most painful moments of our lives. Knowing that something like this allegedly happened makes us question whether our pets were truly handled with the care, respect, and dignity they deserved… As fur parents, our pets are family. They deserve respect even after they pass away, and we deserve peace of mind knowing that they were treated properly," she added.While dela Peña welcomed the closure of the pet columbarium, she called for a thorough investigation. "We want clear answers, accountability from those responsible, and assurance that this will never happen again. I also hope the authorities will strengthen the monitoring and regulation of pet crematoriums to protect other fur parents from experiencing this kind of pain and uncertainty," she said. "We are not just talking about animals; we are talking about beloved family members entrusted to their care. Every fur parent deserves the truth, and every pet deserves a dignified farewell," she added.The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) has called on owners of pets that were deceived to come forward and pursue legal action. "The images of the dumped bodies of the dogs and cats were shocking, although not directly a violation of the Animal Welfare Act if the animals were already deceased when they were turned over to the crematorium," PAWS said on Saturday.They pointed out that these actions constitute a grave betrayal of public trust. "Pet parents paid for a service that was supposed to provide their beloved companions with a dignified farewell. Instead, their remains were reportedly dumped like garbage in a vacant lot. This is not merely a failure to deliver a service but constitutes Estafa by means of deceit," the group said. "We urge affected pet parents to preserve their receipts, cremation certificates, communications, photographs, and other evidence, and to seek legal assistance in filing the appropriate complaint," PAWS said. "The emotional harm suffered by these pet parents must not be dismissed. They entrusted the remains of beloved family members for a dignified farewell, only to be deprived of that farewell at a particularly vulnerable moment of grief. The bond between a person and a companion animal does not end with death. The dignity with which a beloved animal is laid to rest matters deeply to those who loved and cared for them."

- American 'yields' P17.46M worth of marijuana at NAIA (2026-10-31 19:01)

MANILA, Philippines — An American passenger was arrested after the Bureau of Customs (BOC) intercepted about P17.46 million worth of marijuana kush allegedly concealed in his luggage at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3.BOC Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno said on Saturday that the foreigner, who arrived from Bangkok, Thailand, was caught on Oct. 29 by the bureau personnel in coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and NAIA Inter-Agency Drug Interdiction Task Group (NAIA-IADITG). "He was said to be carrying two pieces of luggage containing food packages in which the suspected illegal drugs were hidden," Nepomuceno said.Reports showed that the contraband was discovered after the two checked-in luggage items showed suspicious images during X-ray screening. Customs personnel immediately conducted a physical inspection after his luggage items were subjected to K9 inspection, during which the drug-sniffing dog gave a positive indication of the possible presence of illegal drugs. The inspection yielded 15

vacuum-sealed packages of suspected marijuana kush hidden in food packets. Five packages weighing a total of 5,122 grams and valued at approximately P5.12 million were recovered from the first luggage, while 10 packages weighing 12,342 grams and worth P12.34 million were found in the second.The American passenger was subsequently arrested for allegedly bringing prohibited drugs into the country, according to BOC.Three days before the operation, the joint team also intercepted on Oct. 26 some 7,335 grams of suspected marijuana kush worth P7.33 million from unclaimed luggage at NAIA Terminal 3. The luggage also came from Bangkok, Thailand, and the suspected illegal drugs were found concealed in aluminum food pouches and sealed transparent plastic bags.In just four days, a total of 24.8 kilograms of suspected marijuana kush valued at P24.79 million were seized in two separate operations, according to BOC-NAIA District Collector Yasmin Obillos-Mapa.The successive seizures were made possible by the strict vigilance of Customs personnel and swift coordination with partner agencies to strengthen security at the airport, Obillos-Mapa said.Commending the BOC, PDEA, and NAIA-IADITG personnel for their swift and coordinated action, Nepomuceno stressed the importance of maintaining strict vigilance and coordination to prevent attempts to smuggle illegal drugs into the country.

- Chinese research ship stirs security concerns (2026-10-31 16:20)

A NATIONAL security advocate on Saturday warned that civilian scientific research could be used to conceal activities that threaten Philippine security, as a Chinese vessel carrying unidentified equipment was spotted inside Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal), while China deployed military aircraft and naval forces around the disputed feature.Jose Antonio Goitia, chairman emeritus of the Filipinos Do Not Yield Movement, said Beijing should not be allowed to use claims of scientific research to conceal potentially military activities, stressing the Philippines' right to protect its maritime interests and demand transparency from foreign vessels operating in its maritime domain.The warning came after The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said it was investigating the capabilities and purpose of unidentified equipment aboard a Chinese vessel spotted inside the lagoon of Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal), including whether the equipment could be used for underwater operations.According to the PCG, the blue-and-white vessel was first monitored on Oct. 3 and had changed its configuration several times since then.During a maritime domain awareness flight on Thursday, Oct. 29, Philippine personnel observed the vessel towing a smaller boat and carrying an orange, boat-shaped object fitted with sensors and antennas on its rear deck.The PCG cautioned against identifying the vessel as a Chinese research ship, saying its bow number and International Maritime Organization number did not match those of known Chinese research vessels.The Coast Guard sought to determine the capabilities of the equipment and whether the vessel was supporting Chinese government operations in the area.The agency was particularly examining whether the orange object was a submersible or equipment intended for underwater operations.The PCG noted that China had previously used remotely operated vehicles to conduct seabed research and said underwater drones could also be involved.However, the PCG has not established the equipment's actual function or confirmed that it was being used for surveillance.The sighting

coincided with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command's announcement on Friday that Chinese naval and air forces had conducted combat-readiness patrols in the waters and airspace around Huangyan Dao, Beijing's name for Bajo de Masinloc.The PLA said it had strengthened patrols around the shoal since early October to tighten control over the surrounding waters and airspace, describing the latest operations as a response to what it called Philippine rights violations and provocative acts.Footage aired by Chinese state broadcaster CCTV-7's Junshi Baodao (Military Report) on Oct. 30 showed military aircraft and a naval vessel operating around the shoal, including scenes depicting Chinese forces monitoring a Philippine aircraft and issuing radio warnings.The broadcast did not independently establish when the encounters occurred or verify Beijing's claim that the Philippine aircraft had entered Chinese territorial airspace.Separately, the China Coast Guard said it conducted law enforcement patrols around the shoal on Friday, also citing alleged Philippine provocations.Goitia expressed concern over reports that Chinese maritime platforms described as "ghost research ships" could be used to deploy underwater drones to map submarine transit routes and collect information with potential military applications, including anti-submarine warfare.Available information, however, does not establish that the vessel spotted inside the shoal's lagoon carried out such activities."China must stop treating our waters as though they are its own. Filipinos have endured enough intimidation and harassment in our maritime domain. We have every right to know what foreign vessels are doing in our waters, and we will not accept activities that threaten our security or disregard our sovereign rights," said Goitia, who is also chairman emeritus of several civic society groups, including Alyansa ng Bantay sa Kapayapaan at Demokrasya (ABKD), and People’s Alliance for Democracy and Reforms (Pader).He cited the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos), particularly Article 246, which generally requires coastal state consent for marine scientific research in a country's exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, subject to the convention's provisions.Article 240 requires marine scientific research to be conducted exclusively for peaceful purposes.The latest developments add to tensions around Bajo de Masinloc, a longstanding flashpoint in the maritime dispute between the Philippines and China.The shoal lies about 124 nautical miles west of Zambales, within the Philippines' 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone.China has maintained control over access to the shoal since a 2012 standoff with the Philippines.In 2016, an arbitral tribunal ruled that Filipino fishermen had traditional fishing rights there and that China had unlawfully prevented them from exercising those rights.The tribunal also rejected China's claims to historic rights over resources within its so-called nine-dash line to the extent that they exceeded the maritime entitlements allowed under Unclos.Beijing rejects the ruling and continues to assert sovereignty over the shoal.

- Duterte to skip ICC hearing; co-conspirators’ fate unclear (2026-10-31 16:19)

FORMER president Rodrigo Duterte has waived his right to attend a Nov. 2 status conference in his crimes against humanity case before the International Criminal Court (ICC), as questions remain over why Sen. Ronald dela Rosa is the only one among eight alleged co-perpetrators publicly confirmed to face an arrest warrant.Duterte’s defense team submitted his signed

waiver to ICC Trial Chamber III in a filing dated Oct. 30, complying with the chamber's directive to formally place the document on record.The defense said Duterte notified the chamber on Oct. 28 of his decision to waive his right to attend the fifth status conference.The chamber granted his request the following day and directed his lawyers to submit a signed waiver.Duterte also instructed his lawyers to address the procedural matters on the conference agenda and any other issues that may arise during the hearing.The conference will take place before Trial Chamber III, composed of Presiding Judge Joanna Korner and Judges Keebong Paek and Nicolas Guillou, ahead of Duterte's scheduled Nov. 30 trial.Meanwhile, the ICC has not publicly explained whether arrest warrants have been issued against the seven other officials whom prosecutors identified alongside Duterte and dela Rosa as alleged co-perpetrators in the former president's anti-drug campaign.Aside from dela Rosa, the officials named in the prosecution's updated trial brief include Sen. Christopher Lawrence Go; former Philippine National Police chiefs Vicente Danao, Oscar Albayalde and the late Camilo Cascolan; former justice secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II; former National Bureau of Investigation director Dante Gierran; and former Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency chief Isidro Lapeña.Prosecutors allege that Duterte and the eight officials shared a "common plan" to neutralize people suspected of criminal activity through violent acts, including murder, from November 2011 to March 2019.However, being named in the prosecution's account does not automatically mean that an individual faces a separate charge or an arrest warrant. The ICC has not publicly confirmed warrants against the seven other officials.The ICC's Pre-Trial Chamber I issued an arrest warrant against dela Rosa under seal on Nov. 6, 2025, following a prosecution application filed three days earlier. The warrant was unsealed on May 11, 2026.The chamber found reasonable grounds to believe that dela Rosa was responsible as an indirect co-perpetrator for the crime against humanity of murder, alongside Duterte and other alleged co-perpetrators.The warrant covers killings committed between at least July 3, 2016, and the end of April 2018, when at least 32 people were killed. Dela Rosa served as PNP chief from July 1, 2016, to April 19, 2018.The chamber said the killings cited in the warrant represented a sample of a potentially broader pattern of conduct, leaving prosecutors the possibility of seeking to add other alleged criminal incidents later.Before the warrant was unsealed, an ICC spokesperson said no public arrest warrants had been issued in connection with the Philippines situation.The court later confirmed that dela Rosa's warrant had been issued confidentially before being made public.The disclosure showed that the absence of a publicly announced warrant does not necessarily mean that no sealed warrant exists.The ICC has not said whether similar warrants have been issued against other individuals named in the prosecution's account.ICC-accredited counsel Ross Tugade said in February that the identification of alleged co-perpetrators raised the possibility that the court was considering arrest warrants against them.In its April confirmation-of-charges decision, however, the Pre-Trial Chamber clarified that references to the alleged co-perpetrators did not constitute a determination of their criminal responsibility.

- Image of soldiers backing dela Rosa fake, Army says (2026-10-31 16:18)

THE Philippine Army's 10th Infantry Division has denounced an AI-generated image falsely portraying its troops endorsing the fugitive senator Ronald dela Rosa, warning that the fabricated image misrepresents the military's political neutrality.In a "Fake News Alert" issued over the weekend, the 10th Infantry (Agila) Division said the image circulating on social media falsely depicted its personnel expressing political support for dela Rosa.The division said the manipulated image could mislead the public and undermine the professionalism and political neutrality of military personnel.The image showed armed soldiers posing on an armored vehicle in front of the division's main gate while holding a banner bearing the words, "We support Senator Bato dela Rosa." The circulating social media card carried a post attributed to the "1st Infantry Tabak Division Philippine Army" page and posted by a user identified as Regis Paller Enrique. Its caption read, "good job we salute 10ID troopers." The 10ID urged the public to verify information through official sources before sharing unverified posts, stressing that its official positions and statements are communicated only through authorized channels.It also reiterated its commitment to serving Filipinos without political affiliation or preference and condemned the misuse of artificial intelligence to misrepresent its personnel.Dela Rosa, in hiding since November 2025, is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes against humanity, in relation to his role as police chief during the Duterte administration's bloody war on drugs, in which thousands of suspects were killed. Former president Rodrigo Duterte is already in The Hague, awaiting trial.

- 29 dead pets found dumped in Bulacan (2026-10-31 16:17)

TWENTY-SIX dogs and three cats were found dumped in a vacant lot in San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, inside individual plastic bags that had names and weight specifications labeled on them, an animal welfare group said over the weekend.Luna and Furry Siblings, on a Facebook post late Friday, said the 29 pets were "thrown away like trash" in the vacant lot.The animals are identified as Sakura, Sweet, Brandon, Dara, Red, Dos, Ivy, Jedy, Crunch, Akira, and Jennifer, who are all dogs, while the cats' names are Ira, Lucky, and Chelsea. Two dogs shared the name Brandon.The group also posted several live videos and, on Saturday, returned to the vacant lot where they discovered the animals, saying the owners of an unnamed pet crematorium admitted that they handled these animals. "We are waiting, just to make sure that's in writing and as soon as it's done, we're going to release the name and hopefully retrieve these pets. We will update everybody on this and let you guys know what's happening," the group said in a live video on Saturday.The animal rescue service also said the dogs and cats will be reburied in another location.The Manila Times has tried reaching out to the animal rescue service but has not returned calls as of press time.A pet crematorium based in Cavite was named as the one behind the dumping of the animals, and has since deactivated its Facebook and Instagram pages following the discovery of the pets.The Manila Times also tried reaching the pet crematorium on Saturday.Luna and Furry Siblings, along with the Animal Kingdom Foundation, called on pet owners who recently lost their pets to check the records.The animal rescue service tapped an animal clinic to lend them a microchip scanner to find a registration chip on the animals but said none of them had one. "Did you trust a clinic, handler,

or aftercare provider with a pet matching one of these names and weights? If you paid a business to handle your pet’s remains with dignity, they may have defrauded you and dumped them in a vacant lot instead,” Luna and Furry Siblings wrote. “Please check your vet records and receipts. If you recognize your pet’s name and weight, message us privately right now. Your paperwork will be the smoking gun we need to nail the exact establishment responsible for this heartless, illegal act... We cannot rest. We need the power of the internet to find the owners of Sakura, Brandon, Chelsea, and the rest of these babies,” they added.Youth organization Angat Kabataang San Joseño called on the local government of San Jose del Monte and other appropriate authorities to conduct a thorough investigation and identify those responsible. “We hope that available CCTV footage, witness accounts, and other pieces of evidence will be properly examined to establish what truly happened. We also urge the authorities to take the necessary steps to prevent similar incidents from happening again,” the group said on Friday night. “We believe that animal welfare should not be taken lightly. This incident deserves proper attention, and those found responsible must be held accountable in accordance with the law,” they added.Animal Kingdom Foundation on Saturday called on the public to search for the pets’ owners and to trace those responsible for dumping the 29 dogs and cats. “We are appealing to pet owners who recently lost a pet or availed cremation and aftercare services in SJDM and nearby areas to check their records and receipts,” the foundation said on Saturday. “Someone entrusted these animals’ remains to a service provider. They deserved dignity, not to be dumped like garbage,” they added.Not the first timeThe foundation also said that it was not the first time a case of animal dumping happened this year alone. “Similar reports of animal dumping surfaced as early as May, when only two dogs were identified. Now, another disturbing incident involving 29 dogs has been reported in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan,” Animal Kingdom Foundation said on Saturday. “The pattern is alarming. These animals were not simply abandoned; they were discarded, as if their lives meant nothing,” it added.

- Leo XIV is 1st pope to vote in a US poll (2026-10-31 16:16)

VATICAN CITY — Pope Leo XIV has become the first pontiff to vote in a US general election, casting a mail-in ballot in a contest that will decide America's political future as the Trump era slowly comes to an end.The Vatican confirmed Friday that the Chicago-born pontiff had submitted a mail-in ballot in the city ahead of the Nov. 3 midterm elections, citing his long-standing belief in civic participation.Leo, formerly Robert Prevost, “has exercised his right to vote as a United States citizen," as he has done “whenever he was eligible to do so,” the Holy See press office said.The statement said he had also voted while living in Peru, where he lived as a missionary priest and bishop for over 20 years. “The Holy Father expresses his belief in the right and the duty of citizens to participate in democratic processes,” it added.Leo holds US and Peruvian citizenship, and is also the head of state of a foreign country, the Holy See. The city-state is an absolute monarchy with no political elections.US federal law allows citizens living abroad, even those working for foreign governments, to vote via absentee ballot. Americans working for foreign governments aren’t automatically at risk of forfeiting their US citizenship,

though the US State Department says on its website that it may “actively review” the citizenship status of Americans who “serve as a foreign head of state, foreign head of government, or foreign minister.” This election, Illinois voters are deciding whether to elect Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker to his third term, and they’re also filling an open US Senate seat after longtime Catholic Democrat Dick Durbin’s retirement. There are no statewide issues on the Illinois ballot.President Donald Trump is not on the ballot, but he has campaigned hard to try to preserve Republican control of the US House and Senate for the final two years of his second term.The pope, registered at a New Lenox, Illinois, address, requested a mail-in ballot on Oct. 3, said Kim Fladhammer, chief of staff to the Will County clerk, on Friday. The Chicago Sun-Times first reported the request.The request was made just 10 days before Leo underwent surgery to remove a cancerous tumor from his right lung. Leo has been slowly resuming his activities at the Vatican after being released from the hospital on Oct. 17.It is unclear how Leo returned the ballot. The pope's older brother, John Prevost, was in Rome this week accompanying parishioners from St. Jude’s, an Augustinian-run parish in New Lenox, Illinois. The elder Prevost attends Mass there, and Leo gave a talk at the parish in 2024 while still a cardinal.Prevost's past votes have gone Democratic and Republican.Since 2000, Robert Prevost has voted in five primary elections, requesting Democratic ballots twice and Republican ballots three times, according to records held by the Illinois State Board of Elections.The records do not show which candidates he supported. Illinois voters must declare a party preference to receive a primary ballot. No such declaration is required in general elections.While registered in heavily Democratic Cook County, Prevost requested Democratic primary ballots in 2008 and 2010. After moving to the more conservative suburban Will County, he requested Republican primary ballots in 2012, 2014 and 2016.The records also show that he submitted ballots in every general election since 2000 except those in 2020 and 2022.Clashes with TrumpSince becoming pope, Leo has drawn criticism from Trump for repeatedly condemning the US-Israeli war in Iran and calling for dignified treatment of immigrants, following the Trump administration’s crackdown and mass deportation program.Earlier this year, Trump called Leo “weak” and captive to the “radical left,” kicking off a remarkable back-and-forth public argument that dominated Leo's April trip to Africa.Responding to Trump, Leo told reporters en route to Algeria: “I’m not afraid of the Trump administration or of speaking out loudly about the message of the Gospel, which is what the church works for.” The public dispute has subsided in recent months. “We try to let things pass if there are misunderstandings,” the Vatican foreign minister, Archbishop Richard Paul Gallagher, told reporters this week. "With anybody, we would be looking to approach it and say, ‘OK, there may be a misunderstanding, let’s move on and try to rebuild trust and confidence.’” Leo and Trump have not spoken by phone since the pope's May 2025 election. Last week, however, Leo spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy about the humanitarian crisis in the Ukrainian city of Oleshky.Asked why Trump and Leo haven't spoken, Gallagher said the Holy See has found a capable conduit in the US ambassador to the Holy See, Brian Burch, and hadn't needed to elevate any issue higher.A pope who follows US politics closelyLeo has made clear on several occasions that he follows local and national US politics closely and is not afraid to intervene.Recently, Leo reiterated official church teaching declaring the death penalty

“inadmissible.” He made the pronouncement in a social media post on the World Day Against the Death Penalty, which came as the US announced plans to livestream an execution by firing squad. The plans were later scrapped.In 2025, Leo intervened in a debate over abortion, after Chicago Cardinal Blase Cupich announced plans to give a lifetime achievement award to Sen. Dick Durbin. The plans drew objection from some conservative US bishops given the powerful Democratic senator’s support for abortion rights.Leo called for respect for both sides, but he also pointed out the contradiction between people who call themselves “pro-life” but also support the death penalty.Also in 2025, Leo said he was “very disappointed” that his home state of Illinois approved a law allowing medically assisted dying, which is condemned by the Catholic Church.The US Conference of Catholic Bishops, in a note commenting on the confirmation of Leo’s midterm vote, urged Catholics to put “our faith before our politics” and uphold human dignity and the common good. “As Catholics and Americans, we are blessed to be able to participate in our nation’s political and public life,” said the conference’s director of public affairs, Chieko Noguchi. “In voting, our Holy Father sets the example that encourages each citizen to exercise their civic responsibility.”

- Senate chief assures business community (2026-10-31 16:15)

SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian on Saturday assured the country’s business sector that senators will rigorously vet the proposed P7.2-trillion 2027 national budget, promising to strip away all politically driven, technically baseless congressional insertions.The statement comes in direct response to a joint manifesto issued by major business groups on Oct. 29, 2026, which raised grave concerns over P180 billion in realignments introduced by the House of Representatives under House Bill 10858.Gatchalian welcomed the private sector’s vigilance and maintained that a clean budget can be delivered without delaying its timely passage.Projects to be purgedGatchalian said a formal recall of the House-approved General Appropriations Bill is unnecessary.Instead, the Senate will address the discrepancies through its own rigorous committee and plenary review processes."The Senate Committee on Finance will remove from the General Appropriations Bill all projects lacking supporting documents, such as feasibility studies, programs of work, resolutions from the LGUs (local government units), and other required documents," Gatchalian said.To ensure public oversight, the Senate leader also committed to deep transparency reforms."We will continue the transparency reforms by uploading all relevant information to the Senate Transparency Portal," he added.Furthermore, Gatchalian asserted that the Senate will remove unconstitutional and lump-sum provisions previously flagged by the Supreme Court — specifically tightening safeguards on unprogrammed appropriations — while keeping final spending strictly within the president’s recommended ceiling in the National Expenditure Program (NEP).Massive realignmentThe business community’s joint call exposed a massive realignment by the House Budget Amendments and Review Subcommittee (Barsc), which added over P180 billion to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) allocation.The adjustments reportedly inflated the DPWH project registry by 6,212 items — bringing the total to 16,270 projects — many of which are classified as vague lump-sum entries for multi-purpose buildings and bypass

roads, lacking named proponents or published project lists.Of greater concern to the business sector was the source of the funding. The House reportedly carved out P130 billion from rigorously prepared, foreign-assisted infrastructure projects, P9.5 billion from calamity funds, P4.9 billion from vital health care programs, and P1.76 billion from the EDSA Busway project."Raiding calamity funds in a country that is exposed to disasters is indefensible," the business groups said in their manifesto, warning that cutting foreign-assisted projects delays high-impact infrastructure needed to reduce logistics costs and attract capital.The sector noted that past unvetted insertions between 2023 and 2025 resulted in "ghost and substandard flood control projects" that wasted public funds.Signatories to the manifesto were the Makati Business Club, Management Association of the Philippines, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Federation of Philippine Industries, Foundation for Economic Freedom, Judicial Reform Initiative, Cebu Business Club, Cebu Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Alyansa Agrikultura, and the Move As One Coalition.Not an election fundIn response to fears that the allocations could be weaponized ahead of upcoming political cycles, Gatchalian firmly rejected the label of an "election budget."He emphasized that the final 2027 appropriations will be a growth and resilience budget explicitly mapped out to address inflation, job creation, food security, health care and disaster readiness.The Senate is scheduled to begin its plenary deliberations on Nov. 9, 2026. Both the Senate leadership and the business community agree that eliminating baseless insertions can be achieved comfortably within the current legislative calendar, thereby averting the economic risks of a reenacted budget."Investors, at home and abroad, read the national budget as a statement of how seriously a government takes integrity and value for money," the business sector statement read, adding that they will closely monitor the legislative process through to its final enactment.

- Road Crash Victims Day guidelines issued (2026-10-31 16:15)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. signed Memorandum Circular 139 on Oct. 26, providing guidelines for this year’s observance of the National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims, Survivors and Their Families on Nov. 15.” The 2026 National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims, Survivors and Their Families will be observed on the third Sunday of November with the theme, ‘Remember. Reflect. Act. Save Lives,’ and its successful observance will require the active participation of all concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, as well as the support of local government units and the private sector,” the memorandum read.Republic Act 11468, also known as the National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims, Survivors and Their Families Act, is a Philippine law approved on Jan. 23, 2020, during the administration of former president Rodrigo Duterte.Its main purpose is to honor people who lost their lives in road crashes, recognize survivors and their families, and promote road safety awareness throughout the country.The law promotes better support for road crash victims, survivors and their families. It recognizes that road crashes do not only affect the individuals involved. They also affect families, communities and society.The Department of Transportation was tasked to provide guidelines for all programs and activities,

while the Presidential Communications Office will promote public awareness of the event.

• Lopez orders completion of stalled DPWH projects (2026-10-31 16:14)

PUBLIC Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez said he has ordered the completion of all projects under the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).Lopez issued the statement during the reopening of a road in Tuba, Benguet, on Fridaay.” If you recall, Secretary Vince Dizon visited this site in May 2026, and iThe nstructed the regional director and district engineering officials to address the problem here,” Lopez said.President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. recently ordered a Cabinet reshuffle where Dizon and Lopez swapped places. Dizon returned to head the Department of Transportation to address mass transit and daily commuter issues, while Lopez assumed leadership of the DPWH to institutionalize ongoing anti-corruption and transparency reforms.The road in Benguet, Lopez said, had been operating on a one-way basis since 2025, causing inconvenience to residents and motorists.Lopez said the concerned DPWH officials were ordered to complete the work in five months.” We will hold them to their commitment,” he said.Lopez added that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. wants the road opened for the All Saints’ Day travel rush.” The President’s instruction is that whatever commitments Secretary Vince made and whatever projects were delayed must be continued,” he said.” That commitment is not just to the President or to Secretary Vince. Above all, it is a commitment to the Filipino people,” Lopez added.

• Govt favors public-private partnerships for airports (2026-10-31 16:12)

TRANSPORTATION Secretary Vince Dizon said on Saturday that the government is determined to pursue more public-private partnerships (PPPs) to improve airports around the country.The order of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Dizon said, is to pursue PPP arrangements for as many airports as possible.” Clearly, we can see the difference in security, comfort and shorter queues,” Dizon said, comparing airports operated under PPP arrangements with those still managed by the government.He cited Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Clark International Airport and Mactan-Cebu International Airport as examples.” There’s a huge difference when we compare these airports with those that have not yet been placed under PPP arrangements,” Dizon said, noting such joint ventures would help accelerate the improvement of passenger services.” We still have a lot to improve, but things have gotten much better and travel has become more convenient. We can make these improvements faster and more efficiently through public-private partnerships because the government alone cannot do it,” he said.This comes as the government prepares to host the upcoming Asean Summit.Dizon said the Department of Transportation is in coordination with the Asean Organizing Committee on how the summit could impact flight schedules.

• Strait of Hormuz attack prompts heightened alert (2026-10-31 16:11)

THE Department of Migrant Workers and the Philippine Embassy in Muscat said strict monitoring of vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz was being implemented due to the high number of Filipino seafarers navigating these high-risk waters.This comes after official reports

from the Omani Maritime Security Center and regional maritime agencies confirmed that 25 sailors were safely evacuated and provided medical care after their vessel was attacked off Musandam Governorate on Oct. 30.Authorities have not yet released the crew manifest of those aboard.The incident happened during a sharp surge in maritime hostilities across the vital shipping corridor. Reports from regional monitors and Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps cited a wave of tanker interceptions, hull explosions from attached explosive devices and alleged naval mine strikes affecting commercial traffic.The recurring security threats in the region prompted Philippine labor authorities to enforce protective measures for Filipino maritime workers.Under these official protocols, mariners retain the right to refuse deployment into designated high-risk or warlike zones, while those continuing transit are entitled to double compensation and immediate repatriation if their vessels are targeted.

- Ordanes pushes national artist category for culinary arts (2026-10-31 16:10)

SENIOR Citizens Party-list Rep. Rodolfo Ordanes on Saturday urged the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) to establish a national artist category for culinary arts.This comes as Philippine restaurants gain more Michelin recognition, an award bestowed upon a restaurant by the Michelin Guide, one of the world’s oldest, most prestigious and influential fine-dining evaluation systems.Culinary arts are not currently recognized as a separate category under the Order of National Artists, a gap he said deserves serious consideration by the two cultural institutions.” As Philippine cuisine gains wider international recognition, we must also honor the leading practitioners who have preserved, developed and elevated our country’s culinary traditions,” Ordanes said in a statement.” The culinary arts are not yet recognized as a separate category under the Order of National Artists. This deserves serious consideration by the NCCA and CCP,” he added.He called on leading Philippine universities to conduct scholarly research documenting the foundations, diversity and distinct traditions of the country’s cuisines.Ordanes emphasized the use of “Philippine cuisines” in the plural, saying the country’s culinary heritage extends beyond well-known dishes such as adobo, sinigang, kare-kare, lechon and sisig.” Establishing a National Artist category for Culinary Arts would bring greater national and international attention to Filipino culinary excellence,” Ordanes said.” It would also shine a spotlight on the many chefs, cooks, food service workers, farmers, fisherfolk and livestock raisers who sustain our rich food traditions,” he added.Establishing a new national artist category, he said, would also pave the way for the recognition of the communities, traditions and people behind the food that makes the Philippines proud.In its second Philippine edition, the Michelin Guide recognized 19 new food establishments across Manila, Cebu, Pampanga and Cavite, bringing the total number of honorees this year to 127.Among the new Bib Gourmand awardees are Apag Marangle and Tito Boy in Pampanga; Balay Dako and Bawai’s Vietnamese Kitchen in Cavite; Azela in Manila; Tatang’s Lechon and Kalipay in Cebu; and C.H.E. Bacolod Chicken House Express in Makati.

- Marcos approves climate change event guidelines (2026-10-31 16:09)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has approved the guidelines for the observance of the Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week on Nov. 19 to 25.Released through Executive Secretary Ralph Recto, Memorandum Circular 140 orders government bodies, government-owned and -controlled corporations, and state universities and colleges to participate in the event.” The 2026 Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week will be celebrated nationwide from 19 to 25 November 2026, to be led by the Climate Change Commission (CCC) under the theme, ‘Komunidad, Kooperasyon at Koordinasyon para sa Klima,’ and its successful celebration will require the active participation of all concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, as well as the support of local government units, educational institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector,” the memorandum read.The CCC is the government’s primary policymaking agency on climate issues under Republic Act 9729 and its amendment, Republic Act 10174.The funding for the initiative will come from each agency’s existing budget, following standard budget, accounting and auditing rules. The Presidential Communications Office, meanwhile, was instructed to raise public awareness on the event.

- Network anchor posts bail over cyber libel charges (2026-10-31 16:07)

CJ Hirro, known as an anchor of the Peanut Gallery Media Network (PGMN), appeared on Friday at the Regional Trial Court Branch 90 in Quezon City and posted bail of over P300,000 after a warrant of arrest was issued against her for seven counts of cyber libel by former congressman Marvin Rillo.Hirro posted bail of P336,000 in cash and was granted provisional liberty.In a statement on her Facebook page late Friday, Hirro said she respects the court’s authority and thanked her legal team and colleagues. “I respect the authority of the Court and wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Court and its personnel for the prompt, orderly and efficient processing of my bail, particularly given the limited court hours preceding the long weekend. I am equally grateful to my legal team and colleagues at Peanut Gallery Media Network for their efforts to ensure that I could promptly comply with the Court’s requirements,” Hirro wrote. “The P336,000 bail is a substantial amount, particularly for private citizens who must rely on their own resources and the support of people willing to help. Unlike public officials whose salaries, allowances and official expenses are funded by taxpayers, ordinary citizens bear the financial consequences of defending themselves in court. It is a distinction worth keeping in mind when publicly discussing the financial burden of legal proceedings,” she added.Hirro said that the cyber libel case stemmed from her reporting on the former lawmaker. “My reporting concerning the P71-million Carlos L. Albert High School gymnasium project was recognized as fair comment based on official government documents. A separate video questioning where public funds had gone was likewise found to concern a legitimate matter of public interest, resulting in the dismissal of that portion of the complaint. The complaints against PGMN’s officers, including its President and CEO, Franco Mabanta, were also dismissed,” she wrote. “These findings are particularly significant given the evidence underlying my reporting. Official bidding documents for the P71-million gymnasium project included roofing, floor tiles, doors and windows, but more than a year after the project

was promised, the site had little more than foundations and posts to show for it. Mr. Rillo's camp claimed that this was only the first phase of construction, despite the absence of any indication in the original project documents that it was intended to be implemented in phases, or any identified funding for subsequent phases. Even assuming that explanation were true, it does not account for the glaring disparity between the P71-million allocation and the construction actually delivered. The public deserves an answer to that discrepancy. Mr. Rillo has had every opportunity to explain it. He chose to file a case against the journalist instead," Hirro added.The online anchor said the warrant of arrest against her is "a preliminary finding of probable cause, not a vindication of Mr. Rillo's allegations," and she was not surprised by that."I welcome the opportunity to present the evidence supporting my investigative reports and the findings I discussed in my episodes. My reporting concerned matters of legitimate public interest, particularly the conduct of an elected official, the use of public resources and representations made to the electorate. I stand by my work and am prepared to defend its factual and evidentiary foundations before the Court," Hirro stated."I have no intention of apologizing for doing my job as a journalist. I have no intention of retracting findings that I believe are supported by evidence. And I certainly have no intention of abandoning my responsibility to scrutinize public officials and how they exercise the authority entrusted to them by the Filipino people," she added.PGMN is known as an online news and commentary platform established by Franco Mabanta in 2024, while a former host at TV networks such as PTV-4 and Net-25.

- Police, medical responders monitor Manila cemeteries (2026-10-31 16:06)

AT least 10,500 people visited Manila North Cemetery as of 12 noon on Saturday, according to the Manila Police District (MPD), as police personnel continued to ensure the safety of visitors paying respects to their deceased loved ones.Meanwhile, the Manila City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Department (MCDRRMD) deployed its Emergency Medical Services team to different areas of Manila North Cemetery to provide immediate medical assistance to visitors.Volunteers also assisted medical responders in providing services to the public.Members of the Incident Management Team also visited the cemetery to inspect the readiness and condition of responders stationed in the area.The MCDRRMD also deployed its Emergency Medical Services team at Manila South Cemetery to provide immediate medical assistance to visitors, with volunteers assisting the responders.Manila City Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso earlier said the city government had completed its preparations for Undas 2026 after 10 days of coordination among various offices and agencies, including the MPD and MCDRRMD. He also said vendors would not be allowd inside cemeteries, with designated selling areas provided outside their perimeters.Security deploymentAt least 270 police officers have been deployed at the Manila North Cemetery to maintain peace and order as thousands of Filipinos visit their departed loved ones for All Saints' Day on Nov. 1 and All Souls' Day on Nov. 2.Police Lt. Col. Jolliet Soriano, MPD Station 3 commander and ground commander of the cemetery's security deployment, said officers have been stationed at strategic points, including gates and passageways, to manage the expected influx of visitors and

ensure public safety.The deployment is part of a wider security operation of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), which deployed 12,848 personnel across Metro Manila as of 6 a.m. on Saturday, with nearly 1,000 more scheduled to reinforce security through Nov. 2.Police Lt. Col. Hazel Asilo, NCRPO spokesman, said no untoward incidents had been monitored at cemeteries and transport terminals as of Saturday morning.The Philippine National Police (PNP) placed all its units nationwide on full alert from Oct. 30 until Nov. 3, mobilizing about 141,000 police personnel and augmentation forces to secure cemeteries, transportation hubs and other areas expected to draw large crowds.In Metro Manila, about 25,000 personnel are available for Undas security operations, with around 7,000 assigned to priority areas, including cemeteries, major roads and transport hubs, NCRPO regional director Brig. Gen. Christopher Nortez Abrahano said.More than 3,600 police officers have also been assigned to patrol communities to deter criminal activity while residents visit cemeteries or travel to their home provinces.Mobile patrols will cover major roads, while foot patrols, in coordination with barangay officials and other force multipliers, will monitor residential areas where houses may be left unattended.Police are also monitoring commercial establishments and other areas to prevent crimes during the holiday period.The security preparations at Manila North Cemetery followed an Oct. 30 inspection by PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr., Abrahano and MPD director Brig. Gen. Arnold Santiago, who assessed the cemetery’s readiness ahead of the observance.More than 1,000 people had visited Manila North Cemetery as of Oct. 30, according to police figures. The NCRPO recorded about 1.8 million cemetery visitors across Metro Manila during last year’s observance.Asilo clarified that cemetery administrators and their designated personnel are responsible for inspecting bags and screening visitors at entrances, while police provide secondary security and assistance when needed.Police officers are also authorized to patrol inside cemeteries to prevent incidents and respond to requests for assistance.Authorities are enforcing cemetery rules and local ordinances, including restrictions on bladed weapons and other prohibited items. Police assistance desks have been set up at transport terminals, where officers are also making public-address announcements, reminding passengers to stay vigilant.Asilo urged cemetery visitors to safeguard their belongings against pickpockets and other thieves, particularly as crowds increase.She also encouraged victims of theft to file formal complaints against suspects to facilitate appropriate legal action.The NCRPO said it would continue to assess security requirements and adjust deployments based on crowd movement and other developments during the observance, including the possible return of travelers from the provinces after the holidays.Cemetery securityThe NCRPO is enforcing existing cemetery rules and local ordinances, including restrictions on bladed weapons and other prohibited items.Asilo urged cemetery visitors to guard their belongings against pickpockets and other thieves, particularly as crowds grow during the observance.She encouraged victims of theft to file formal complaints against suspects to ensure that appropriate legal action can be taken.The NCRPO also advised residents to remain alert to possible criminal activity in crowded areas and to avoid leaving their mobile phones and other valuables unattended.Asilo said police will continue to monitor the situation and adjust deployments based on security assessments and the movement of people during the All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day period.

• Govt officials visit injured OFWs in Saudi attack (2026-10-31 16:05)

PHILIPPINE Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Raymond Balatbat and Migrant Workers Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac visited overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who survived the Oct. 10 terrorist attacks at the King Khalid International Airport.Also present during the visit on Oct. 27 were Migrant Workers Undersecretary Jainal Rasul Jr., and labor officials Dominador Salanga, Solaiman Mutia and Geraldine Mendez.The Oct. 10 incident marked the third and deadliest attack targeting the prominent Riyadh aviation hub within a single week. The Saudi General Authority of Civil Aviation reported that the projectile strikes — claimed by Yemen-based Houthi forces using a combination of drones, cruise missiles and ballistic missiles — killed at least 13 individuals and wounded over 300 others.Among the fatalities were citizens from the United States, Egypt, Bangladesh, Jordan, Syria, Palestine, Sudan and Pakistan.Despite the threat, Cacdac said that the government is not considering a deployment ban to Saudi Arabia, noting the country’s strong commitment to protecting foreign nationals.The Philippine Embassy has issued a stern reminder to all Filipinos in Saudi Arabia to maintain heightened vigilance and strictly avoid military installations, oil refineries and crowded public sectors.

• Coalition seeks justice for slain labor leaders (2026-10-31 16:04)

THE Nagkaisa labor coalition on Saturday called for justice for slain workers and protection for laborers’ rights.As the nation remembers All Saints’ Day, it said the government should hear the cry for justice for the families of slain labor leaders like Emmanuel “Manny” Asuncion, Leonides “Dennis” Sequeña and Orlando “Ka Lando” Abangan.”While travel arrangements are being made for those visiting graves, ensure that justice also moves forward for those laid to rest and that the families they left behind have a means of livelihood,” the coalition said in a statement issued by its convenors Sonny Matula, Judy Ann Chan Miranda and Josua Mata.”Bury the dead, but do not bury their cases,” it added.The coalition reiterated its call for the lifting of the injunction issued by the Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 152 against a wage increase in the National Capital Region. The Office of the Solicitor General, it said, should submit its required comment on the case without seeking another extension.”What should be increased is wages, not extensions of time. Families’ meals cannot be put on hold while paperwork is delayed,” Nagkaisa said.”A just wage recognizes the contribution of labor to the economy. Workers need it now as they work every day to provide for their families and the country,” it added.

• Malabon opens new crematory, interment building (2026-10-31 16:03)

Malabon Mayor Jeannie Sandoval led the inauguration of the city's new crematory and interment building at Tugatog Public Cemetery, expanding its funeral, cremation, and interment services.The inauguration was followed by the blessing of 51 urns and the cremation of 20 remains under the city government's free cremation program, Sandoval told The Manila Times on Saturday.She said families attended the ceremony to offer prayers and honor the memory of their departed loved ones ahead of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day collectively called ‘Undas.’ Built on a 417.50-square-meter lot, the new facility has two main structures: the

administrative building and the crematory and interment place; both are dedicated to providing spaces for administrative operations and funeral-related services for families in need of assistance, City Administrator Alex Rosete said in a separate Viber interview.The administrative building houses an office, a conference area, storage space, a pantry, restrooms, and a porch and waiting area for visitors—facilities that support day-to-day operations and serve both personnel and the public, Rosete said.The crematory and interment building contains a crematory and service area, two chapels with a transition area, and a waiting area, giving families designated areas for cremation-related services and gatherings where they can pay their last respects."We continue to improve our facilities to meet the needs of our fellow residents. Proper preparation and coordination are important to ensure that the services provided by our city government are appropriate, orderly, and delivered with care for every ‘Malabueño’ household," Sandoval said.The inauguration comes nearly a year after the October 21, 2025 opening of the first phase of The Risen Christ Hall, a multi-storey, apartment-style tomb facility with 360 niches where families can lay their departed loved ones to rest. “That facility was also inaugurated ahead of the Undas observance to add interment spaces for residents,” the city officials said.Residents and visitors were urged to follow cemetery rules, dispose of garbage properly, secure their belongings, and observe traffic advisories and instructions of personnel deployed to assist the public, according to Rosete.

- Lending your vehicle for Undas? Here’s how to avoid being flagged as colorum (2026-10-31 16:02)

AS government agencies ramp up their anti-colorum campaign this holiday season, and during the observance of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day (Undas), a transport group reminded private vehicle owners of their rights and responsibilities when lending out their cars.The reminder came after the Department of Transportation, along with its attached agencies — the Land Transportation Office and Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), and Highway Patrol Group — tightened flagging down of suspected colorum vehicles. “But what exactly constitutes colorum and when is a private vehicle simply on a legitimate private trip?” asked lawyer Ariel Inton, founder of Lawyers for Commuters Safety and Protection (LCSP).He explained that a vehicle is considered colorum if it is a private unit used for hire without a franchise or with an expired one; a vehicle that has a franchise but is used under a different denomination — for example, a school bus franchise operating as a UV (utility vehicle) Express; and a vehicle that is operating out of line, such as a unit with a Cubao-to-Antipolo route but plying Cavite. “Even ’ vans for hire advertised on Facebook are considered colorum if they operate without a franchise,” Inton told The Manila Times via Viber interview.But the issue becomes murky during the holiday season, particularly Undas, when families typically travel together, he said. What happens if a private vehicle owner lends his van to a friend or relative for a family outing — and enforcers flag the vehicle down on suspicion of being colorum?The LCSP founder said that if the vehicle was merely borrowed and no rent was paid, it is not colorum.But law enforcers may still pressure the driver and passengers based on “reasonable suspicion.” “They would insist that a private vehicle must be for private trips and not for

public use,” Inton said.To avoid being wrongly flagged, the LCSP head said drivers and the passengers should bring identification cards (IDs) to prove their familial relationship.Bring an authorization letter indicating the destination and the relationship between the owner and the borrower, such as child or sibling, and always keep the official receipt, certificate of registration and other supporting documents for presentation to enforcers, said Inton, a former Quezon City councilor and an LTFRB official.“Pick up passengers at one meeting place. If you pick up passengers, especially in areas where for-hire vehicles pass, and enforcers are watching, you may be suspected of operating as a public utility vehicle,” he said.“Talk calmly with enforcers. Maintain a respectful tone when dealing with the authorities who flagged you down,” he added.Expressing its full support for the government’s campaign, the LCSP said authorities should focus on going after colorum syndicates — groups that are genuinely making a living out of illegal transport operations.Inton said his group was also concerned that some colorum operators may have informants and are paying off officials, which is why they continue to operate openly to this day.

- Marcos urges Filipinos to honor departed loved ones through kindness (2026-10-31 16:01)

MANILA, Philippines — As the country observes All Saints' Day, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. implored Filipinos to honor their departed loved ones through acts of compassion and service.“I join the Catholic faithful and the entire Filipino nation in the solemn observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day,” Marcos said in his message.Many Filipinos are expected to visit the grave of their departed loved ones to honor their memory.As they travel to visit their departed loved ones, Marcos said honoring their lives is what keeps the nation strong.“Even in their absence, those we have lost continue to bring us closer together, keeping alive the bonds that have made the Filipino family and the whole nation resilient and strong through challenges,” he said.The Chief Executive also highlighted the Filipino’s strong devotion to saints, which he said inspires the nation to “find lasting purpose in every kindness we give and every burden we help carry for others.” “If we can make time to revere those who have passed, we can also make room to listen to those who struggle, and let that same concern guide our society and the work of government,” he said.“May these solemn days bring peace to those who mourn and remind us to cherish those who remain,” Marcos added.

- Research or spy ship? Maritime expert sees presence of Chinese vessel inside disputed Bajo de Masinloc 'threat to PH security' (2026-10-31 08:29)

MANILA, Philippines — A Chinese "scientific research vessel," escorted by China's military aircraft and naval forces, was spotted inside Bajo de Masinloc or Scarborough Shoal carrying unidentified equipment, which could be used to conceal activities that could threaten national security, according to an expert on Saturday.Jose Antonio Goitia said Beijing should not be allowed to use claims of scientific research to conceal potential military activities, stressing the Philippines' right to protect its maritime interests and demand transparency from foreign vessels operating in its maritime domain.The warning came after the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) reported the presence of an unidentified orange, boat-shaped object fitted with sensors

and antennas aboard a Chinese vessel seen inside the shoal's lagoon on Oct. 30.The PCG has yet to determine the equipment's intended function or establish whether the vessel conducted underwater surveillance or deployed autonomous underwater vehicles.The sighting coincided with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command's announcement on Friday that Chinese naval and air forces had conducted combat-readiness patrols in the waters and airspace around Huangyan Dao, Beijing's name for Bajo de Masinloc.The PLA said it had strengthened patrols around the shoal since early October to tighten control over the surrounding waters and airspace, describing the latest operations as a response to what it called Philippine rights violations and provocative acts.Footage aired by Chinese state broadcaster CCTV-7's Junshi Baodao (Military Report) on Oct. 30 showed military aircraft and a naval vessel operating around the shoal, including scenes depicting Chinese forces monitoring a Philippine aircraft and issuing radio warnings.The broadcast did not independently establish when the encounters occurred or verify Beijing's claim that the Philippine aircraft had entered Chinese territorial airspace.Separately, the China Coast Guard said it conducted law-enforcement patrols around the shoal on Friday, also citing alleged Philippine provocations.Goitia expressed concern over reports that Chinese maritime platforms described as "ghost research ships" could be used to deploy underwater drones to map submarine transit routes and collect information with potential military applications, including anti-submarine warfare.Available information, however, does not establish that the vessel spotted inside the shoal's lagoon carried out such activities."China must stop treating our waters as though they are its own. Filipinos have endured enough intimidation and harassment in our maritime domain. We have every right to know what foreign vessels are doing in our waters, and we will not accept activities that threaten our security or disregard our sovereign rights," Goitia said.He cited the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos), particularly Article 246, which generally requires coastal state consent for marine scientific research in a country's exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, subject to the convention's provisions.Article 240 requires marine scientific research to be conducted exclusively for peaceful purposes.The latest developments add to tensions around Bajo de Masinloc, a longstanding flashpoint in the maritime dispute between the Philippines and China.The shoal lies about 124 nautical miles west of Zambales, within the Philippines' 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone.China has maintained control over access to the shoal since a 2012 standoff with the Philippines. In 2016, an arbitral tribunal ruled that Filipino fishermen had traditional fishing rights there and that China had unlawfully prevented them from exercising those rights.The tribunal also rejected China's claims to historic rights over resources within its so-called nine-dash line to the extent that they exceeded the maritime entitlements allowed under Unclos.Beijing rejects the ruling and continues to assert sovereignty over the shoal.

- Public-private partnerships pushed for more PH airports (2026-10-31 04:51)

MANILA, Philippines -- Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon said on Saturday that the government would pursue more public-private partnerships (PPPs) for airports nationwide, citing improvements in security, passenger comfort and queue management at facilities already

turned over to private operators.Dizon said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. had directed the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to pursue PPP arrangements for as many airports as possible, with announcements on additional projects expected in the coming days. “Clearly, we can see the difference in security, comfort and shorter queues,” Dizon said, comparing airports operated under PPP arrangements with those still managed by the government.He cited the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), Clark International Airport and Mactan-Cebu International Airport as examples of airports under private-sector participation. “There's a huge difference when we compare these airports with those that have not yet been placed under PPP arrangements,” according to the DOTr chief.Acknowledging that improvements at the country's airports remained a work in progress, Dizon stressed that the private-sector participation would help accelerate upgrades and improve passenger services. “We still have a lot to improve, but things have gotten much better and travel has become more convenient. We can make these improvements faster and more efficiently through public-private partnerships because the government alone cannot do it,” he said.Dizon’s remarks came as the government prepared for the upcoming Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit, which will bring regional leaders and delegates to the Philippines.The DOTr was still coordinating with the Asean Organizing Committee to determine the summit's impact on flight schedules, including possible cancellations and adjustments to the arrivals and departures of heads of state and other delegates, the top transportation agency official said.

- Duterte waives appearance at ICC status conference (2026-10-31 04:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Former president Rodrigo Duterte has waived his right to attend the fifth status conference in his crimes against humanity case before the International Criminal Court (ICC) on Nov. 2, 2026, allowing his lawyers to handle procedural matters on his behalf.In a filing dated Oct. 30, Duterte's defense team submitted his signed waiver to the ICC Trial Chamber III, complying with the chamber's directive to formally place the document on record.The defense said Duterte had notified the chamber on Oct. 28 that he wished to waive his right to attend the scheduled conference.On Oct. 29, the chamber granted the request and ordered the defense to submit a signed waiver, according to the filing.Duterte also instructed his lawyers to address the procedural matters listed on the conference agenda, as well as any other matters that may arise during the hearing.The fifth status conference is scheduled for Nov. 2 before Trial Chamber III, composed of Presiding Judge Joanna Korner and Judges Keebong Paek and Nicolas Guillou.The status conference is a procedural hearing in the case of the prosecution against Duterte over alleged crimes against humanity in connection with his administration's anti-drug campaign.

- 4 injured after lights, audio trusses collapse at San Juan event venue (2026-10-31 04:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Four people were injured after lights and audio trusses collapsed during preparations for an event at the Filoil Centre in San Juan City on Friday, according to the city government.The four injured individuals were taken to Cardinal Santos Medical Center for

treatment. “Based on initial reports from the San Juan City Police Station, three victims sustained minor injuries and have already been cleared for discharge, while one remains hospitalized for further medical evaluation and treatment,” the city government said in a statement on Friday.The incident occurred during ingress for an event by a private organizer renting the Filoil Centre, which is independently managed and operated by HOME Inc.The city government identified the event organizer’s technical supplier as having set up the lights and audio trusses. The supplier has no ties or contractual relationship with the local government, the statement added. “We have formally reached out to the event organizer and are awaiting their full report,” the city government said.The city government and the San Juan City Police Station are investigating the incident. “Alongside the San Juan City Police Station, we are conducting a rigorous investigation into the incident to establish the facts and ensure full accountability,” the statement read.

- Lopez orders resumption of work on delayed road projects (2026-10-31 03:12)

MANILA, Philippines—Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Giovanni Lopez has ordered regional and district engineering officials to continue delayed infrastructure projects, saying the agency will honor commitments under the previous leadership.Lopez, who personally led the reopening of a road in Tuba, Benguet on Friday, said the administration would ensure the completion of projects previously committed to by his predecessor and now Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Vince Dizon, stressing that these were obligations to the public. “If you recall, Secretary Vince Dizon visited this site in May 2026 and instructed the regional director and district engineering officials to address the problem here,” Lopez said.The road had been operating one way since 2025, inconveniencing residents and motorists, he said.Lopez said the concerned local DPWH officials were directed to resolve the problem, with regional and district engineering personnel committing to complete the necessary work within five months. “We will hold them to their commitment,” Lopez said.He added that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. had ordered the reopening of the road, so motorists and residents could use it during the Undas holiday period.The President had also directed the DPWH to complete urgent major road repairs by Oct. 30, 2026 to ease travel during the annual observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, Lopez said.Despite changes in leadership at DPWH and DOTr, Lopez said the administration would continue projects initiated under Dizon. “The President's instruction is that whatever commitments Secretary Vince made and whatever projects were delayed must be continued,” he said. “That commitment is not just to the President or to Secretary Vince. Above all, it is a commitment to the Filipino people,” Lopez added.He then instructed DPWH regional directors and district engineers to ensure that ongoing projects proceeded without further delays, saying there was no sufficient reason to allow the work to be held up any longer.The top DPWH official said he would continue monitoring infrastructure projects to ensure that commitments made by the government were fulfilled.

- Marcos signs order requiring agencies to join climate change commemoration (2026-10-31 02:28)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. urged all government agencies to support the initiative as the nation commemorates the Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week on Nov. 19 to 25, 2026.Marcos—through Executive Secretary Ralph Recto—signed Memorandum Circular 140, which orders government bodies, government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), and state universities and colleges (SUCs) to participate in the commemoration led by the Climate Change Commission (CCC).“The 2026 Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week will be celebrated nationwide from 19 to 25 November 2026, to be led by the Climate Change Commission (CCC) under the theme, "Komunidad, Kooperasyon at Koordinasyon para sa Klima," and its successful celebration will require the active participation of all concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, as well as the support of local government units (LGUs), educational institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector,” the memorandum reads.

• LPA to bring rains to parts of PH on 'Undas' (2026-10-31 02:06)

MANILA, Philippines — A lowp ressure area (LPA) is expected to bring scattered rains and thunderstorms over parts of the Visayas, Mindanao, Mimaropa and Bicol Region on Saturday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).In its live weather forecast, Pagasa weather earlier in the day, specialist Obet Badrina said the LPA was last spotted 320 kilometers east of Borongan City, Eastern Samar.“It may move westward and possibly pass through Eastern Visayas and parts of the Visayas,” Badrina said.Meanwhile, the shear line is expected to bring scattered rains over Cagayan, Isabela, Aurora and Quezon.Metro Manila, Central Luzon and the rest of Luzon may experience isolated rain showers and thunderstorms from afternoon to evening, according to the weather bureau.Badrina advised those visiting cemeteries for Undas to bring umbrellas.

• Senate to scrutinize P7.2T budget after businessmen raise alarm over House insertions — Gatchalian (2026-10-31 01:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Sherwin “Win” Gatchalian on Saturday assured the country’s business sector that the Senate would vet the proposed P7.2 trillion 2027 national budget, promising to strip away all politically driven, technically baseless congressional insertions.The statement comes in direct response to a joint manifesto issued by major business groups on Oct. 29, 2026, which raised concerns over P180 billion in realignments introduced by the House of Representatives under House Bill 10858. Gatchalian welcomed the private sector’s vigilance and maintained that a clean budget can be delivered without delaying its timely passage.Senate to purge document-deficient projectsReassuring investors and the public of the Senate's commitment to fiscal discipline, Gatchalian said that a formal recall of the House-approved General Appropriations Bill was unnecessary. Instead, the Senate will address the discrepancies through its own committee and plenary review processes."The Senate Committee on Finance will remove from the General Appropriations Bill all projects lacking supporting documents, such as feasibility studies, programs of work, resolutions from the LGUs, and other required documents," Gatchalian said.To ensure public oversight, the

Senate leader also committed to deep transparency reforms. "We will continue the transparency reforms by uploading all relevant information to the Senate Transparency Portal," he added.Furthermore, Gatchalian asserted that the upper chamber will actively remove unconstitutional and lump-sum provisions previously flagged by the Supreme Court—specifically tightening safeguards on unprogrammed appropriations—while keeping final spending strictly within the president's recommended ceiling in the National Expenditure Program (NEP).Business sector flag 'deeply troubling' realignmentThe business community's joint call exposed a massive realignment by the House Budget Amendments and Review Subcommittee (BARSC), which added over P180 billion to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) allocation. The adjustments reportedly inflated the DPWH project registry by 6,212 items—bringing the total to 16,270 projects—many of which are classified as vague lump sums for multi-purpose buildings and bypass roads lacking named proponents or published project lists.Of greater concern to the business sector was the source of the funding. The House reportedly carved out P130 billion from rigorously prepared, foreign-assisted infrastructure projects, P9.5 billion from calamity funds, P4.9 billion from vital healthcare programs, and P1.76 billion from the EDSA Busway project."Raiding calamity funds in a country that is exposed to disasters is indefensible," the business groups stated in its manifesto, warning that cutting foreign-assisted projects delays high-impact infrastructure needed to reduce logistics costs and attract capital. The sector noted that past unvetted insertions between 2023 and 2025 resulted in "ghost and substandard flood control projects" that wasted public funds.A growth budget, not an election fundIn response to fears that the allocations could be weaponized ahead of upcoming political cycles, Gatchalian firmly rejected the label of an "election budget." He emphasized that the final 2027 appropriations would be a growth and resilience budget explicitly mapped out to address inflation, job creation, food security, healthcare, and disaster readiness.

- Ombudsman suspends 5 Bulacan DPWH engineers over P188.9-M flood control projects (2026-10-30 18:21)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Friday has ordered the preventive suspension without pay of five Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) engineers in Bulacan over alleged falsification of documents involving three flood control projects worth P188.9 million in Baliuag.The five engineers — Irene D. Ontingco, Kevin A. Geronimo, John Michael E. Ramos, Bernardo P. Villafuerte and Michelle C. Cruz — will remain suspended for up to six months while administrative cases against them are being investigated.They face charges of grave misconduct, serious dishonesty and gross neglect of duty over the 2024 projects involving the construction of reinforced concrete slope revetments in Barangays Piel, San Roque and Sulivan.The Ombudsman's investigation stemmed from allegations that the engineers falsified documents covering project implementation, inspection, acceptance, billing and payment to make it appear that contractual and legal requirements had been met. "To facilitate the implementation of the contracts and the disbursement of public funds, complainant maintains that respondents falsified documents relating to contract

implementation, inspection, acceptance, billing and payment to create the false impression that the contractual and legal prerequisites had been satisfied," the Ombudsman's order read.Investigators also alleged that project documents were manipulated to facilitate the award of the contracts to a joint venture that supposedly failed to comply with applicable laws and regulations.The Ombudsman said the allegations were supported by strong evidence at this stage and that allowing the engineers to remain in office could jeopardize the investigation because they might access or tamper with relevant records.The three projects had a combined contract value of P188,891,898.23.Other respondents in the administrative complaint include former Bulacan First District engineering officials and personnel who have since left government service, been detained or retired. Their preventive suspension was deemed moot.Two Commission on Audit auditors named as co-respondents were not suspended because the Ombudsman found no indication that their continued presence in office could lead to evidence tampering or obstruct the investigation.The respondents also face separate criminal complaints before the Ombudsman.

- China boosts patrols around disputed shoal (2026-10-30 16:19)

CHINA's military said on Friday its naval and air forces conducted combat readiness patrols around Bajo de Masinloc, also known as Scarborough Shoal, which has long been a flash point in tensions between Beijing and Manila in the South China Sea (SCS).The People's Liberation Army Southern Theater Command, in a statement, said the patrols were "necessary countermeasures in response to the Philippines' rights violation and provocative acts," and it has strengthened such patrols this month.The Philippine Embassy in Beijing and the Philippine military did not immediately respond to a request for comment.Tensions between China and the Philippines resurfaced at the close of a two-day Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) defense gathering on Thursday, with Beijing accusing an unnamed Philippine politician of obstructing its participation in the event. Manila said China had been given an opportunity at the meeting to state its position.China claims sovereignty over almost the entire SCS via a nine-dash line on its maps that cuts into parts of the exclusive economic zones of Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei and Indonesia. An international arbitral tribunal ruled in 2016 that China's sweeping claims have no basis under international law, a decision Beijing rejects. "Such patrols are aimed at further enhancing control and management over relevant waters and airspace, and serve as an effective countermeasure to cope with all sorts of rights violation and provocative acts," the Chinese military said.Separately, the China Coast Guard also conducted law-enforcement patrols in the waters around the shoal on Friday, calling the activities "necessary countermeasure in response to the Philippines' rights violation and provocative acts."Neither the Chinese military nor the China Coast Guard gave details on which Philippine actions they were referring to.Warning that the international community is approaching a geopolitical "precipice," Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro defended the rule of law, declaring that maritime security in the Indo-Pacific has become an indivisible global responsibility.Speaking at the 17th Festival della Diplomazia in Rome on Oct. 26, Lazaro addressed European diplomats and academics on the theme "What's Next?

Running on the Edge.” Lazaro focused on the 10th anniversary of the 2016 arbitral award, saying that the ruling remains final and binding, and serves as a shield for smaller nations against superpowers. “The award demonstrates that even amid profound asymmetries of power, international law offers nations a peaceful means to defend their rights,” Lazaro said.Despite facing continued coercion and harassment in Philippine waters, Lazaro emphasized that Manila’s diplomatic restraint should not be misinterpreted. “Restraint is not surrender. Dialogue is not acquiescence,” she said. “The Philippines seeks no confrontation. Neither will we relinquish our lawful rights.” She warned European leaders that ignoring violations in Asia undermines global security, stating that if international law is disregarded in the SCS, “its authority is weakened in the Mediterranean, the Adriatic and everywhere else.” Turning to regional strategy, Lazaro outlined Manila’s priorities for its 2026 Asean chairmanship under the theme “Navigating Our Future, Together.” She said the regional bloc must move past mere anniversaries to secure concrete resolutions, particularly a legally binding Code of Conduct in the SCS that respects Unclos (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) and an inclusive solution to the ongoing crisis in Myanmar.

- Full hunt on for dela Rosa as surrender deadline ends (2026-10-30 16:18)

AN all-out police manhunt has been launched for Sen. Ronald dela Rosa after the deadline for his surrender lapsed on Friday.The Philippine National Police (PNP) has formed tracker teams in all regions to arrest the fugitive lawmaker, Lt. Gen. Wilson Lopez, chief of the PNP’s Directorate for Intelligence, told in a press briefing at Camp Crame.Lopez also said the PNP’s hotlines have been swamped with information on dela Rosa’s supposed whereabouts since the government offered P50 million for his arrest. He said each piece of information will be evaluated.Lopez also said the PNP is still validating reports that dela Rosa is under the protection of a private armed group in Mindanao.He said the senator has never sent surrender feelers to the government.Lopez said the PNP’s latest information is that dela Rosa is still in the country, debunking reports that he has escaped through the country’s southern backdoor.Dela Rosa is the subject of an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court (ICC) that alleges he is a co-perpetrator in the Duterte administration’s controversial crackdown on drugs.Malacañang on Thursday said dela Rosa’s world is “shrinking.” Lopez agreed. “Alam niyo kapag may binigay na bounty na P50 million the possibility maraming tao ang pwedeng tumawag ang posibleng lokasyon (When a P50 million bounty is offered, there’s a strong possibility that many people might call in with potential locations),” he said.In a related development, the ICC has transmitted applications involving 100 individuals seeking to participate as victims in the trial of former president Rodrigo Duterte.In separate documents dated Oct. 28, the ICC Registry transmitted 46 applications covering 96 applicants classified under Group A and four applications classified under Group C to Trial Chamber III, which is hearing the case against Duterte.The Group A applicants were assessed as clearly qualifying as victims under the court’s procedures, while the four Group C applications involve applicants whose eligibility the Registry could not clearly determine.The transmissions were made pursuant to an oral instruction issued by the chamber during a status conference on May 27,

2026, and follow the ICC's A-B-C approach to processing applications for victim participation.The Registry's classification assesses the applicants' eligibility and does not, by itself, constitute a final judicial determination on every application.Under the A-B-C approach, Group A covers applicants who clearly qualify as victims, Group B those who clearly do not qualify and Group C those whose eligibility cannot be clearly determined.The system allows the court to distinguish applications that can be assessed more readily from those requiring further consideration.The Registry classified the annexes accompanying the 46 Group A applications as confidential and available only to the Registry.The four Group C applications were transmitted with annexes in a confidential version available only to the Registry and a confidential redacted version.The Registry said two of the four applications contained forms completed in Tagalog, with English translations.Because it lacked the capacity to apply word-for-word redactions to the Tagalog text in each application, the Registry redacted in full the portions completed in that language.The public documents did not identify the applicants or disclose details of the incidents underlying their applications.The Registry's assessment of the Group C applications leaves their eligibility for victim participation subject to further consideration under the court's procedures.The victims' participation in a trial is a feature of ICC proceedings that allows them to present their views and concerns through legal representatives.Victims who are allowed to participate are not automatically prosecution witnesses.Duterte faces charges of crimes against humanity in connection with killings linked to his administration's antidrug campaign and alleged killings in Davao during the period covered by the case. He denies the allegations.The ICC has scheduled the start of Duterte's trial for Nov. 30 in The Hague, the Netherlands, where he has been detained since his arrest in March 2025.On Friday, the Truth Commission investigating the killings during Duterte's war on drugs called on the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) to look into the "mis-certification" by medical doctors of the death certificates of several drug war victims. "A death certificate is the official record of how a life ended. When it names the wrong cause, it can hide the violence and skew the country's death statistics. It can also block a family's search for the truth," the commission said in a statement.The victims' families provided death certificates issued by five doctors, citing that the victims died of illness.The commission said that the death certificates of at least 13 drug war cases cited either pneumonia or heart attack, despite forensic findings attributing their death to gunshot wounds.It said the "mis-certifications" could just be the tip of the iceberg. "These questionable certificates blame illness for at least 13 deaths but forensic findings in every one of these cases show the victims had been shot," the commission said.The commission is also asking the authorities "to correct the erroneous certificates so that families have an accurate record of how their relatives died." The panel has reviewed 13 cases from Caloocan City and Quezon City, which recorded 11 deaths in 2016 and two in 2018. "The death certificates list pneumonia as the cause of death in six cases and heart attack in four. Of the remaining three, one cites sepsis and another high blood pressure. The last records a stroke with bleeding, along with high blood pressure," the commission said.Forensic pathologist Dr. Raquel Fortun, who also serves in the commission, said there were gunshot wounds in every case. "Families deserve accurate death certificates, and the public deserves an honest account of how these men and women died,"

commission chairman Raul Pangalangan said.The doctors named by the commission included Caloocan Health Department medical officer Dr. Amadea Cruz, private physician Dr. Kathleen Timogan, Dr. Arnold Montero, Dr. Ramil Razon and Torres-Bugallon Health Center medical officer Dr. Leonilo Aquino.The commission said naming these doctors is a call for investigation and not a finding of guilt. “Given that these documents were produced during the ‘drug war,’ the commission is also cognizant of the possibility that the doctors may have been forced to fabricate information in the certificates, making them, in effect, victims of the ‘drug war’ themselves,” it said.However, the commission said that the fact that they signed the questionable documents “warrants scrutiny and discipline based on due process.” The commission called for the correcting of certificates by the Philippine Statistics Authority, the investigation of the doctors and the certification process by the PRC Board of Medicine and the PMA’s ethics committee on who is responsible, and protecting the evidence and checking of other cases.The commission was established last May by civil society organizations and church groups.

- Govt mobilizes to ensure safe travel during Undas (2026-10-30 16:16)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said on Friday government measures are in place to safeguard the safety of millions of Filipinos who will be traveling during the long All Saints’ Day weekend.In a video message, Marcos said he has ordered the inspection of bus terminals and airports, as well as road repairs to ensure that the journey to the provinces or visiting cemeteries is “safe, orderly and comfortable.” The president said the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has issued over 1,000 special permits for provincial buses during Undas, or All Saints’ Day, celebration, while maritime authorities have relaxed rules and additional sea schedules from Oct. 29 to Nov. 3.At international airports, immigration counters will maintain full staffing from Oct. 30 to Nov. 3, supplemented by e-gates to streamline passenger queues. Round-the-clock help desks will likewise operate across major terminals.Beyond transit hubs, security and health protocols have been tightened across public spaces, churches and columbaria, with local police and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) placed on standby for rapid response. Hospital and health emergency teams are also on high alert.The president advised motorists to plan trips ahead, purchase tickets online to avoid long queues, and utilize official government hotlines and channels for emergency assistance.The LTFRB said it has set up more than 80 help desks at bus stations and other public land transport hubs for Undas.The help desks will provide not only basic information on travel schedules but also all necessary assistance, particularly for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, acting LTFRB Chairman Greg Pua Jr. said.The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said close to 283,000 barangay tanods, or village watchmen, in the country’s 42,010 barangay (villages) and more than 111,000 police personnel will be deployed during All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day.The DILG said the watchmen would serve as force multipliers for the police in maintaining peace and order at cemeteries, columbariums and memorial parks.Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian has called on national law enforcement agencies to enforce strict safety and security protocols nationwide during the extended weekend.Gatchalian emphasized

that a proactive, highly synchronized strategy between municipal executives and police units is critical to mitigating criminal activities, managing severe traffic gridlocks on major tollways, and ensuring crowd control at cemeteries and major transport hubs. “The commemoration of our departed loved ones will be more meaningful if everyone’s journey is smooth and safe,” he said.He also highlighted the importance of discipline, patience and road courtesy among motorists. “We already know that many people will be traveling during this period; let’s avoid getting hot-headed and remain respectful toward our fellow motorists,” he said.In response to the expected exodus of commuters to provincial destinations, Philippine National Police chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. announced that the police force has been placed on full alert.Over 72,000 police personnel will be deployed at critical arterial roads, terminal entry points and memorial sites, with reinforcements from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, BFP and the Philippine Coast Guard.The Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange estimates a heavy volume of 1.9 million passengers, mirroring peak numbers anticipated across maritime provincial ports during Undas.The Ninoy Aquino International Airport is also scaling up operations to accommodate approximately 1.2 million travelers.The environmental advocacy group EcoWaste Coalition appealed to the public to observe eco-friendly and zero waste practices during the All Saints’ Day weekend. “Every year, we see the aftermath of thousands flocking to cemeteries during Undas season — heaps of trash scattered along sidewalks, overflowing bins, food wrappers and containers left behind on tombstones — and every year, we continue to forward this campaign to reduce trash and make Undas completely waste-free,” Ochie Tolentino, EcoWaste’s Zero Waste campaigner, said in a statement.EcoWaste also held a candle-lighting ceremony as a way to enjoin everyone in respecting not just their departed loved ones, but also the environment. Each candle signified a solemn vow to “do away with ecologically harmful practices and promote a more waste-free All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day.”

- SSS streamlines cash aid for low-income members (2026-10-30 16:15)

QUALIFIED Social Security System (SSS) members can now get financial aid under the government’s Uplift (Unified Package for Livelihoods, Industry, Food and Transport) assistance program without filing an application form, accessing portal links, or waiting in long queues.Uplift, according to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), identifies and selects beneficiaries automatically, setting it apart from other government assistance schemes that require applicants to line up and submit paperwork.The SSS said that a member need only to meet all of the criteria like the monthly salary credit (MSC) that must be P20,000 or below, with expanded coverage focusing heavily on those earning an MSC of P10,000 or below.The cash assistance program will be given in four tranches of P2,000 each, to be credited directly to the member’s registered SSS disbursement account.The state pension fund said a member must have paid at least one SSS contribution in 2025 or 2026 and his or her name must appear in the Philippine Statistics Authority’s 2024 Community-Based Monitoring System database as part of a low-income or near-poor household.The assistance is limited to one beneficiary per household. If several SSS members live under one roof, only the oldest

member qualifies.Once selected, a beneficiary need not lift a finger to claim the aid. There is no registration form, online portal link or walk-in application form to accomplish. The P8,000 is automatically credited directly to the member's registered SSS disbursement account.The only requirement on the member's end is ensuring that the receiving account — whether a bank account, e-wallet or Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) account — is properly enrolled through the SSS Disbursement Account Enrollment Module (DAEM).To confirm their eligibility on the program, members can verify their status through their My.SSS Portal in three steps: logging in to the portal, checking the inbox or official notifications for messages about Uplift eligibility and MSC bracket, and confirming that disbursement account details are active and updated under DAEM, if a notification arrived but no funds have posted yet.Since not everyone can receive funds digitally, the assistance can also be received through a manual payout route.Beneficiaries will wait for scheduled announcements from their local government unit or check the official DSWD Field Office social media accounts for their barangay's designated date and location.During manual payout schedules, government personnel and representatives from local financial service providers — such as LandBank, GCash or Maya — are typically stationed on-site.They can assist beneficiaries in registering their details into the official DSWD Uplift G2P Portal, ensuring that succeeding tranches can be claimed digitally and sparing them from having to fall in line again.For members who receive an official eligibility notification via email or My.SSS but have no access to electronic banking, an SSS branch with tellering facilities serves as a fallback.There, e-Center or help desk personnel can guide members through registration or coordinate with the DSWD for manual processing options.Those claiming through a manual on-site payout must bring two valid government-issued identification cards, specifically an SSS UMID (Unified Multi-Purpose ID) card and PhilSys National, along with photocopies and printed or screenshot copy of the notification.

- 'Star Trek,' 'X-Men' icon Patrick Stewart dies (2026-10-30 16:14)

PATRICK Stewart, the classically trained actor who added Shakespearean gravitas to the "Star Trek" and "X-Men" franchises, has died. He was 86.Stewart died on Wednesday in Los Angeles, following "a brief and poignant journey" with Alzheimer's disease and Lewy Body Dementia, spokesman Kelly Bush Novak said. Stewart's diagnoses had not been previously disclosed."We lost one of the greats of stage and screen today," Hugh Jackman, a frequent Stewart co-star in the "X-Men" universe, said on social media. "And, in my book, a tremendous friend and man. I learned so much from him. I will miss you, Patrick Stewart, all of my days."While best known as Professor Charles Xavier and Captain Jean-Luc Picard from the "X-Men" and "Star Trek: The Next Generation" series and films, respectively, Stewart spent more of his career onstage than in the X-Mansion or on the USS Enterprise.Besides playing everyone from Claudius to Macbeth, he often performed a one-man rendition of "A Christmas Carol" and did West End and Broadway runs of Harold Pinter's "No Man's Land," and Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" in repertory with buddy Ian McKellen."He wore his heart on his sleeve, which made him a man to rely on, to admire and in my case, love," McKellen posted on social media.He won three Olivier Awards, including one for playing

Claudius in “Hamlet” opposite David Tennant. And he had a Grammy — in 1996 for best spoken word album for his recording of “Peter and the Wolf.” He achieved some of the best reviews of his career when he finally tackled Macbeth for the first time. The production, under the direction of Rupert Goold, debuted in May 2007 at England’s Chichester Festival Theater, switched to London’s West End and then moved to the Brooklyn Academy of Music before transferring to Broadway in 2008.Stewart’s performance earned him his sole Tony Award nomination. The Times of London said his Macbeth was “an enthralling creation of frailty, appetite, egotism and grim humor.” The Daily Telegraph said he had turned in “a truly great performance,” and The New York Times said it was “a must-see.” “Nearly 50 years I’ve waited,” Stewart told the Associated Press in 2008. “I learned it when I was 14. I memorized all the soliloquies just because I thought they were great. And they stuck, so I didn’t have to learn those bits of the play, which is a blessing, because learning lines has now become the one curse of this job.” Raised in Mirfield in Yorkshire, a working-class corner of northern England, the future 24th-century commander of a starship grew up without a bathroom in his house.Stewart joined an amateur drama group at 12 and memorized Shakespeare for fun as a teen. He won a scholarship to the Bristol Old Vic Theater School, launching a career as a character actor.He had been bald since he was 19 — alopecia runs in his family.His father, a former regimental sergeant major in the British Army, was prone to outbursts of “repeated violence against my mother,” as Stewart wrote in a newspaper piece. “Violence is always a choice a man makes, and he alone is responsible for it.” In his memoir, “Making It So,” Stewart wrote about how he and his older brother Trevor braced for the nights when their dad came home drunk and angry, and attacked their mother. “Sometimes it was with an open hand, other times a closed fist. Always he aimed for her head.” The son would later become a patron for Refuge, an organization that provides shelter for domestic abuse victims. “The stage would prove to be a safe space, a refuge from real life in which I could inhabit another person, living in another place and time,” he would write.Stewart was accepted into the Royal Shakespeare Company and stayed for 14 years, playing everything from Mark Antony to Henry IV to Shylock to Oberon. “People who were not in the company would say to me, ‘Give it a break. Why don’t you go somewhere else?’ And I would say, ‘To do what?’” he told the Associated Press (AP). “Telly?” Stewart eventually left to look for more varied work, including the 1981 film “Excalibur.” He had just done a production of “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” in 1987 when an interesting offer came along. “I found myself in Hollywood shooting a syndicated science fiction series, which I was assured would fail.” It didn’t, of course. Thanks to Stewart’s rich baritone and noble bearing, the “Star Trek” franchise ran for seven years, 178 episodes and produced four feature films. He was known for his slogan “Make it so.” His adoration for Shakespeare would serve him well when he began to play Jean-Luc Picard, a 24th-century starship commander. “There is a formality to the way they speak and comport themselves that remind me of numerous Shakespearean situations I’d been in onstage. I should play Jean Luc, I realized, as if he were a character in ‘Henry IV,’ which is about brave men,” Stewart wrote in his memoir.Despite the Borg and Klingons, Stewart still managed to make room for blank verse. He established the Paramount Shakespeare Company, a workshop on Saturday and Sunday mornings for any actor interested. (Stewart revisited

Picard in the TV series “Star Trek: Picard.”)Stewart died just a few days after Walter Koenig, another “Star Trek” icon, who played Ensign Pavel Chekov on the original NBC TV show from 1966 to 1969.“What a heartbreaking week it has been,” William Shatner, who played Captain James T. Kirk in the franchise, wrote on Instagram. “Sir Patrick Stewart was a friend, a colleague and a magnificent actor. From the stage to the bridge of the Enterprise, he brought intelligence, grace and a deep sense of humanity to everything he did.” “Star Trek: The Next Generation” gave him higher visibility, which led to more work, including roles in the films “Conspiracy Theory,” “L.A. Story” and on Broadway, where he starred in “The Tempest,” “The Caretaker” and David Mamet’s “A Life in the Theater.” He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in June 2010. Stewart was also an ambassador for the International Rescue Committee.In July 1992, he and supermodel Cindy Crawford were on the cover of TV Guide’s “Top Turn-Ons,” based on a readers’ poll. In his memoir, Stewart wrote:
“Absurd.”Stewart was first introduced as the character Xavier in the original X-Men trilogy, appearing in three films from 2000 to 2006. He later returned in four more movies before Professor X’s death in 2017’s “Logan.” He reappeared in “Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness” in 2022 and reprised the role in the upcoming “Avengers: Doomsday.”He also showed off his comedic chops aboard Seth MacFarlane’s Starz show “Blunt Talk” for two series and voiced Poop in “The Emoji Movie.” He made appearances on “Robot Chicken,” “Futurama” and “The Simpsons” (in one episode, Homer loses his hair, and Stewart tells him it’s great to be bald.) One of his last credits was with Jackman in 2026’s “The Sheep Detectives.”Later in life, he proved internet-savvy and found new fans with his humor, posing in a bath in a lobster suit and triggering memes when he posted a photo of him picking apples. When he was mistakenly outed as gay by a British newspaper, he said it was a nice change. “At least I didn’t wake up to the internet telling me I was dead again,” he tweeted.He married Brooklyn songwriter and singer Sunny Ozell in 2013, with the actor’s “X-Men” co-star McKellen officiating. Stewart later tweeted a photo of the newlyweds in a ball pit.He is also survived by two children, a daughter, Sophia, and a son, Daniel.The death of Patrick Stewart led to a slew of tributes, including from acting colleagues.British actor Ian McKellen paid tribute to his longtime friend Patrick Stewart, remembering their five-decade friendship and the bond they strengthened while playing rivals in the X-Men film franchise.In a tribute dated Oct. 29, McKellen recalled first meeting Stewart as ambitious young actors at the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon about half a century ago, although they were not performing in the same productions.“My first strong memory was a few years later, meeting him in the street in central London,” McKellen wrote, recalling their encounter when Stewart told him about an offer to take over a leading role in Star Trek.McKellen said he had warned his friend about the possible consequences for his British stage career.“But Patrick, think of your stage career in the UK. Do you really want to risk — getting lost in Hollywood for years and years?” he recalled telling Stewart.Stewart nevertheless accepted the role of Captain Picard.Their friendship grew closer when they reunited for the first X-Men film, released in 2000. McKellen portrayed his ideological adversary, Erik Lehnsherr, better known as Magneto.“What a heartbreaking week it has been,” another Star Trek alum, William Shatner, said. “Sir Patrick Stewart was a friend, a colleague and a magnificent actor. From the stage to

the bridge of the Enterprise, he brought intelligence, grace and a deep sense of humanity to everything he did. Captain Picard stood for the best of us, and so did the man who played him. I was filled with affection and admiration for him and his work." "We lost one of the greats of stage and screen today. And, in my book, a tremendous friend and man. I learned so much from him. I will miss you, Patrick Stewart, all of my days." Hugh Jackman, Stewart's "X-Men" co-star, posted on Instagram.George Takei, Stewart's fellow "Star Trek" star, said on social media: "Fans across the world mourn the passing of a true and irreplaceable legend. As Captain Jean-Luc Picard, Patrick Stewart took the starship Enterprise to places it had never gone before. He inspired a whole next generation of star-gazers who looked longingly ahead to a brighter future for all humanity. Our hearts are heavy, indeed. Rest in the heavens, Captain."

- Marcos: Pinoy food could lure tourists (2026-10-30 16:13)

CONFIDENT that Filipino cuisine can drive up tourism, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. vowed to improve transport infrastructure to encourage travelers to explore the country's rich gastronomy.During his speech at the Michelin Guide Restaurant Ceremony for Manila and Environs & Cebu 2027 on Thursday, Marcos highlighted how food — which he said is a "language everyone can appreciate" — can generate tourists and create value chains that empower domestic food producers. "Our country is known for our beautiful islands, our rich history and a vibrant culture. Now, our cuisine can become another reason for travelers to visit, explore our regions and to stay longer," he said.Reflecting on the international recognition of local establishments — including Bib Gourmand honorees and Michelin-starred restaurants — Marcos noted that food offers a universal medium to share Filipino culture and values with the world. "When we launched the Guide last year, our goal was to promote gastronomy and tourism," the president said. "We wanted to express who we are as a nation, as a people and as a culture in a language everyone can appreciate: food." Marcos underscored how a higher demand for Filipino cuisines can help empower local food producers. Citing establishments like Gallery by Chele, which features Indigenous Cordillera rice varieties, Marcos stressed how global exposure benefits micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). "Greater interest in Filipino cuisine can mean more opportunities for our farmers, our fisherfolk, food producers and our MSMEs," he said.To sustain growth in culinary tourism beyond major urban hubs like Manila and Cebu, Marcos committed to improving transport infrastructure and expanding connectivity across the archipelago.He also pledged continued support for culinary education and skills development to help aspiring chefs and hospitality professionals compete on the global stage.

- Filipino injured in Spain train crash that killed 69 (2026-10-30 16:12)

A FILIPINO sustained minor injuries, and an entire family of Filipino tourists required emergency consular intervention in the high-speed train collision in Toledo, Spain, last Wednesday.At least 69 people were killed and 100 were injured in the incident.The Philippine Embassy in Madrid said the injured Filipino was immediately transported to a local hospital and is recovering. The Filipino's identity or medical status were withheld by the embassy on the

family’s request.Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Analyn Ratonel separately announced that embassy personnel had located and provided immediate assistance to a family of Filipino tourists who were pulled out from the wreckage.As of Friday, no other Filipino casualties have been reported, and no further requests for assistance from nationals have been logged.According to Spain’s Ministry for Transport, a Renfe AVE train with 397 passengers rear-ended a stationary Iryo train with 146 passengers near the town of Urda, 150 kilometers south of Madrid.Initial findings from Spanish investigators reveal that a malfunction in the safety system forced the Iryo train to come to a complete stop due to a signal failure. Preliminary reports point to human error in the manual signaling backup operations, where the incoming Renfe train was erroneously authorized to proceed.Traveling at speeds approaching 200 kilometers per hour, the Renfe train struck the Iryo train, derailing four carriages and sending a mass of twisted metal down an embankment.The incident marks Europe’s worst rail disaster this century and is the third deadly train crash in Spain in 2026 alone, fueling heavy political criticism ahead of Spain’s snap elections scheduled for late November. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has declared three days of national mourning.The Madrid Embassy said it remains in close coordination with Castilla-La Mancha’s civil protection services and rail operators.Filipino communities across Spain have been urged to account for their members and report anyone who might have been traveling on the Madrid-Andalusia line at the time of the crash.The embassy released contact numbers for relatives in the Philippines and Spain seeking information on missing loved ones:– Philippine Embassy 24/7 Hotline: +34 616 491 861– Renfe Family Assistance Helpline: +34 900 101 020– Consular Reporting Channel: Affected individuals or families can submit details directly via the embassy’s Official Incident Registration Portal.

- Court rules men can be victims of sexual abuse (2026-10-30 16:10)

THE Supreme Court said that men can also be victims of sexual violence, and that the law renders justice to all victims of abuse regardless of gender.In an en banc decision penned by Senior Associate Justice Marvic Leonen, a woman was declared guilty of committing acts of lasciviousness against her 11-year-old nephew.Court records showed that the child, during a visit to his father’s relatives, was asleep when the woman woke him up, ordered him to remove his clothes, and made him lie on her bed. She then engaged in sexual intercourse with him.Unable to understand the experience because of his young age, the boy secretly suffered from shame and later considered ending his life.He was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from the sexual abuse and was advised to undergo psychotherapy.The woman was found guilty of acts of lasciviousness in relation to Republic Act (RA) 7610 or the Special Protection of Children against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act by both the Regional Trial Court and the Court of Appeals.The woman had argued that the child had consented to the sexual act, but the high court disagreed.It said that at the time of the incident in 2018, the age of sexual consent was 12 years old. Because the child was only 11, he was deemed legally incapable of giving consent. The age of sexual consent has since been increased to under 16 years old following the enactment of RA 11648 in 2022.Leonen said that the proper offense is statutory acts of lasciviousness under Article 336 of the Revised Penal Code, not RA

7610.Citing jurisprudence, the Supreme Court said that RA 7610 applies when a minor appears to consent to sexual activity due to the coercion or influence of an adult. It does not apply when a minor is entirely unaware, unconscious, or unable to give legal consent, as in the case.The woman was charged with statutory acts of lasciviousness because, at the time of the offense, her acts did not fall within the legal definition of rape under Article 266-A of the RPC, the ruling said.The law then limited the act of rape to a man inserting his penis into a woman's vagina, as well as the insertion of a penis or any object into another person's genital, it said.However, the high tribunal said RA 11648, enacted in 2022, expanded the definition of rape, now stating that it may be committed by any person who has carnal knowledge of another person under the circumstances specified by law.The use of the term "person" in the law instead of specifying the perpetrator's gender allows for the commission of rape even by women, the high court said.Despite this amendment, the Court noted that some rulings continue to describe rape as a crime committed by men against women. It traced this view to older, patriarchal rape laws that were originally designed not to protect women from violence, but to punish men for taking women — who were considered the property of their fathers or husbands — through rape. "These beliefs about rape are not only sexist, but also exclude male victims who suffer the same trauma. The failure to recognize that they can be victims of rape can also make it harder for them to realize that they were violated," Leonen said. "Thus, while there must be recognition of the historical injustice women have suffered, the law, as well as its interpretation, must be resilient enough to provide equal protection to all victims and guard against stereotypes that all women are victims and all men are perpetrators. When laws are not gender-neutral, male victims suffer twice: once at the hands of their abuser and second through the judicial system," he added.The Court said that the sexual violence suffered by the child caused him intense shame and guilt and left him traumatized. The woman also made him believe that he had agreed to and enjoyed what was done to him.If the genders had been reversed, the incident would have been considered rape. However, as it stands, the acts penalized do not fall within the legal definition of rape as provided by law at the time of the crime, it said.As a result, the woman was sentenced to prison for nine to 16 years and ordered to pay damages.

- Duterte camp: New NBI witness 'planted' (2026-10-30 16:09)

VICE President Sara Duterte's spokesman Salvador Paolo Panelo Jr. said Friday that alias "Chris," an alleged former driver of ex-House speaker Lord Allan Velasco who claimed to have helped deliver suitcases of grease money for the vice president, is another planted witness. "Another day, another planted witness. They can keep manufacturing allegations, but they cannot fabricate the truth," Panelo said in a statement.Panelo said Duterte would dismantle the allegations with evidence "at the proper time," challenging media organizations to go beyond reporting the claims. "We invite the media not merely to report, but to independently test and verify these claims," he said, accusing unnamed parties of weaponizing the media for "relentless, but ultimately ineffective, black propaganda" against Duterte.The new witness appeared before the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on

Thursday and submitted a three-page sworn affidavit detailing his alleged involvement in deliveries of suitcases of grease money to Davao City in 2021 and 2022.He claimed to have worked for Velasco from 2020 to 2022, noting he was among those instructed to transport the suitcases of cash. He identified Velasco's head driver, Victor Sioco, as the person who allegedly told him the suitcases contained a "small gift" for Duterte.He, however, admitted not really knowing the contents of the suitcases, and not personally witnessing Duterte receiving them.He presented photographs of vehicles and screenshots of his social media posts, including one bearing the words "OTW DAVAO," to support his account.

- Tiangco bares P2.28B budget, wants disclosures (2026-10-30 16:08)

NAVOTAS Rep. Toby Tiangco on Thursday made public P2.282 billion worth of proposed infrastructure projects for his district, challenging fellow lawmakers to disclose their own allocations after the House of Representatives rejected proposals to make budget transparency mandatory."If they do not want to make transparency mandatory, I will start with my own district. There is no reason to hide from the public where their money goes," Tiangco said in a Facebook Live broadcast.The lawmaker said he would publish the projects and their corresponding allocations on his official Facebook page so Navotas residents could scrutinize how the proposed funds would be spent.His disclosure follows the House's rejection of two amendments he introduced on Oct. 7 seeking mandatory publication of the chamber's budget utilization, including allocations and expenditures for each legislator, and DPWH projects in every congressional district.The P2.282 billion covers 39 proposed infrastructure projects for Navotas under the House version of the 2027 General Appropriations Bill, according to Tiangco.He said 75 projects worth P4.537 billion were approved by the Regional Development Council and civil society organizations for the city, but only 28 projects amounting to P1.609 billion were included in the National Expenditure Program.After consultations with DPWH officials and the Navotas City Engineering Office, 18 urgent projects worth P804.75 million were for prioritization, and 11 for deferment.Four additional DPWH-proposed projects worth P673 million brought the district's proposed allocation to P2.282 billion.Tiangco urged his colleagues to adopt the same practice, saying constituents should know not only how much money is allocated to their districts but also which projects would receive funding and why they were selected."If we can show the people of Navotas how much the budget is, where it will be spent, and why these projects were chosen, I hope all congressmen will do the same. Every Filipino has the right to know how their money is being spent," he said."Transparency cannot apply only when we are talking about the budgets of other agencies. It must start with us in Congress. The budget belongs to the people, not politicians," he added.He said transparency should become a standard across government rather than depend on individual lawmakers' willingness to disclose their allocations."Transparency should not be optional. It should be the standard for everyone in government. And that standard must begin with us," Tiangco said.

- Marcos: NLEx C5 Northlink 1A toll-free until yearend (2026-10-30 16:07)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. announced that the newly opened NLEx (North Luzon Expressway) C5 Northlink Segment 8.2 Section 1A, which connects Quezon City and Valenzuela City, would be toll-free until the end of 2026.Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Vince Dizon, who joined the president along with Public Works and Highways Secretary Giovanni Lopez during the opening to motorists, said on Friday that the two-kilometer elevated expressway links the NLEx Mindanao Avenue toll plaza to Quirino Highway, spanning Barangay Talipapa in Quezon City and Barangay Ugong in Valenzuela City.Dizon said the president is thankful for the support of the project proponent and concessionaire, NLEX Corp., for not collecting toll fees right away. "As with other newly opened roads, they are extending this accommodation while they still can — so passage here remains free until the end of the year," the chief executive said in Filipino.Open to all vehicle classes, the newly opened road section has an estimated capacity of 11,000 vehicles per day, and the usual travel time of about 40 minutes would be cut down to roughly five minutes, according to DOTr.It said Section 1A is only a portion of the broader 11.3-kilometer Segment 8.2 project, designed to eventually connect Mindanao Avenue to C.P. Garcia Avenue (C-5) near Katipunan, also in Quezon City.Brothers Valenzuela Mayor Wes Gatchalian and District 1 Rep. Kenneth Gatchalian, who were with the president and Dizon along with NLEX Corp. executives, hailed the opening of the road section, which would benefit their constituents and largely contribute to the economic development of the two neighboring cities.

- Gasoline prices to spike, diesel to fall next week (2026-10-30 16:06)

GASOLINE prices are expected to increase next week, while diesel prices are expected to roll back, due to recent developments in the Middle East and oil-related regional events, local oil industry sources said on Friday.They said gasoline prices are estimated to spike by about P2.90 and P3.20 per liter, while diesel prices are expected to slip by about P0.40 and P0.60 per liter.The prices do not yet include freight-related costs, as sources said they are still unavailable.The price estimates are based on the four-day trading of Mean of Platts Singapore, the pricing basis of refined goods in Southeast Asia. "Diesel and gasoline prices closely followed the movement of crude oil this week, as they remained elevated amid concerns about energy supply disruptions in the Middle East due to continuing regional attacks and worries that the US could strike Iran after next week's US midterm elections. "However, prices stopped increasing further due to a possible breakthrough in diplomatic efforts to end the eight-month-long conflict," a source said. "Furthermore, other improving fuel supply prospects helped diesel and gasoline increases from going up further after China issued a fourth batch of fuel export quotas for gasoline, diesel and jet fuel. Other factors included South Korea easing its diesel export restrictions, and Ukrainian refinery strikes temporarily stopping," the source added.This week, based on available price adjustment bulletins, gasoline prices slightly decreased by P0.30 per liter, while diesel prices went up by P1.20 per liter.

- Nov 5 hearing set for ex-BARMM exec, says PDEA (2026-10-30 16:05)

AFTER ignoring his initial subpoena, former Bangsamoro Transition Authority parliament member Edrieza Nasser Rimbang, accused of being the financier of the multibillion botched Laos drug shipment, is set to appear for an investigation before the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) on Nov. 5.PDEA spokesman Joseph Frederick Calulut confirmed that three of Rimbang's lawyers visited the PDEA office on Oct. 27 to attest that their client will show up on Nov. 5 to submit his sworn statement.Rimbang's team came to the PDEA office after the subpoena was sent to the ex-Bangsamoro official for allegedly financing the chartered 986 Learjet 55B that attempted to transport the 521-kilo shabu shipment to the Philippines but was intercepted by Laos authorities at Luang Prabang International Airport on Oct. 1. "Based on the evidence on hand, he appears to be the mastermind, not just a financier. We are waiting for him to give his statement so his defense isn't just on social media. It's better if it is in an affidavit," Calulut told reporters in a phone interview on Thursday.A Filipino national identified as Fahad Mulok Dibarosan was arrested during the foiled smuggling attempt.Calulut noted that two other persons of interest (POIs) linked to the case have yet to appear before the PDEA.Depending on Rimbang's affidavit, Calulut said more POIs will be identified "as the case progresses." "Wala naman palugit, but we have a date doon sa mga subpoena na pina-receive natin sa kanila. So, na sa kanila 'yan kung lulutang sila, pero mas maganda humarap na lang sila since POIs naman sila (There's no extra grace period, but we have a set date on the subpoenas we had them receive. So it's up to them if they'll show up, but it's better if they just face it since they're POIs anyway)," he said. "Kapag sinabing POI, hindi naman agad-agad ay suspect eh. It could be possible na ikaw ay isang witness din (When we say POI, they are not automatically treated as suspects)," said Calulut.Calulut emphasized that PDEA holds documentary evidence proving Rimbang bankrolled the operation. "We have documents, we have evidence na nagsasabi si Rimbang ang nagbigay ng pera," he said.Calulut stated that the PDEA is keenly verifying the possible involvement of Rimbang in previous illegal drug transactions. "Well, looking at his history, kung taga-saan ba si Rimbang, doon sa lugar na matagal nang known na maraming drug personalities, so hindi naman, dahil sinasabi niya na wala siyang kinalaman (sa illegal drugs), wala raw siyang kinita, ay we are going to believe it as gospel truth. So marami tayong tinitsek na mga anggulo pa (Well, looking at his history and considering where Rimbang hails from, a place known to have numerous drug personalities, we are not going to believe it as gospel truth just because he claimed his innocence and not earning from the drug deals. So we are still checking a lot of angles)," Calulut said.He also rejected Rimbang's claims of absolute innocence, noting the suspect's background in an area known for drug personalities. "Just because he says he has no involvement doesn't mean we are going to believe it as the gospel truth. We are checking many other angles," Calulut added.Rimbang is among three POIs who have yet to face PDEA, which includes a consignee, identified as Abdulkarim Macalatas, and other unnamed individuals.Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla identified 11 persons of interest in the case, including former Bangsamoro Transition Authority parliament member Edriezan Hadji Nasser Rimbang, whom he identified as the alleged financier of the operation.The PDEA is also coordinating with foreign counterparts and awaiting additional documents and information from Malaysia in connection with the investigation.The PDEA is also awaiting information from Laotian

authorities regarding Fahad.

- Metro Manila cities ready for Undas 2026 (2026-10-30 16:04)

METRO Manila cities have stepped up traffic management, cemetery maintenance, and security preparations for the 2026 All Souls' Day and All Saints' Day (collectively Undas) tradition.In the city of Manila, Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso said Friday they have completed preparations for Undas, with several offices and agencies coordinating to ensure an orderly observance of the Christian tradition.In a chance interview, Domagoso said preparations involved the Philippine National Police, particularly the Manila Police District (MPD), the Manila City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Department (MCDRRMD), the Manila Health Department, the Department of Engineering and Public Services (DEPS), the City Electrician, the City Engineering, and the Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau.“For 10 days now, we’ve been preparing — the PNP, specifically the men and women of the Manila Police District, the MCDRRMD, the Manila Health Department, DEPS, City Electrician, City Engineering, and Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau. We are ready,” Domagoso told the reporters.The mayor urged the public to observe Undas as a solemn occasion for families to gather, remember their departed loved ones, and pray for their souls.The MCDRRMD delivered 100 portable toilets for the city’s two public cemeteries, with 60 assigned to Manila North Cemetery and 40 to Manila South Cemetery.“Our intention as a city is to make this occasion solemn, where families come together, visit the remains of our departed loved ones, and pray for the peace of their souls,” he said in Filipino.Domagoso also said vendors would not be allowed inside cemeteries. Designated selling areas would instead be provided outside cemetery perimeters to allow vendors to sell without disrupting visitors.Road closures Road closures near the Manila North Cemetery will run from 12 a.m. on Oct. 30 until 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 1, the Manila Public Information Office said. Affected areas include parts of Blumentritt, Dimasalang, and Maceda streets, the northbound lane of Dimasalang Bridge, and intersections along Aurora Boulevard and Blumentritt Road.Motorists were advised to follow designated rerouting schemes. Parking areas are available along P. Guevarra, Felix Huertas, and Oroquieta streets, from Blumentritt Road to Aurora Boulevard.Affected roads include Blumentritt Street from A. Bonifacio Avenue to Aurora Boulevard; Dimasalang Street to Retiro Street from Retiro Street to Calavite Street; Maceda Street from Makiling Street to Dimasalang Street; the northbound lane of Dimasalang Bridge; Aurora Boulevard corner Leonor Rivera Street; and Blumentritt Road corner Leonor Rivera Street.Motorists coming from Dimasalang Road and heading to Blumentritt Road should turn right on Simoun Street, while those coming from Quezon City via A. Bonifacio Avenue should turn left on Labo Street.Vehicles from Maceda Street intending to use Dimasalang or Retiro streets should turn right on Simoun Street. Those from Aurora Boulevard heading to Dimasalang Street should turn right on Leonor Rivera Street, while motorists from Blumentritt Road heading to Aurora Boulevard should also turn right on Leonor Rivera Street.Designated parking areas are along P. Guevarra, Felix Huertas, and Oroquieta streets, from Blumentritt Road to Aurora Boulevard.The city government advised motorists to plan their trips and use alternate routes to avoid delays.Marikina City, meanwhile, will implement a one-way eastbound

traffic scheme on A. Bonifacio Avenue and Sumulong Highway from 6 a.m. on Oct. 31 until 12:01 a.m. on Nov. 2. Motorists heading to Loyola Memorial Park and Marikina City proper were advised to follow designated routes and traffic signs.Mayor Maan Teodoro said that the city had conducted clearing operations and fogging at cemeteries, established command posts for police, social workers and medical teams, and deployed an animal rescue team to vaccinate stray dogs and cats. Personnel will monitor traffic and security around the clock from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2.At Barangka Cemetery, the city is coordinating with families affected by the planned four-story ossuary and columbarium. Forms will be distributed to update records and help track remains, particularly those without updated information for more than five years.Peace and order measuresDomagoso said the city had coordinated with police, health and disaster response offices, engineering units and traffic personnel to prepare for Undas. Vendors will not be allowed inside cemeteries but may sell in designated areas outside their perimeters. He reminded visitors that liquor, sharp objects, firearms, and karaoke are prohibited inside the cemetery.Makati City held its final coordination meeting for Oplan Undas 2026, led by Public Safety Officer BGen. Rodelio Jocson and the city’s Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office. Participants included police, fire personnel, barangay officials, city departments, private-sector representatives, and officials from Manila, including representatives of Manila South Cemetery and the Manila DRRMO.In Pasig, the city government conducted clearing, concreting, asphalting, repainting, trimming, and repair work at the Pasig City Public Cemetery, also known as Barracks. The city said its crematorium and columbarium are operational, and a roof has been placed on the columbarium’s roof deck.Pasay Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano inspected the city cemetery to check clearing and cleaning work, particularly the removal of obstructions along pathways. She also visited bus and public transport terminals along Buendia-Taft, reminding operators to park properly and traffic enforcers to prevent illegal terminals that could cause congestion.Marikina has also prohibited bladed weapons, alcohol, smoking and vaping, littering, excessive noise, climbing on tombs, and other activities inside cemeteries, including the use of plastic and Styrofoam.In San Juan, Mayor Francis Zamora said additional security personnel, traffic enforcers, sanitation teams, and emergency responders would be deployed during Undas. “So our expected visitors on Nov. 1 will be somewhere between 35,000 and 40,000,” Zamora told reporters during a visit to the San Juan City Cemetery on Oct. 23.The cemetery’s visiting hours are from 6 a.m. to midnight. Firearms, bladed weapons, alcohol, and illegal drugs are prohibited, while gambling and entry by bicycles and motorcycles are not allowed. Vendors may operate only in designated areas.Taguig City continued cleaning its cemeteries and setting up tents for help desks and command posts to assist visitors and maintain peace and order. The city reminded the public to follow cemetery rules, dispose of trash properly, secure their belongings, and cooperate with personnel.Not to be outdone, the Eastern Police District (EPD) assured the public that enforcement of security, traffic management, emergency response, and public safety measures will be synchronized ahead of the influx of cemetery visitors and travelers during Undas.In its Inter-Agency Coordinating Meeting in Preparation for a Safe and Secure Undas 2026 in Metro East Area conducted the other day, EPD director BGen. Roman Arugay said that through the concerted efforts of the police and partner agencies, the EPD seeks to maintain peace and order, ensure

smooth traffic flow, provide prompt emergency assistance, and safeguard the public throughout the observance.Arugay stressed that the activity underscored the EPD's commitment to proactive planning, operational readiness, and strengthened inter-agency cooperation in ensuring a safe, orderly, and secure Undas 2026 for residents and visitors across the Metro East Area.WITH A REPORT FROM FRANCISCO TUYAY

- CHEd to review nonpayment allegation (2026-10-30 16:03)

THE Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) said it would review a claim by Amianan PH that the agency had not paid for souvenir items it ordered for Asean-related activities.Amianan PH alleged that CHEd, as well as the Department of Energy (DOE), had not released payment nor made a down payment for products it ordered."CHED hasn't paid in 9 months, and DOE is about to pass the 1-month mark. How could you let this happen?" Amianan PH said in Filipino and English in a Facebook post on Thursday."We support so many communities; what is going to happen to them this Christmas? We cannot move forward when our money is just sleeping in your hands," it added.CHEd said the allegation was about a small-value procurement handled by its Regional Office 4. “As this involves a small-value procurement undertaken at the regional level, the transaction does not ordinarily pass through the Office of the Chairperson,” CHEd said in a statement on Friday.It added that the Office of the Chairperson would gather information from the concerned regional office and review the circumstances surrounding the matter. “Nevertheless, the Office of the Chairperson will personally ensure that the necessary information is gathered from CHEDRO IV, the circumstances are properly reviewed, and any issues identified are promptly and appropriately addressed,” CHEd said, noting the concern would be handled with transparency and accountability.

- CFO aims for more overseas aid for grassroots communities (2026-10-30 16:02)

THE Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) has signed a memorandum of understanding with Angat Pinas Inc., a nonprofit organization widely known as Angat Buhay, to boost philanthropic endeavors of the global Filipino diaspora in the Philippines.CFO Secretary Dante Ang II and Angat Buhay Executive Director Raphael Martin Magno formalized the agreement.Through the partnership, the CFO will utilize its long-standing Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (Linkapil) Program to channel financial resources, networks, and technical expertise from nonresident Filipinos (NRFs) and overseas organizations directly into Angat Buhay's targeted grassroots interventions. The collaborative framework will prioritize critical development areas, including public education, food security, public health, disaster risk reduction, housing, and climate resilience. “The continuing engagement of our NRFs can help translate migration experience into concrete opportunities for families, communities, and local development,” Ang said, emphasizing that the initiative aligns with the national policy of treating overseas Filipinos as indispensable partners in nation-building.Established in 1989, the CFO's Linkapil program has long served as a structural mechanism to funnel overseas assistance into local high-impact projects. Under the new agreement, the CFO will actively promote Angat Buhay's core anti-poverty initiatives to overseas networks and endorse community project proposals for

direct diaspora funding.The partnership aims to engage second- and third-generation overseas Filipino youth in local civic action and volunteerism through CFO's Youth Leaders in the Diaspora program.By creating an institutional bridge between global donors and local communities, both entities aim to institutionalize the traditional spirit of bayanihan (volunteerism) for long-term development gains.

- Fil-American faces 20 years in CNMI fraud, bribery case (2026-10-30 16:01)

SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands — A Filipino-American former government official in the US Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has pleaded guilty to federal theft and bribery charges in a multimillion-dollar fraud scheme that could land her in prison for up to 20 years.The case against Maribel Loste, former director of the Child Care and Development Fund, is connected to a separate federal fraud case involving Filipino mother and daughter Clarissa Adlawan and Giselle Butalid, who were sentenced earlier this year for defrauding the CNMI Public School System.Loste's lawyer, Robert Torres, confirmed the connection in an interview on Thursday. “Yes, there's a tie-in to that, and the plea speaks to that,” Torres said.Torres also confirmed that Loste had accepted responsibility for her criminal conduct and was scheduled for sentencing on Jan. 8, 2027, before US District Court Chief Judge Ramona Manglona. “She took responsibility for this case, for her conduct, and therefore pled guilty,” he said.Under a plea agreement filed June 25 in the US District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands and unsealed Thursday, Loste agreed to plead guilty to aiding and abetting theft concerning a program receiving federal funds and bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds.Each felony carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a $250,000 fine, for a combined statutory maximum of 20 years and $500,000 in fines.Loste also agreed to forfeit at least $105,000 obtained through the bribery scheme, with the final amount to be determined at sentencing.According to the plea agreement, Loste used her authority as CCDF director under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs to approve contracts involving Evergreen Learning Inc. and Dice LLC despite knowing their proposals contained false information, including grossly inflated costs.The scheme began around July 2021 and involved two unnamed individuals living in Kenmore, Washington. One was Loste's longtime friend who co-owned Evergreen and Dice and operated Language and Literacy Education and Professional Services, or Leaps, in Washington state.Both individuals were identified as unindicted co-conspirators.Federal prosecutors and Loste stipulated that the reasonably foreseeable financial loss from the theft offense exceeded $3.5 million but was less than $9.5 million.The bribery charge involved One Legacy LLC, which received approximately $1.41 million in CCDF contract payments between 2022 and 2024.Loste admitted accepting payments from an unnamed co-owner of One Legacy in exchange for approving and processing the company's contracts.One Legacy was also used by Adlawan and Butalid in a separate procurement fraud and money laundering scheme involving PSS.Adlawan, a US permanent resident originally from the Philippines, and Butalid, a naturalized US citizen also originally from the Philippines, were sentenced on May 6, 2026, to 48 months and 18 months in federal prison, respectively.According to the US Department of Justice, the women used One Legacy to conceal

conflicts of interest and obtain payments for educational materials that PSS never ordered.They were ordered jointly to pay $548,788 in restitution, while two properties they owned in the Philippines were ordered forfeited.Federal prosecutors said some of the money obtained through the fraud was used to construct a nine-room house in the Philippines. The women also traveled to the country, stayed in luxury hotels and withdrew substantial amounts of cash.Loste's plea agreement does not identify Butalid or Adlawan by name or establish that they participated in her charged offenses.Loste had served as CCDF director since 2008, according to her professional background. Before that, she worked as an infant and toddler education specialist at the CNMI Public School System from 2006 to 2008.She holds a Master of Arts in Education, specializing in early childhood education and teaching, from California State University, Sacramento.Torres said Loste's guilty plea reflected her willingness to accept responsibility rather than proceed to trial. “It's not about remorse, it's about accountability and accepting responsibility when you've done wrong,” he said.He said Loste's sentence would depend on several factors, including the seriousness of the offenses, her personal background, deterrence and appropriate punishment.The US Probation Office will prepare a presentence investigation report, while the amount of restitution Loste may be required to pay remains undetermined.Federal prosecutors have agreed to recommend a sentence at the low end of the applicable sentencing guidelines, but the final decision rests with Manglona.

- Red cross deploys 1,890 personnel, volunteers for Undas (2026-10-30 15:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) is deploying 1,890 staff and trained volunteers nationwide from Oct. 30 to Nov. 3 to provide emergency assistance to travelers during Undas 2026.The PRC said its 102 chapters have established 322 first aid stations in high-density areas across the country, supported by 69 ambulances and 19 emergency response vehicles.The deployment includes 89 combined first aid and ambulance stations, 233 first aid stations, 158 welfare desks, 107 mobile units and 107 on-foot patrol teams.PRC responders will cover 247 cemeteries, eight seaports, eight highway and gas station posts, seven bus terminals, two airports and other public transit areas and chapter bases.PRC Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Richard J. Gordon urged travelers to prepare for their trips and consider the agency’s SafeCard program, which provides access to emergency ambulance services and blood supply support in case of road accidents, as well as financial coverage for accidental death, disablement and medical reimbursement during travel. “Undas is a sacred time for Filipino families to gather and remember their loved ones. While our emergency teams and ambulances are on the ground nationwide, true safety begins with preparation,” Gordon said in a statement on Friday.

- Dizon loses cool over 2-year CCTV handover delay at NAIA inspection (2026-10-30 11:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon on Friday lost his temper during a surprise inspection at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 1 amid mounting controversies over unmaintained security systems and high-profile passenger thefts.Dizon could not hide his frustration after learning that the transfer of NAIA's closed-circuit television

(CCTV) operations from the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) to the New NAIA Infra Corp. (NNIC) has been stalled for nearly two years.He recalled issuing the order more than a year and half ago before he was moved to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) but the transfer was not completed.As a result, Dizon gave the MIAA until November to turn over control of the CCTV system to NNIC as he warned that those responsible for further delays would be dismissed.He expressed frustration over the delay and the finger-pointing among officials instead of taking responsibility for the failure of the CCTV system to clearly capture theft incidents. “I would be happier, and our countrymen would be happier, if you took responsibility instead of asking me who else you could point to,” Dizon said. “That is why we are in government — to take responsibility,” he added.Dizon warned that he would dismiss the officials concerned "if they stil haven't transferred it by then."Dizon also directed the NNIC to install more CCTV cameras at the airport to improve surveillance and deter theft.He cited an incident in which a CCTV camera was positioned too far from the area to clearly capture what happened.Dizon said airports in other countries have cameras installed at nearly every corner, making it more difficult for criminals to operate undetected.CCTV cameras serve not only as tools for law enforcement but also as a deterrent to crime, he said.Dizon's inspection came on the heels of a heated Senate Committee on Public Services hearing led by Senator Raffy Tulfo.Lawmakers called out airport officials after French national Anthony Claude Boukhors lost P18 million worth of luxury watches to a thief at the Terminal 1 Grab pick-up area.When authorities moved to track the suspect, they found that the entire pick-up zone had ‘zero camera’ coverage due to broken or missing units—prompting Tulfo to give airport officials 48 hours to fix the system.The systemic failure of the CCTV infrastructure compounds a string of embarrassing thefts at NAIA checkpoints.In September 2023, an Office for Transportation Security (OTS) personnel was caught attempting to pocket and physically swallow $300 in cash stolen from a Chinese passenger.There was also an incident wherein security screening officers were caught on camera stealing a luxury watch from a Chinese and extorting yen from a Thai tourist.Dizon publicly apologized to the victims of these high-value terminal thefts and pushed for systemic reforms, including the immediate handover of backend technology and the elimination of "blind spots"t o protect travelers passing through the country's main gateway.

- SC: Men can also be victims of sexual violence (2026-10-30 05:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Men can also be victims of sexual violence, stressing that the law must protect all victims of abuse regardless of gender, the Supreme Court ruled.In an en banc decision penned by Senior Associate Justice Marvic Leonen, the high tribunal found a woman guilty of committing acts of lasciviousness against her 11-year-old nephew.Court records indicated that the child, who visited his father's relatives, was asleep when the woman woke him up, ordered him to remove his clothes, and made him lie on her bed. She then engaged in sexual intercourse with him.Curious about what was happening, the child did not protest at first but after the incident, he felt ashamed and considered ending his life.The child was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from the sexual abuse as indicated by a psychological debriefing and supportive psychotherapy, the high tribunal said.The woman,

same records showed, was found guilty of acts of lasciviousness in relation to Republic Act 7610 or the Special Protection of Children against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act by both the Regional Trial Court and the Court of Appeals.The woman had argued that the child had consented to the sexual act but the high court disagreed.It explained that at the time of the incident in 2018, the age of sexual consent was 12 years old. Because the child was only 11, he was deemed legally incapable of giving consent. (This has since been increased to under 16 years old following the enactment of RA 11648 in 2022.)Leonen in the same ruling clarified, however, that the proper offense was statutory acts of lasciviousness under Article 336 of the Revised Penal Code (RPC), not RA 7610.Citing a jurisprudence, the Court explained that RA 7610 applies when a minor appears to consent to sexual activity due to the coercion or influence of an adult. It does not apply when a minor is entirely unaware, unconscious, or unable to give legal consent, as in this case.The woman was charged with statutory acts of lasciviousness because, at the time of the offense, her acts did not fall within the legal definition of rape under Article 266-A of the RPC, the ruling said.The law then limited the act of rape to a man inserting his penis into a woman's vagina, as well as the insertion of a penis or any object into another person's genital, it stressed.However, the high tribunal said RA 11648, enacted in 2022, expanded the definition of rape, now stating that it may be committed by any person who has carnal knowledge of another person under the circumstances specified by law.The use of the term "person" in the law instead of specifying the perpetrator's gender allows for the commission of rape even by women, the high court said.Despite this amendment, the Court noted that some rulings continue to describe rape as a crime committed by men against women. It traced this view to older, patriarchal rape laws that were originally designed not to protect women from violence, but to punish men for taking women—who were considered the property of their fathers or husbands—through rape. “These beliefs about rape are not only sexist, but also exclude male victims who suffer the same trauma. The failure to recognize that they can be victims of rape can also make it harder for them to realize that they were violated,” Leonen said."Thus, while there must be recognition of the historical injustice women have suffered, the law, as well as its interpretation, must be resilient enough to provide equal protection to all victims and guard against stereotypes that all women are victims and all men are perpetrators. When laws are not gender-neutral, male victims suffer twice: once at the hands of their abuser and second through the judicial system," he added.The Court reiterated that the sexual violence suffered by the child caused him intense shame and guilt and left him traumatized. The woman also made him believe that he had agreed to and enjoyed what was done to him.If the genders had been reversed, the incident would have been considered rape. However, as it stands, the acts penalized do not fall within the legal definition of rape as provided by law at the time of the crime, it explained.As a result, the woman was sentenced to prison for nine to 16 years and ordered to pay damages.

- Mayon erupts, sends 3-km ash plume above crater (2026-10-30 04:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Mayon Volcano had a moderately explosive eruption on Friday, sending an ash plume 3 kilometers above its crater, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology

and Seismology (Phivolcs).The eruption started at 11:53 a.m. and ended at 11:59 a.m., with the grayish ash plume drifting west-southwest.Mayon Volcano is now under Alert Level 3.Phivolcs posted a timelapse video of the volcano’s eruption on its Facebook page.Alert Level 3, according to Phivolcs, means there is a "high level of volcanic unrest.""Sustained increases in the levels of volcanic earthquakes, some may be perceptible. Occurrence of low-frequency earthquakes, volcanic tremor, rumbling sounds," Phivolcs said on its website."Forceful and voluminous steam/ash ejections. Sustained increases in sulfur dioxide emission rates, ground deformation/swelling of the edifice. Activity at the summit may involve dome growth and/or lava flow, resultant rockfall," it added,

- ICC recognizes 96 victims seeking participation in Duterte trial (2026-10-30 04:03)

MANILA, Philippines — The International Criminal Court (ICC) has transmitted 46 applications covering 96 applicants assessed as qualifying victims, along with four other applications whose eligibility remains unclear, for consideration in the trial of former president Rodrigo Duterte.In separate documents dated Oct. 28, 2026, the ICC Registry transmitted the 46 applications classified under Group A and four applications classified under Group C to Trial Chamber III, which is hearing the case against Duterte.The Group A applicants were assessed as clearly qualifying as victims under the court's procedures, while the Group C applicants are those whose eligibility could not be clearly determined by the Registry.The transmissions followed an oral instruction issued by the chamber during a status conference on May 27, 2026, and were made under the ICC's A-B-C classification system for victim participation.Under the system, Group A covers applicants who clearly qualify as victims, Group B those who clearly do not qualify, and Group C those for whom the Registry could not make a clear determination.The Registry said the annexes accompanying the 46 Group A applications were classified as confidential and available only to the Registry.For the four Group C applications, the Registry said two contained forms completed in Tagalog, together with English translations. Because it lacked the capacity to apply word-for-word redactions to the Tagalog text, it redacted in full the portions completed in that language.The documents did not identify the applicants or provide details of the incidents underlying their applications.The transmission of the applications does not, by itself, establish the final participation status of the applicants in the proceedings.

- PDEA: Alleged financier in Laos drug shipment to appear on Nov 5 (2026-10-30 03:45)

MANILA, Philippines – The alleged financier of the multibillion-peso drug shipment from Laos will appear before the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) on Nov. 5, 2026, a spokesman said.Lawyers of former Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament member Edrieza Nasser Rimbang came to the office on Oct. 27 to assure authorities that their client would appear to submit his sworn affidavit, said PDEA Spokesman Joseph Frederick Calulut.Rimbang’s team came to the PDEA office following the subpoena sent to the ex-Bangsamoro official for allegedly financing the chartered 986 Learjet 55B that attempted to transport the 521-kilo shabu shipment to the Philippines but was intercepted by Laos authorities at Luang Prabang International Airport on Oct. 1. "Based on the evidence on hand,

he appears to be the mastermind, not just a financier. We are waiting for him to give his statement so his defense isn't just on social media. It’s better if it is in an affidavit," Calulut told reporters in a phone interview on Thursday. A Filipino identified as Fahad Mulok Dibarosan was arrested during the foiled smuggling of the shipment. Calulut noted that two other persons of interest (POI) linked to the case have yet to appear before the PDEA.Depending on Rimbang’s affidavit, Calulut said more POIs wpuld be identified “as the case progresses.” Calulut emphasized that PDEA held documentary evidence proving Rimbang bankrolled the operation. “We have documents, we have evidence na nagsasabi si Rimbang ang nagbigay ng pera,” he said. Calulut stated that the PDEA was Íkeenly verifying the possible involvement of Rimbang in previous illegal drug transactions.He also rejected Rimbang's claims of absolute innocence, noting the suspect's background in an area known for drug personalities.Rimbang is among three persons of interest (POIs) who have yet to face PDEA, which includes a consignee, identified as Abdulkarim Macalatas, and other unnamed individuals. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Juanito Victor “Jonvic’’ Remulla identified 11 persons of interest in the case, including Rimbang.The PDEA is also coordinating with foreign counterparts and awaiting additional documents and information from Malaysia in connection with the investigation.The PDEA is also awaiting information from Laotian authorities regarding Fahad.

- PH Embassy in Madrid says injured Filipino in train collision in Spain recovering, others assisted by consulate (2026-10-30 02:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Filipino who sustained minor injuries in a high-speed train collision in Spain last Oct. 28, 2026 is confined at a local hospital while other Filipino tourists were provided emergency consular intervention following the accident that claimed the lives of 69 people.The Philippine Embassy in Madrid did not disclose the victim's identity or specific medical status, citing privacy protocols requested by the family. Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Spokesmann Analyn Ratonel announced that embassy personnel had successfully tracked down and extended immediate assistance to a family of Filipino tourists caught in the wreckage.As of Friday, no other Filipino casualties have been reported, and no further requests for assistance have been logged. A system failure at 200 kph The tragedy unfolded at approximately 8:54 a.m. CET along the busy Madrid–Seville high-speed rail line. According to Spain’s Ministry for Transport, a Renfe AVE train carrying 397 passengers rear-ended a stationary Iryo train carrying 146 passengers near the town of Urda, located 150 kilometers south of Madrid. Initial findings from Spanish investigators reveal that a malfunction in the LZB train safety system forced the Iryo train to come to a complete standstill due to a signal failure. Preliminary reports point to human error in the manual signaling backup operations, where the incoming Renfe express was erroneously authorized to proceed. Traveling at speeds approaching 200 kilometers per hour, the Renfe unit struck the stopped train, violently derailing four carriages and sending a mass of twisted metal down an embankment. The incident marks Europe’s worst rail disaster this century and is the third deadly train crash in Spain in 2026 alone, fueling heavy political criticism ahead of Spain's snap elections scheduled for late

November. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has since declared three days of national mourning. Consular Advisory and Crisis Hotlines The Philippine Embassy in Madrid stated that it remained in tight coordination with Castilla-La Mancha's civil protection services and rail operators. Filipino communities across Spain have been urged to account for their members and report anyone who might have been traveling on the Madrid-Andalusia line during the time of the crash.

• Manhunt on for Dela Rosa as clock ticks on deadline for surrender (2026-10-30 02:22)

(UPDATE) MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa was a no show on Friday, as the clock ticks on the deadline for his surrender.The Philippine National Police (PNP) said information on the senator have flooded designated hotlines.Lt. Gen. Wilson Joseph Lopez, Philippine National Police (PNP) deputy chief for Administration appealed anew to Dela Rosa to surrender to prevent casualties.Lopez called on Dela Rosa to remember his former role as the "father of the PNP," saying he should not allow police officers, whom he once led, to be placed in danger. He added that the police were simply performing their duty.Dela Rosa is the subject of an International Criminal Court arrest warrant over alleged killings inked to former president Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs.The government has also offered a P50 million bounty for information leading to his arrest.

• Part of NLEX C5 Northlink toll-free until end of 2026 — DOTR (2026-10-30 01:50)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has announced that the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) C5 Northlink that connects Quezon City and Valenzuela City would be toll-free until end of 2026.Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Vince Dizon, who joined the president, along with Public Works and Highways Secretary Giovanni Lopez, during said on Friday that Segment 8.2 Section 1A, a two-kilometer elevated expressway, linked the NLEx Mindanao Avenue toll plaza to Quirino Highway, frombBarangay Talipapa in Quezon City to Barangay Ugong in Valenzuela City.Dizon said the president was thankful for the support of the project's proponent and concessionaire - the NLEx Corp.- for not collecting toll fees right away."As with other newly opened roads, they are extending this accommodation while they still can—so passage here remains free until the end of the year," the chief executive said in Filipino.Open to all vehicle classes, the newly-opened road section has an estimated capacity of 11, 000 vehicles per day and the 40-minute travel time would be cut down to roughly five minutes, according to DOTr.It said that Section 1A was only a portion of the broader 11.3-kilometer Segment 8.2 project, designed to eventually connect Mindanao Avenue all the way to C.P. Garcia Avenue (C-5) near Katipunan, also in Quezon City.

• Marcos sees Filipino cuisine boosting tourism, attracting more foreign travelers (2026-10-30 01:33)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. highlighted how Filipino cuisine can drive up tourism, vowing to improve transport infrastructure to encourage travelers to explore the country's rich gastronomy.During his speech at the "Michelin Guide Restaurant Ceremony

for Manila and Environs and Cebu 2027" on Thursday, Marcos highlighted how food was a “language everyone can appreciate”—can attract tourists and create value chains that empower domestic food producers."Our country is known for our beautiful islands, our rich history, and a vibrant culture. Now, our cuisine can become another reason for travelers to visit, explore our regions, and to stay longer," Marcos said.

- Yellow, red alerts up for Visayas grid on Friday as some power plants remain unavailable (2026-10-30 00:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) issued yellow and red alerts for the Visayas grid on Friday due to outages from major power plants amid high consumption.In its 8 a.m. advisory, the yellow alert will be between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., and 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. The red alert will be in effect between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. as peak demand is estimated to reach 2,536 megawatts (MW) against an available capacity of only 2,359 MW.The transmission firm said that 22 plants were on forced outage and 20 were running on derated capacities for a total of 782.2 MW unavailable to the grid.The continued unavailability of the Therma Visayas Inc.1, Therma Visayas Inc. 2, and KEPCO SPC Power Corporation Unit 1 and the limited power imports from Mindanao due to the outages of some power plants there have prompted the NGCP to raise the alerts.A yellow alert is issued when the operating margin is insufficient to meet the transmission grid’s contingency requirement.A red alert is issued when power supply is insufficient to meet consumer demand and the transmission grid’s regulating requirement.

- PH says maritime security a global responsibility, pushes Code of Conduct in South China Sea (2026-10-30 00:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro said that maritime security in the Indo-Pacific has become an indivisible global responsibility. Speaking to European diplomats and the academe at the 17th Festival della Diplomazia on Oct. 26, 2026, Lazaro focused on the 10th anniversary of the 2016 South China Sea Arbitral Award, which nullified Beijing’s expansive maritime claims under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos). She affirmed that the legal victory remained final and binding, serving as a shield for smaller nations against superpowers."The Award demonstrates that even amid profound asymmetries of power, international law offers nations a peaceful means to defend their rights," Lazaro said in her speech on the theme “What’s Next? Running on the Edge.” Despite facing continued coercion and harassment in Philippine waters, Lazaro emphasized that Manila's diplomatic restraint should not be misinterpreted."Restraint is not surrender. Dialogue is not acquiescence," she told the assembly. "The Philippines seeks no confrontation. Neither will we relinquish our lawful rights." She warned European leaders that ignoring violations in Asia undermines global security, stating that if international law is disregarded in the South China Sea, "its authority is weakened in the Mediterranean, the Adriatic, and everywhere else." Turning to regional strategy, Lazaro outlined Manila's priorities for its 2026 Asean Chairmanship under the theme “Navigating Our Future, Together.” She noted that Asean must move past

mere anniversaries to secure concrete resolutions, particularly a legally binding Code of Conduct in the South China Sea that respects Unclos, and an inclusive solution to the ongoing crisis in Myanmar.

- Pangilinan seeks disclosure of lump-sum funds in the 2027 budget (2026-10-29 21:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan urged lawmakers to disclose the details and supporting documents for lump-sum unprogrammed appropriations in the proposed P7.2-trillion 2027 national budget before its approval, warning against leaving crucial spending information until the bicameral conference committee negotiations.He also pushed for greater public participation in budget deliberations and the livestreaming of bicameral proceedings, saying Filipinos must be able to scrutinize how lawmakers allocate taxpayers’ money.Pangilinan said the Senate must ensure that the proposed spending plan prioritizes programs and services that address the needs of ordinary Filipinos, particularly in food security, agriculture, education, health and disaster preparedness.He highlighted the role of civil society organizations, including the People’s Budget Coalition, in scrutinizing allocations and helping flag potential irregularities in the proposed 2027 National Expenditure Program (NEP). “We will make sure that we come up with our own version, and you are right that the People’s Budget Coalition is working with the Senate Committee on Finance in scrutinizing the budget. Public participation is important,” Pangilinan said in an interview with Bilyonaryo News Channel. “We are very thankful that they are there,” the senator added.As chair of Subcommittee G of the Senate Committee on Finance for the deliberations on the 2027 General Appropriations Act (GAA), Pangilinan said the Supreme Court’s ruling declaring certain unprogrammed appropriations in the 2024 and 2025 national budgets unconstitutional would guide the Senate’s review of the proposed allocations.He said lawmakers must closely examine the conditions for releasing unprogrammed funds and ensure that the requirements for their use are clearly defined and supported by proper documentation.Pangilinan questioned the prospect of details for lump-sum allocations being submitted only at a later stage of the budget process, saying the supporting documents should ideally be complete before the budget is approved. “To be fair, we will give them the benefit of the doubt. Perhaps they are still completing the documentation, but ideally, everything should have been documented before the budget was approved,” he said. “Perhaps, for one reason or another, some of them are saying they will include the details during the bicameral conference committee proceedings,” he added, referring to negotiations between the Senate and the House of Representatives to reconcile their respective versions of the budget.Pangilinan called for the livestreaming of bicameral conference committee proceedings, as was done during previous budget deliberations, to allow the public to follow how lawmakers resolve differences in their spending proposals.He also urged lawmakers to disclose agreements reached during closed-door discussions to strengthen transparency and accountability in the final stages of the budget process. “The public and people’s organizations must be involved in scrutinizing the budget to ensure transparency. We should not make the process opaque, where the public cannot see what is happening or how decisions are being made,” Pangilinan said.

• MMDA suspends number coding on All Souls' Day (2026-10-29 21:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) on Thursday announced the suspension of the expanded number coding scheme on Nov. 2, in observance of All Souls' Day. "ADVISORY: The implementation of the Expanded Number Coding Scheme is suspended on Monday, November 2, 2026, a special non-working day, in observance of All Souls' Day," MMDA said. "Number coding is automatically suspended during regular and special non-working holidays," the agency added.MMDA also reminded commuters and motorists to plan their trips and follow traffic rules. "Reminder: Plan your trips carefully to avoid any trouble on the road. Obey traffic laws and drive safely," MMDA said.For traffic-related concerns, the public may contact the MMDA hotline at 136.

• Tinio slams Marcos' 'don't panic' remark amid peso's continued slide (2026-10-29 19:24)

HOUSE deputy minority leader and ACT Teachers party-list Rep. Antonio Tinio on Thursday criticized President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s call for the public not to panic over economic conditions, saying the administration was projecting control despite forecasts of further peso depreciation through the next year. "Don't panic, you say? He is posturing as if the administration is in control of the situation, when analysts say the peso's decline will likely continue until 2027, potentially reaching P65 to P66 against the dollar," Tinio said in Filipino in a statement.He warned that further depreciation would worsen the burden of high prices on ordinary Filipinos, as a weaker peso could increase the cost of imported goods and other commodities. "The suffering caused by high prices, which the majority of Filipinos will endure, will only worsen," he lamented.The lawmaker cited investors' lack of confidence in the economy under the Marcos administration as a significant factor behind the peso's weakness.Tinio blamed the economy's woes on the lack of industrialization and a developed agricultural sector, saying these reflected the Marcos administration's failure to implement an effective economic plan.Marcos on Wednesday urged Filipinos not to panic after the peso hit a record intraday low of P64.18 against the US dollar, citing rising global oil prices and fuel costs as factors behind the currency's weakness.The chief executive also assured the public that the government had the means to defend the peso.

• Public opinion won't sway Sara Duterte verdict — Senate court (2026-10-29 18:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate impeachment court on Thursday vowed to decide Vice President Sara Duterte's fate based on "law and admissible evidence," not public opinion, as a new survey found that 32 percent of Filipinos remain undecided on the outcome of her impeachment trial.Impeachment court spokesman Regie Tongol said the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey reflected strong public interest in the proceedings but stressed that senator-judges must remain impartial as the trial resumes on Nov. 9. "Survey metrics measure public sentiment, whereas the Senator-judges are bound by oath to render judgment strictly on the basis of law and admissible evidence," Tongol said in a statement.He said the court viewed the survey results with "quiet confidence in its even-handed procedure and a sober resolve to

earn the trust of a cautious public.” The SWS survey, conducted from Sept. 21 to 27, found that 28 percent of respondents had “much trust” in the Senate’s final vote, while 35 percent expressed “little trust.” Another 32 percent remained undecided.The survey also found that 50 percent of respondents believed the Senate “has the right consideration for both sides.” Meanwhile, 17 percent perceived the court as favoring the prosecution, while 18 percent believed it favored the defense.Tongol said the court took the undecided respondents seriously, recognizing that many Filipinos were withholding judgment until the defense had presented its case and the trial was completed.He said the figures, alongside the nearly equal perceptions of bias, reinforced the court’s commitment to impartial proceedings.The results were also consistent with the August 2026 National Momentum Survey, which recorded a 36.1 percent to 34.2 percent split in perceptions of the court’s fairness, he said.The latest SWS survey further found that 51 percent of Filipinos said they would accept the Senate’s final verdict, which Tongol described as a measure of the court’s institutional legitimacy. “The Court is fortified by SWS’s finding that 51 percent of Filipinos (+25 net) commit to accepting the Senate’s final verdict,” Tongol said.He also cited the earlier National Momentum Survey, which found that 53.5 percent of respondents trusted the impeachment court, 65.8 percent approved of Presiding Officer Francis “Chiz” Escudero, and 38.6 percent preferred a verdict based on hard evidence over public opinion, at 30.8 percent.Despite these findings, Tongol said the court would not treat the numbers as grounds for complacency. “Rather than treating these numbers with complacency, the Impeachment Court views the remaining undecided and skeptical segments of the public as a continuing challenge to demonstrate transparent, rules-based impartiality,” he said.The trial is scheduled to resume on Nov. 9, when Duterte’s defense is expected to begin presenting evidence on Article II of the impeachment complaint.The remaining article concerns allegations involving unexplained wealth, inaccuracies in statements of assets, liabilities and net worth, and prohibited business interests. The prosecution earlier withdrew three other articles of impeachment, leaving Article II as the sole remaining charge.Tongol said the court would continue to enforce the rules of evidence and accord both sides full due process. “As the proceedings resume on November 9, 2026, for the presentation of the Respondent’s evidence on Article II, the Senate Impeachment Court will continue to enforce the rules of evidence and accord full due process to both sides,” he said.He added that the court aimed to ensure that its final constitutional judgment would “command the respect of the entire nation.”

- Palace: Dela Rosa’s world is shrinking (2026-10-29 16:32)

MALACAÑANG on Thursday said Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa’s world is “shrinking” as the Philippine National Police (PNP) steps up its operation to arrest him and acts on credible leads as to his whereabouts.The PNP appealed to dela Rosa “to voluntary surrender to the proper authorities and submit himself to the legal process with dignity.” Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said the PNP’s efforts to apprehend dela Rosa have limited the fugitive senator’s movements. “It is true that Senator Bato [dela Rosa]’s world is shrinking because anyone who might see him will immediately provide

information to the PNP and other law enforcement agencies," Castro said in Filipino in a press briefing.The Palace press officer also said that National Bureau of Investigation Director Melvin Matibag is also receiving information regarding the whereabouts of the fugitive senator.The PNP said that following the announcement of a P50-million bounty for information leading to the apprehension of dela Rosa, the PNP, in close coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and other concerned agencies, has significantly stepped up its efforts to arrest him. "The combined effect of heightened police operations increased public awareness, and the bounty announcement has substantially narrowed the senator's ability to move freely without drawing attention," the PNP said in a statement.However, the PNP declined to discuss specific intelligence information and operational details regarding the manhunt. "What we can assure the public is that information received is being carefully and thoroughly assessed, and credible leads are being acted upon without delay," the PNP said.While earlier reports said the deadline for dela Rosa to surrender was Thursday, Oct. 29, the PNP has said it expires between Oct. 26 and Oct. 27.The PNP has countered the claim of dela Rosa that the P50-million bounty on his head placed his life in danger.As the one-week ultimatum on dela Rosa ticks to its lapse on Friday, Oct. 30, the senator's lawyer, Israelito Torreon, asked the Supreme Court anew to reverse its May 2026 denial to stop the International Criminal Court from arresting the senator.In the 15-page petition, Torreon cited recent developments, specifically Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla's announcement of the P50 million and the tagging of him as "armed and dangerous" influences vigilante actions and "invites people to take law into their hands." The PNP slammed this position and clarified that the multimillion-peso bounty is only for information on the senator's whereabouts and never meant to hand over law enforcement function to the civilian community. "It was very clearly stated that the P50 million reward is for pointing or giving tips as to the location or any information that would be given to us that will lead to the arrest of the senator," Co said. "It didn't say anything there about taking him yourself or arresting him yourself — we didn't say anything like that," he added.Remulla repeatedly said dela Rosa is in Mindanao but not in Davao City and is being coddled by a moneyed, armed group who the government negotiated with for the senator's peaceful surrender.He said 10,000 people could perish if forces go hard on dela Rosa — a former PNP chief and a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy. Hence, the government's decision to negotiate rather than risk losing lives just for the arrest of one man.The DILG and the PNP refused to say the results of the negotiations, hence the announcement of the bounty for information leading to his successful arrest. "You cannot expect especially a wanted person to remain static in one place, but we see that with this intensified manhunt operations as well as the offering of the reward his scope will be severely restricted," Co said.The PNP also stood firm on the "armed and dangerous" tag as the senator, despite surrendering 26 out of his 117 registered firearms, still has 91 guns. "He is armed, he has more than 90 firearms," Co said, adding that dela Rosa had "a propensity" to evade arrest.Still, the PNP said it does not see the need to release wanted posters for dela Rosa.The senator, Co said, is recognizable.

- SC orders Senate, House to answer petition (2026-10-29 16:31)

THE Supreme Court has ordered the Senate, sitting as an impeachment court, and the House of Representatives to comment within five days on a petition seeking to halt the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte.In a resolution dated Oct. 14, the Supreme Court en banc required the respondents to answer the petition for certiorari and prohibition filed by Sen. Robinhood Padilla, Sen. Bong Go and several other petitioners.The court also directed the respondents to comment on the petitioners' urgent applications for a status quo ante order, a temporary restraining order and a writ of preliminary injunction.The five-day period is non-extendible.The petition named the Senate, represented by Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian, and Sen. Francis Escudero, in his capacity as presiding officer of the Senate sitting as an impeachment court, as respondents.It also named the House of Representatives, represented by Speaker Faustino Dy III, and its prosecution panel led by Rep. Gerville Luistro.Other petitioners include the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban), represented by chairman Alfonso Cusi, and lawyers Israelito Torreon, James Patrick Bondoc, Ferdinand Topacio and Raul Lambino, as well as Philip Salvador and Resci Angelli Rizada-Nolasco.The petitioners asked the Court to intervene in the impeachment proceedings and issue orders that would restrain the respondents from proceeding with the case.However, the Supreme Court has not yet granted the petition or issued the requested restraining orders.Instead, the court resolved to require the respondents to submit their comments without giving due course to the petition.The resolution was issued by the Supreme Court en banc on Oct. 14 and signed by Clerk of Court Marife Domibao-Cuevas on behalf of the court.The respondents' comments will allow the high court to consider their positions before determining how to proceed with the petition.Duterte's unexplained wealthMeanwhile, the House prosecution team spokesman Zia Alonto Adiong said Duterte still has P463 million in alleged unexplained wealth to account for even if financial interests tied to companies linked to her and her husband are excluded.At a press briefing, the Lanao del Sur first district representative said the prosecution's case did not depend on treating corporate assets as Duterte's personal wealth. "Just to be fair, let us set aside the corporate veil theory. Let us set aside the corporations and their corporate income. There is still P463 million," Adiong said.He said the P463,046,459 was part of the P817.87 million in alleged undeclared assets and unexplained wealth identified by forensic accounting expert Alexander Cabrera for 2022 to 2025.According to Cabrera's findings presented by the prosecution, the amount included P207.70 million in allegedly undeclared bank balances, P143.50 million in other assets and properties, and P111.85 million in allegedly undeclared income.Adiong said the remaining P354.83 million involved financial interests attributed to Metro City Chow Foods Corp., GenCorp Industries Inc. and Cale88 Foods Corp., which were excluded from the reduced amount.To question the figures against Duterte's declared wealth, Adiong cited records presented during the impeachment trial showing that her net worth increased from P7.25 million in 2007 to P98.66 million in 2025, a rise of P91.41 million.He also cited Bureau of Internal Revenue records showing that Duterte and her husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, had a combined net income after taxes of P85.34 million from 2007 to 2025.Adiong further pointed to Duterte's statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs), in which she declared zero cash on hand and in banks from 2019 to 2025. He said Cabrera identified bank balances of P60.21 million in

2022, P80.70 million in 2023, P23.17 million in 2024 and P43.61 million in 2025 that were allegedly not declared.Adiong also raised possible tax evasion, citing Cabrera's findings of an alleged P111.85-million gap between Duterte's reported income of P63.11 million and bank inflows of P174.96 million from 2022 to 2025. "This is not just an issue of nondisclosure or unexplained wealth. This is also an issue of tax evasion," Adiong said.He challenged Duterte to explain the source of the funds and whether the proper taxes had been paid. "Madam Vice President, where did this income that you did not declare in your SALN come from? Where did it come from? How were you able to accumulate this amount of money?" Adiong asked.PrematureDuterte's camp on Thursday called discussions about possible replacements for her premature and a distraction from questions over the fairness and legality of her impeachment trial. "These issues raise grave doubts as to whether a conviction by the Senate impeachment court, and any consequent attempt to install a replacement, would rest on any solid legal and moral foundation," the camp said in a statement issued by spokesman Salvador Paolo Panelo Jr.The camp questioned the impartiality of senators sitting as impeachment court members who face or are threatened with plunder and other criminal charges, as well as the constitutionality of lowering the threshold for conviction.

- 'Income status upgrade must mean better lives for Pinoys' (2026-10-29 16:30)

THE government cannot consider itself economically successful simply by moving the country into a higher income bracket if millions of Filipinos are still struggling, Budget Secretary Kim Robert de Leon said on Thursday. "The real question is not simply whether our economy can move into a higher income bracket, it is whether Filipino families can move into a better quality of life," de Leon said during The Manila Times economic forum on Thursday. "Growth must be more than just a headline, it must become a real experience," he added.The Philippines moved to what the World Bank defines as upper-middle-income country category on July 1 after gross national income per capita reached $4,850 in 2025, above the $4,636 threshold.It was an important milestone for a country that had stayed in the lower-middle-income bracket since 1987.De Leon, however, argued that "it is not a medal we can wear while millions of Filipinos are still waiting to feel the progress." "A higher income classification should mean better jobs, stronger purchasing power, more reliable services and greater opportunity," he said.The Budget chief said they seek to sustain the country's economic progress amid global conflicts and local uncertainties. "We meet amid real economic headwinds, global conflicts, fuel and supply pressures, climate risks," de Leon said. "The daily cost of living continues to test households and businesses alike," he added.The government is targeting economic growth of 3.5 to 4.5 percent in 2026, according to the Development Budget Coordination Committee.De Leon cautioned that these projections would not automatically translate into stronger economic performance, saying they required sound policies, disciplined implementation and a willingness to address problems that could hinder development. "These are projections, not promises that will fulfill themselves," he said. "We demand sound policy, disciplined execution and the confidence to confront what is not working."Sustaining growthMeanwhile, World Bank Division Director for the Philippines Zafer Mustafaoglu said the country has already shown that it can

achieve high growth. However, sustaining it would be the next challenge.Gross domestic product (GDP) growth markedly slowed to 2.3 percent in the second quarter of this year due to the lingering impact of last year's corruption scandal and the Middle East war, which started in March of this year. "The real test of the next decade is not whether the Philippines retains an income classification," Mustafaoglu said. "It is whether more Filipino families can confidently call themselves middle class, withstand the shocks that life brings and believe that their children will have greater opportunities than they did." Mustafaoglu said that the country still has some ways to go before Filipinos can move into the middle class and stay there. "Although meaningful poverty reduction has occurred, many families remain close to the poverty line and vulnerable to economic, climate, health and food price shocks," he said.The country's poverty picture has improved, with the rate having fallen from 15.5 percent in 2023 to 9.7 percent in 2025 and the government targeting a further reduction to 8.0 to 9.0 percent by 2028.But the gains have not been evenly distributed. About 13 percent of Filipinos continue to experience overlapping deprivations in areas including education, health, housing, water and sanitation, and employment.Mustafaoglu said that continued fast growth is not a given as it has "slowed amid weaker investment, policy uncertainty and rising energy prices." He argued that the government must "create more and better jobs, help firms enter and grow, and connect the country to global markets." "In short, we must shift from a growth model driven by accumulation to one driven by productivity and sophistication," Mustafaoglu said.P7.2T budgetThe Budget chief said the proposed P7.2-trillion national budget for next year would support the government's goal of achieving inclusive and resilient economic growth. This is equivalent to 21.7 percent of GDP.De Leon said that they received nearly P12 trillion worth of budget proposals from government agencies. "That is a very long wish list. Unfortunately, the Treasury does not come with an unlimited credit limit," de Leon said. "And unlike an ordinary wish list, every item here is paid for by the Filipino people, so we reviewed priorities, implementation readiness and expected public benefits," he added.De Leon said they directed resources toward education, health, social protection, infrastructure, food security and other essential services. "We are also working to reduce duplication, improve targeting, strengthen infrastructure oversight and make government operations more efficient," de Leon said.

- AMLC secures forfeiture of P3.12M in bribe case (2026-10-29 16:29)

THE Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) has secured the forfeiture of P3.12 million linked to alleged corruption involving an attempt to prevent a lawmaker from investigating government projects.In a statement on Thursday, AMLC said the money was allegedly offered to a lawmaker in exchange for refraining from pursuing investigations into the projects. "The respondent, a government officer, allegedly attempted to dissuade the lawmaker from pursuing the investigation by offering him the money," AMLC said. "The lawmaker refused the offer and sought police assistance, resulting in the respondent's arrest," it added.AMLC said that a complaint was filed against the respondent for corruption of public officials and violation of Republic Act 3019, or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.The recovered funds were allegedly sourced from a contractor and intended as an initial payment to the lawmaker.The

Regional Trial Court of Batangas, in a decision dated Oct. 9, found sufficient basis to conclude that the money was related to an unlawful activity, justifying its forfeiture in favor of the government, the AMLC said.However, the decision has yet to attain finality and remains subject to appeal.The AMLC pursued the civil forfeiture case through the Office of the Solicitor General, seeking the recovery of funds linked to the alleged unlawful activity.Civil forfeiture proceedings allow the government to seek the recovery of assets connected to unlawful activities. “The successful forfeiture underscores the importance of sustained interagency coordination in tracing, preserving and recovering proceeds linked to corruption and other unlawful activities,” AMLC said. “The AMLC assures the public that it will continue to work closely with law enforcement agencies, government institutions and other partner agencies to prevent the misuse of the financial system, recover illicit proceeds, promote accountability in public service and strengthen public trust in government institutions,” it added.

- ‘ASEAN, NOT CHINA, SETS AGENDA FOR BLOC’ (2026-10-29 16:28)

LAPU-LAPU CITY — Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. on Thursday asserted Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) member states’ authority over the bloc’s processes after China accused the Philippines of undermining the regional grouping. “So far as Asean is concerned, I do not believe our Asean member countries feel that way. If not, they would have let me know. So it is China’s position, it is not Asean’s position,” Teodoro said at a press briefing after the 13th Asean Defense Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu.He was responding to a question about a Chinese defense ministry statement accusing the Philippines of undermining Asean’s spirit and China’s legitimate rights as a dialogue partner.He said China had been allowed to present its position on regional and international security, including maritime issues, but emphasized that Asean member states, not its dialogue partners, determine the bloc’s processes. “No country has the right to characterize Asean processes except Asean member countries,” Teodoro said.He added that China’s remarks largely repeated positions it had expressed previously.China was represented at Thursday’s ADMM-Plus by Senior Capt. Yang Lei, its defense attaché in the Philippines. Asked why he did not receive the Chinese representative, Teodoro said there should be parity in rank and stature, adding that an undersecretary receiving an attaché was more than courteous.Teodoro also defended the Philippines’ military modernization and security partnerships with treaty allies and other countries, saying Manila had the right to strengthen its defenses against threats to its sovereignty and territorial integrity.He was responding to a separate question about whether the Philippines’ defense arrangements with external powers, including its hosting of the Typhon missile system, could undermine Asean’s regional security architecture.Teodoro said Asean member states had not publicly raised such concerns and described the country’s defense buildup as an internal matter. He cited the 2016 arbitral award on the South China Sea and rejected China’s maritime claims over areas the Philippines considers part of its maritime domain.While stressing that Asean unity and solidarity remained central to the ADMM, Teodoro said the Philippines would continue to use its defense partnerships to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity.During Wednesday’s 20th ADMM, participating defense ministers

adopted five initiatives.These include promoting exchanges among emerging defense and military leaders, and strengthening individual and collective resilience against chemical, biological and radiological threats.The ministers also agreed to improve coordination between the ADMM-Plus and the Asean Regional Forum, and develop a comprehensive guide to ADMM and ADMM-Plus practices and protocols.The Philippines and India will co-host the Maritime Security Resilience Amid Emerging Technologies Conference in 2027.The ministers also adopted a joint statement commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. They issued the Manila Joint Declaration marking the ADMM's 20th anniversary, titled "Navigating Our Future Together." On Thursday, defense ministers exchanged views on regional and international security and adopted a joint statement on youth, security and peace. The statement complements a program to develop emerging defense and military leaders from Asean member states and dialogue partners.The Philippines also hosted informal meetings between Asean defense ministers and United States Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi on Wednesday.Teodoro described the discussions as open, candid and productive, saying Asean members had called for greater and more robust engagement by Washington and Tokyo in the region.The meetings also covered practical defense cooperation, including cybersecurity, artificial intelligence in defense, future warfare, military operations, intelligence and military medicine.In his opening remarks at Thursday's ADMM-Plus, Teodoro urged Asean members and their dialogue partners to uphold international law, sustain defense cooperation, and address disruptions to food and energy security.He emphasized adherence to the United Nations Charter and the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes and rejection of the threat or use of force.Teodoro also called for stronger protection of migrant workers and seafarers affected by overseas conflicts, citing their contributions to the global economy.

- PH, Australia eye joint purchase of HIV drugs (2026-10-29 16:27)

HEALTH Secretary Edwin Mercado and Australian Ambassador Marc Innes-Brown discussed the possible use of pooled procurement for HIV medicines and medical supplies, the Department of Health (DOH) said.In a statement on Thursday, the DOH said the strategy aims to ensure an efficient supply chain and stockpiling of medical commodities and medicines for HIV.Australia supports regional HIV initiatives through its partnership with UNAIDS and Health Equity Matters, which includes the Philippines, and focuses on strengthening HIV responses and sustaining access to essential services.Mercado also discussed the administration's health priorities under the Unified National Agenda for Health, including bringing Yakap (Yaman ng Kalusugan Program) to schools, workplaces and local communities.The two officials also discussed efforts to finalize and sign a bilateral memorandum of understanding on health cooperation.Australia also provides capacity-building programs for health workers in the Philippines, according to the DOH.The DOH Epidemiology Bureau recorded 2,994 newly confirmed HIV cases nationwide from April to June 2026, averaging 33 cases per day, according to its second-quarter HIV and AIDS Surveillance of the Philippines report.

• Pre-positioning relief supplies ahead of El Niño pushed (2026-10-29 16:26)

SEN. Francis Pangilinan urged the government to pre-position relief supplies and mobilize emergency response teams ahead of a strong El Niño, warning that delayed action could leave vulnerable families, farmers and fisherfolk facing water shortages, rising food prices and mounting agricultural losses.In a statement, Pangilinan said authorities must act before the effects of prolonged dry spells worsen, stressing that early intervention is critical to protecting livelihoods and ensuring food security. “Prevention is better than cure, right? Instead of pointing fingers and blaming one another when the problem hits, why don’t we prepare now? We know that super El Niño is coming, and farmers, fisherfolk and low-income households will certainly be among the first to be affected,” he said.El Niño has already caused billions of pesos in agricultural damage, with the Department of Agriculture (DA) reporting losses of P6.87 billion as of Sept. 26, affecting 223,214 farmers and 249,028 hectares of agricultural land.The DA raised its estimate to P8.57 billion during a Senate budget hearing on Oct. 21, with 288,058 farmers affected across 14 regions.Pangilinan has also warned that palay (unmilled rice) production could decline by about 700,000 metric tons in the second half of 2027 because of El Niño and other weather-related shocks. He said the potential shortfall could affect the annual rice requirements of about 3.6 million Filipinos.He called on the executive department to consider declaring a national state of calamity to mobilize additional resources and strengthen assistance for affected farming and fishing communities.The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) has warned that El Niño could peak before the end of 2026, with its effects potentially continuing through the first half of 2027.El Niño, a climate phenomenon associated with warmer-than-normal sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific, increases the likelihood of below-normal rainfall in the Philippines. This can lead to dry spells, drought and water shortages, threatening crops, livestock, fisheries and agricultural livelihoods.As chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform, Pangilinan proposed an eight-point action plan to mitigate the weather phenomenon’s impact on vulnerable communities, agricultural production and the country’s food supply.He cited Section 9 of Republic Act 12287, or the Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Act, which allows national, regional and local disaster risk reduction and management councils to undertake preventive actions when a disaster is highly probable and its projected impacts are severe.Pangilinan’s eight-point action plan also calls for appropriate disaster declarations, identification of available funds, protection of farms and water systems, enforcement of applicable price controls, measures against profiteering and hoarding, livelihood assistance and a public accountability system to monitor government interventions.Another senator, Bam Aquino, on Thursday renewed his call for sweeping tax reform measures to shield Filipino families from a weakening peso, high interest rates and the devastation of a “super El Niño.” Aquino, who chairs the Senate Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship, cautioned that the peso’s continued slide, paired with slow economic growth, threatens to drive up the cost of food, electricity and petroleum products. “Families feel that they are bringing home less food for the same budget. Their earnings need to keep pace with the rising prices of goods,” Aquino said. “A larger portion of

their salary should remain so that they have enough to buy food, rice and other basic necessities.” At the center of his legislative push is Senate Bill 267, which seeks to raise the annual personal income tax exemption cap from the current P250,000 to P480,000.Aquino noted that the current exemption levels under Republic Act 10963, or the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion Law, have been heavily eroded by persistent inflation. The proposed P480,000 baseline translates to a monthly tax-free income of P40,000, which he described as an ideal monthly living wage for a family of four or five.The Department of Finance said it was open to Aquino’s proposal, signaling it would back the higher tax exemption cap provided that equivalent, alternative revenue sources are identified to offset the resulting fiscal impact on government coffers.

- US backs AFP modernization (2026-10-29 16:25)

THE United States will increase its security cooperation funding to accelerate the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as Manila faces a multibillion-peso shortfall in its proposed military modernization budget.US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth made the announcement during a meeting with Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. in Cebu on Wednesday on the sidelines of the 20th Asean Defense Ministers' Meeting and the 13th Asean Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus.The US Department of War did not disclose the amount of additional funding or when it would be released.The additional funds aim to accelerate AFP modernization and improve interoperability between Philippine and American forces along the First Island Chain, a strategically important arc of islands stretching from Japan through Taiwan to the Philippines.Hegseth and Teodoro agreed to launch an Alliance Command and Control Modernization Sprint to improve real-time coordination between the two countries' armed forces and strengthen the resilience of their alliance.They welcomed progress in operationalizing facilities under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), including investments in critical infrastructure and storage facilities across the Philippines.The announcement comes as the Department of National Defense (DND) seeks substantially more funding to upgrade the military's capabilities for territorial defense and maritime security.The proposed 2027 national budget allocates P50 billion for the Revised AFP Modernization Program, up from P40 billion in regular funds for 2026.The allocation, however, falls P76.97 billion short of the P126.97 billion the DND said it needed for modernization requirements, according to figures presented to the House of Representatives in August.The newly announced increase is separate from Foreign Military Financing (FMF) grants authorized by the US Congress for the Philippines.The 2026 US National Defense Authorization Act allows up to $500 million annually in FMF grants for the Philippines from 2026 through 2030, as well as up to $1 billion in direct loans.For 2026, Congress appropriated at least $100 million in FMF grants for the Philippines, according to the Congressional Research Service. The authorization ceiling does not guarantee that the Philippines will receive the maximum amount each year.The AFP modernization program operates under Republic Act 10349, which amended the original AFP Modernization Act in 2012 and provided for a 15-year implementation period.

- ‘China military buildup creating pressure in SE Asia’ (2026-10-29 16:24)

CEBU, Philippines — Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles said Thursday that China’s military build-up was creating a “condition of pressure” in Southeast Asia, and urged allies and partners to deepen cooperation.Beijing deploys hundreds of coast guard, navy and other vessels to patrol disputed areas of the South China Sea, which it claims almost entirely despite an international ruling that its position has no legal basis.In July, Australia protested China’s test of a nuclear-capable missile in the South Pacific, calling the launch “destabilizing.” “We’re obviously seeing the biggest conventional military build-up that the world has seen since the end of the Second World War from China,” Marles told reporters Thursday on the sidelines of a meeting of Southeast Asian defense ministers in the Philippines. “There’s not an explanation from China as to why it’s doing this, and all of that is creating the condition of pressure.” Beijing’s growing assertiveness was “providing challenges” for Canberra, he added, saying Australia relied on maintaining the existing rules-based order. “We need to be ensuring that how we understand the rules of the road continue to apply, because for a middle power like Australia, it is actually the rules which give us agency,” he saidChina’s growing assertiveness and militarization of artificial islands in the South China Sea have spurred Canberra, as well as Washington, to deepen defense cooperation with some Southeast Asian countries.Marles said Thursday that he met with the “Squad,” an informal defense and security group composed of Australia, Japan, the United States and the Philippines, where they committed to greater defense policy coordination. “I think the challenges that are being faced in this part of the world and the pressures that are being experienced are well understood by all four countries,” he said. “Now is a time to double down on friends and to double down on neighbors and to be working more closely together to provide for our collective security,” he added.The Philippines, a close security partner of Australia, has been engaged in years of confrontations with China in the South China Sea.China’s military and coast guard presence in contested areas of the critical waterway nearly doubled in September, Manila said earlier this month.

- DepEd to lease classrooms (2026-10-29 16:22)

THE Department of Education (DepEd) said it "is turning to innovative property leasing agreements" in addressing classroom shortages.The department said in a statement on Thursday that the initiative was part of its "broader multi-pronged infrastructure strategy, which works alongside Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)-led construction, local government unit (LGU) partnerships, Public-Private Partnerships," DepEd Learning Continuity Spaces, and collaborations with public and private organizations."We cannot rely solely on traditional construction timelines when our children need classrooms today. Leasing is one of DepEd's vital channels to accelerate classroom delivery alongside our partnerships with the DPWH, LGUs, government partners, and the private sector" Education Secretary Sonny Angara said."By partnering with private institutions that have ready-to-use facilities, we cut down waiting times significantly, decongest our public campuses, and ensure our learners are sitting comfortably in classrooms rather than makeshift spaces," Angara said.DepEd said the leasing program "targets highly congested public campuses across key cities and regions." It cited the

capacity expansion by the Pinagbarilan Integrated School in Baliwag by leasing Gardenersfield School Inc. facilities. The DepEd said that from June 8, 2026, about 189 learners transferred into nine "leased classrooms located less than 10 meters from the main campus." The DepEd also said that leasing seven classrooms at the Covenant Children Academy, the Kapitan Moy Elementary School in Marikina City opened an extension campus on Oct. 1. The facility now serves 632 Grade 5 and 6 learners, “significantly easing the shift load and overcrowding on the main campus." It said regional and division offices were evaluating additional campus leases.

- Majority favor gov’t cooperation with ICC (2026-10-29 16:21)

A MAJORITY of Filipinos favor the government’s cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the arrest of Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa and other alleged co-perpetrators in former president Rodrigo Duterte’s war on drugs, a survey by Momentum Research showed.The survey, conducted from Oct. 16 to 19, found that 58.1 percent of respondents considered it important for the government to coordinate with the ICC to arrest dela Rosa, while 52.2 percent favored government assistance in arresting other alleged drug war co-perpetrators, including Sen. Christopher “Bong” Go and former Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Oscar Albayalde.The survey showed that 33.2 percent considered government coordination with the ICC over dela Rosa’s arrest unimportant. Another 5.9 percent were unsure, while 2.8 percent declined to answer.On the arrest of other alleged co-perpetrators, 38.6 percent opposed government assistance, while 6.8 percent were unsure and 2.3 percent refused to answer.The findings showed sharp regional differences, with Mindanao standing out as the only region where a majority opposed cooperation with the ICC in arresting dela Rosa.In Mindanao, 57.5 percent of respondents said it was unimportant for the government to coordinate with the ICC in arresting the senator, who has been in hiding. Another 54.5 percent opposed government assistance.By comparison, 71.6 percent of respondents in Metro Manila considered government coordination with the ICC over dela Rosa’s arrest important. The figure was 69.7 percent in the rest of Luzon and 56.2 percent in the Visayas.A majority in Metro Manila (62.4 percent), the rest of Luzon (58.9 percent) and the Visayas (52.5 percent) also favored government assistance in apprehending other alleged co-perpetrators.Support for cooperation with the ICC also varied according to political affiliation.Among respondents identifying with the opposition, 79.4 percent considered government coordination with the ICC over dela Rosa’s arrest important. The figure was 74.5 percent among supporters of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and 64 percent among independents.Duterte supporters were the least likely to favor cooperation, with 53.2 percent saying it was unimportant for the government to coordinate with the ICC in dela Rosa’s arrest.The same pattern emerged regarding other alleged co-perpetrators. Support for government assistance in the arrests reached 70 percent among opposition-aligned respondents, 66.7 percent among Marcos supporters and 56.3 percent among independents.Across generations, Gen Z respondents were the most likely to consider government coordination with the ICC over dela Rosa’s arrest important, at 64.3 percent, followed by Gen X at 60.5 percent, Baby Boomers and the Silent Generation at 56.3 percent, and millennials at 51.3 percent.Views on assisting in the arrest of other alleged

co-perpetrators were less uniform. Support stood at 61 percent among Gen Z respondents and 55.2 percent among Baby Boomers and the Silent Generation. Millennials were divided, with 44.5 percent favoring assistance and 47.2 percent opposing itThe ICC issued an arrest warrant for dela Rosa on Nov. 6, 2025, which was unsealed on May 11, 2026. The warrant accuses him of crimes against humanity of murder as an indirect co-perpetrator in the killings of at least 32 people during the height of Duterte's anti-drug campaign.Dela Rosa resurfaced on May 11, the day the warrant was unsealed, to cast the crucial 13th vote that briefly made Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano Senate president. He was placed under Senate protective custody that day but slipped out of the Senate complex on May 14 during a gunfire incident.He has since been in hiding, and the government has offered a P50 million reward for information leading to his arrest.The noncommissioned survey involved face-to-face interviews with 1,401 Filipino adults and had a national margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 percentage points at a 95-percent confidence level.

- Filipinos among injured in Spain bus accident (2026-10-29 16:20)

THE Philippine Consulate General in Barcelona has confirmed that Filipinos were among those injured in the bus accident in Fogars de Montclús on Oct. 25.A bus with over 80 passengers collided with a car and plunged down a 20-meter embankment.The consulate did not say how many Filipinos were injured but added it already established contact with them.It was also not clear whether the affected Filipinos are tourists or workers living in Barcelona.It said it remains in close coordination with local hospitals and police authorities to monitor the injured Filipinos' condition and determine if the consulate could assist them. "The cause and circumstances of the accident remain under investigation by Spanish authorities and further updates will be provided as information is confirmed, with due regard for the privacy and welfare of those involved," it added.It remains in close coordination with local hospitals and police authorities to monitor their condition and determine their consular assistance needs."Representatives of the consulate have also visited Filipino nationals who remain admitted to hospitals to personally check on their condition, extend support, and assess any assistance they may require," the consulate said in a statement on Wednesday."The cause and circumstances of the accident remain under investigation by Spanish authorities and further updates will be provided as information is confirmed, with due regard for the privacy abd welfare of those involved," it added.The consulate expresssed its sympathy to all those affected and wished the injured a full and speedy recovery.It remains committed to providing necessary consular assistance and will continue to coordinate with the relevant authorities.

- JBC shortlists all 5 chief justice aspirants (2026-10-29 16:19)

THE Supreme Court will have two vacancies for the chief justice and associate justice positions just 10 days apart, requiring the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) to submit separate lists of nominees to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.All five applicants seeking to become the next chief justice have made the shortlist of nominees, while the JBC is finalizing the shortlist for the associate justice post to be vacated by Associate Justice Amy Lazaro-Javier.Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo will retire on Nov. 6, and Lazaro-Javier on Nov. 16. Both will reach the

mandatory retirement age of 70 on those dates.The five candidates for chief justice are Senior Associate Justice Marvic Leonen and Associate Justices Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa, Rodil Zalameda, Japar Dimaampao and Jose Midas Marquez.The JBC completed its public interviews of the five aspirants on Oct. 26, after interviewing Leonen and Caguioa on Oct. 22 and Zalameda, Dimaampao and Marquez on Oct. 26.The council is narrowing the field for Lazaro-Javier’s replacement. The applicants vying for the position include Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Geraldine Faith A. Econg, Bureau of Immigration Deputy Commissioner Aldwin F. Alegre, Legal Education Board chairman Jason R. Barlis, Court of Appeals Associate Justice Lily Biton, Commission on Audit Chairman Gamaliel A. Cordoba, Commission on Elections Commissioner Ernesto Perez Maceda Jr., Government Corporate Counsel Solomon Mateo Hermosura, private lawyer German Quintos, Lichauco 2nd, Solicitor General Darlene Marie Berberabe, former CA presiding justice Fernanda Lampas Peralta, CA Associate Justice Nina Antonio-Valenzuela, CA Associate Justice Ramon Bato. Jr., CA Associate Justice Ramon Cruz, CA Associate Justice Maria Elisa Sempio Diy, CA Associate Justice Myra Garcia-Fernandez, CA Associate Justice Ronaldo Roberto Martin, CA Associate Justice Walter Ong, Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Karl Miranda, and Court of Tax Appeals Associate Justice Maria Rowena San Pedro.The JBC acts as the main screening mechanism to ensure that candidates for the bench embody the standards of competence, integrity, probity, and independence.Under Article VIII, Section 8 of the Constitution, the council is composed of the chief justice as ex officio chairman, the justice secretary, a representative of Congress, and regular members representing the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, the legal academe, retired Supreme Court justices and the private sector.The search process generally begins with the publication of a vacancy and an invitation for qualified applicants or nominees to submit their credentials. The JBC then evaluates the applicants’ qualifications, professional records and other relevant information, including any comments or opposition submitted against them.For Supreme Court vacancies, the council conducts public interviews to assess the candidates’ legal competence, judicial philosophy, integrity, independence and capacity to perform the duties of the office. The interviews also allow the public to scrutinize the candidates and their positions on issues affecting the judiciary.After the interviews and evaluation, the JBC deliberates and votes on the candidates to be included in its list of nominees. Its rules govern the screening and voting process, while the Constitution requires a list of at least three nominees for every vacancy.The JBC will submit its list of nominees to President Marcos, who then chooses the next head of the Supreme Court. Seniority is not a deciding factor, since the President is free to select any candidate from the shortlist.

- DOLE HEIGHTENS SAFETY CHECKS (2026-10-29 16:17)

THE Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said Thursday it had intensified nationwide inspections of occupational safety standards in preparation for the influx of travelers on All Saints’ Day.The review also covers wage payments, working conditions and workplace safety requirements.DOLE said inspections had been completed at bus terminals in Baguio City and Pasay City, as well as maritime vessels in Batangas.“DOLE must also conduct thorough

inspections of ships to ensure they have the necessary equipment. Our sea vessels must be in proper condition," Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino said in a statement.Public construction projects in Basco, Mahatao, Uyugan, Ivana and Sabtang were also evaluated for compliance with occupational safety and health regulations.In Bicol, DOLE conducted monitoring and inspection visits in three tourism establishments under its "Safe Work, Safe Tourism: Compliance as a Brand" campaign.Inspection teams checked the facilities, spoke with employees and reviewed operational documents to assess workplace compliance.DOLE held an inter-agency coordination meeting in Central Visayas to strengthen compliance with general labor standards and occupational safety and health standards in the transport and maritime sectors.The meeting focused on coordinating actions among agencies to counter El Niño's impact on operational safety.

- Lopez vows to continue anti-corruption drive (2026-10-29 16:16)

PUBLIC Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez said anti-corruption reforms would continue under his watch to restore public confidence in the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).Lopez said he would make sure the reforms initiated by Vince Dizon were institutionalized.President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. recently ordered a Cabinet reshuffle where Dizon and Lopez swapped places. Dizon returned to head the Department of Transportation to address mass transit and daily commuter issues, while Lopez assumed leadership of the DPWH to institutionalize ongoing anti-corruption and transparency reforms.Lopez said it would take a strong political will to implement reforms at the DPWH, noting he would focus on changing the system and culture of the department.He said culture change means transforming the mindset, daily habits and sense of accountability of both rank-and-file employees and officials. This, he said, would ensure that anti-corruption and transparency norms would continue in future administrations.He said reform programs must encompass the entire project cycle from budget preparation and procurement up to implementation.During Tuesday's press conference, Dizon handed over to Lopez documents on erring DPWH officials and personnel.Dizon reported that over 80 DPWH personnel were dismissed while 29 contractors were either blacklisted or suspended under his watch.

- Govt ready for any crisis – Palace (2026-10-29 16:15)

MALACAÑANG on Thursday assured Filipinos that the government was ready to address any crisis as some countries had advised their citizens to prepare for "sudden emergencies" such as armed conflict.Some countries are preparing for a range of possible emergencies, including military conflict, cyberattacks, sabotage, natural disasters and prolonged power outages. "That is exactly what the government is doing — prepare," Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said in a press briefing. "So, you can expect the government to be ready for whatever might happen; the government is ready," Castro said in Filipino.The government has advised households to prepare an emergency "go bag," which should include basic items such as medicines, sufficient water, flashlights, a whistle and simple food items (like easy-to-open canned goods) to sustain one person for at least 72 hours.The

Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), through the Cybersecurity Bureau – National Computer Emergency Response Team (NCERT), on Wednesday advised all government agencies and critical information infrastructure (CII) operators to strengthen cybersecurity preparedness.CII operators were advised to maintain heightened monitoring “in anticipation of potential cyber threat activity surrounding Nov. 5, 2026.” Previous monitoring recorded 38 security incidents on Nov. 5, 2025, with Denial-of-Service (DoS/DDoS) attacks and system compromises accounting for a significant portion of observed activity.Recent threat intelligence has also highlighted critical PHP vulnerabilities, which have reportedly been exploited globally.PHP is a widely used, open-source server-side programming language that powers roughly 70 percent of the world’s websites, including platforms like WordPress, Drupal, Joomla, and Wikipedia.All concerned entities were urged to review internet-facing systems, apply relevant security patches, strengthen DDoS defenses, monitor suspicious network and system activity, verify incident response readiness, and ensure the integrity of critical backups.Organizations should also assess their PHP-based applications for exposure and promptly report suspected cybersecurity incidents to DICT-NCERT.

- Gatchalian backs higher military spending (2026-10-29 16:14)

SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian said he was pushing for legislative support to boost the 2027 funding of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).Speaking at a Senate Committee on Finance hearing on the proposed P324.632-billion budget for the Department of National Defense and its attached agencies, Gatchalian underscored the urgency of fortifying the country’s multi-domain defense mechanisms.”Our geopolitical situation — both in the region and globally — is changing very rapidly. We see various conflicts unfolding in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Given this, it is crucial to remain prepared and to continue modernizing and strengthening our armed forces, including their capabilities in cyber warfare,” he said.While the Department of Budget and Management raised the AFP Modernization Program fund to P50 billion for 2027 (up from P40 billion in 2026), defense officials said a P20-billion funding gap must be addressed to fully support long-term military infrastructure and existing multiyear procurement contracts under Horizon 2 and 3. Gatchalian identified cyber defense as a critical sector requiring aggressive funding, calling digital warfare an active reality in modern tactical defense strategy.Beyond external and electronic defense, funding is heavily targeted toward the AFP’s search and rescue operational readiness. During acute environmental crises, the military operates as a core humanitarian unit. Reflecting this dual mandate, the AFP currently maintains an active inventory of 3,312 land assets, 120 sea assets and 40 air assets ready for deployment nationwide during natural disasters.”Our armed forces do not merely serve as defenders; they also respond to calamities that strike our country, such as powerful typhoons and other types of disasters we experience,” Gatchalian said.

- How to get started with AI agents, and which are best for specific tasks (2026-10-29 16:13)

Agentic artificial intelligence is gaining popularity far beyond tech circles, with Meta, OpenAI, Anthropic and other companies going head-to-head in the surging market for

consumer-friendly AI agents.While the leading AI labs have offered tools with agentic capabilities for years, agents that are designed to work proactively on a user’s behalf for tasks from buying groceries to managing to-do lists have taken off this year.For anyone getting started, it can be overwhelming to understand the differences between the companies’ various offerings and which agents might be best suited for specific tasks.Here are some pointers on where to begin if you’re looking to leverage agents in your personal or professional life — or both.Don’t just use one agent; opt for a ‘stack’ Many people in the tech world turn to multiple agents from different AI labs for both their work and home lives. Why? Because “there’s not one holy grail-like agent right now that could do everything,” said Jose Artigas, a business consultant working on AI strategy.Artigas and many others who use AI agents regularly rely on a “stack” of them, a term that refers to a combination of many tools and technologies.Each company’s consumer-facing agent has a slightly different target function, and they vary in accessibility. Some are free, some require a monthly subscription and others are still in testing modes or otherwise not available to everyone. There are also restrictions on their availability in countries outside of the US.Experts say it’s best not to rely solely on one agent if you’re looking to maximize their output and productivity. “What I like to do is to have this system of checks and balances in place where one agent does the work and then I let the other one critique and criticize it, and that way, they find mistakes, correct themselves and become better,” said Clara Gigling, founder of Oudae Labs, a research lab building bespoke tools for agents.Capitalize on each agent’s strengths and weaknesses Each of the major AI companies markets their consumer-facing agents in slightly different ways, often focusing on its ability to help manage either a busy work life or a busy personal life.Anthropic said it built Claude Duet for “professionals and small business owners with more on their plates than they can track.” In contrast, Meta said Muse can help with tasks from “saving money and improving your health to smart shopping and helping you strengthen your relationships.” Claude Duet, OpenAI’s Dots and xAI’s Grok Bot have each been described as aiming to be like a colleague, or even a chief of staff, whereas Muse and Instinct, from the startup Spear Street Technology, have been described as more like personal assistants. But that’s not to say any of them are incapable of helping with tasks outside those realms.Artigas said he’d recommend looking at Claude Duet as key for someone working on a side hustle or launching a new business, Dots as a debugger and problem solver if they’re engaging in any specialized technical work, and Instinct for help with things like sending tedious emails or booking reservations and travel plans.Those are the three consumer-facing agents he uses most often, but Artigas said Muse would be a good place to start for a novice because it’s “very user-friendly,” with many prompts early on to give people ideas of how they can use it.Trial and error is part of the process Your preferences for how you want to interact with an agent, how your agent communicates, and your own assessment of the quality of its work should all factor into which agents you’d like to use — and which tasks you’d like to assign to an agent.Experts recommend testing out agents you’re curious about to help in reaching those determinations.To begin this testing, Gigling said it can be helpful to think about tasks you consistently do and then choose some to delegate to agents. It is important to be specific — giving the agent a detailed goal and the required context and tools to achieve it, she said. “Start

with one annoying, repeated thing that you keep putting off," Artigas said, with the caveat that it has to be an online task. An agent can't handle the pile of laundry you've been meaning to fold or the junk drawer that needs organizing. A long email you don't want to write or a flight you've been slow to book are good jumping off points. "You just have to experience the different agents and see what works best" for you, Artigas said.Determine your comfort level with sharing personal information For an agent to most effectively handle routine tasks or act like a proactive assistant, it needs to have access to a slew of information about you.Your inbox, your calendar, your personal identification information and even your credit card number and bank account are all par for the course if you want an agent to sort through your deluge of emails, book your flight or do some holiday shopping.This has raised significant privacy concerns for some. "Curiosity is always a great starting point, just trying and playing around with it," Gigling said, but it's also important to "be mindful" when sharing private information.Many companies offering consumer-facing personal agents have worked to address those concerns, with privacy policies that outline how agents operate on their own dedicated cloud computers and how users can control their memory retention.

- Marcos bares Bocaue elevated road project (2026-10-29 16:12)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday announced a proposed P120-billion elevated road project linking Balintawak in Quezon City to Bocaue, Bulacan to improve traffic flow.The president made the revelation during the opening of NLEX-C5 (North Luzon Expressway) Northlink Segment 8.2 Section 1A in Valenzuela City.The opening of NLEX-C5 Northlink section will cut travel time along the route from 40 minutes to just five, allowing motorists to reach their destinations faster while saving on fuel.Marcos described the P120-billion investment as good news for commuters since the elevated road would provide an alternative route alongside the existing highway.The project also aims to cut travel time and transport costs, generate jobs, and spur economic development through expanded infrastructure investments. "[We have] good news. The MVP Group will be making an investment worth P120 billion. They will build an elevated expressway from Balintawak to Bocaue. It will reach all the way to Bocaue," the president said. "And this is a very big deal because they will route it through NLEX-Meycauayan, where they will now build an elevated structure. This is the coming together of two groups, the MVP and SMC Group, joining forces," Marcos said. "This is very good news for our continuing construction to improve the flow of traffic for us, speeding up and lowering transport costs, and making travel more comfortable for our workers," he added.The president said the MVP Group would undertake the project in coordination with the SMC Group, following his call for them to collaborate to expand the country's road network, provide commuters with alternative routes, and improve travel conditions.He welcomed the investment as another development in the administration's continuing efforts to improve the country's transportation system and reduce the time workers spend on the road. The president said NLEX management opened ahead of schedule to help motorists travel faster and more conveniently and ease traffic congestion.This two-kilometer section of Segment 8.2 connects Quirino Highway in Quezon City to NLEX Mindanao Toll Plaza in Valenzuela City.The new section is part of the government's

continuing efforts to improve the country's road network, ease traffic congestion, and facilitate the movement of people and goods.With the new section, motorists from Quirino Highway can now directly access the NLEX Connector for trips to Manila, the university belt, and nearby cities, offering an alternative route to EDSA.

• Villar seeks discounts, fee waivers for indigent jobseekers (2026-10-29 16:11)

SEN. Mark Villar has filed a bill seeking to reduce the cost of securing employment by granting indigent jobseekers discounts and fee exemptions on essential government documents and other preemployment requirements.Senate Bill (SB) 1272, or the proposed Kabalikat sa Hanapbuhay Act, seeks to ease the financial burden on low-income Filipinos applying for jobs locally or abroad. "A lack of funds should not be a barrier for Filipinos seeking employment," Villar said.Applicants should be able to focus on finding work and building a livelihood rather than struggle with the cost of obtaining required documents, he said.Villar said the proposal stemmed from his interactions with job applicants during the monthly MARKAbuhayan Job Caravan.Under SB 1272, indigent applicants will receive a 20-percent discount on fees for barangay clearances, National Bureau of Investigation clearances, National Police Clearances, medical certificates, Philippine Statistics Authority birth and marriage certificates, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) National Certificates, and Certificates of Competency, Civil Service Commission certificates of eligibility and other approved government-issued employment documents.The measure also proposes waiving fees for tax identification numbers issued by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, as well as transcripts of records, transfer credentials, authenticated diploma copies and certificates of good moral character issued by state universities and colleges, and local universities and colleges.Applicants would qualify as indigent if they have no visible means of income, earn below the official poverty threshold or cannot consistently meet their minimum basic needs.A certificate of indigency would be issued free of charge by the appropriate local social welfare office. Members of households enrolled in the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) would automatically qualify.The proposed benefits could be availed of only once every six months from each government agency, except by first-time jobseekers already covered by Republic Act 11261, or the First Time Jobseekers Assistance Act.The bill also provides for beneficiary monitoring through Public Employment Service Offices and the Department of Labor and Employment's PhilJobnet platform, penalties for unlawfully denying benefits or falsifying documents and interagency coordination and congressional oversight to ensure proper implementation.

• First lady, Angara launch school hydroponics project (2026-10-29 16:10)

FIRST lady Liza Araneta-Marcos and Education Secretary Sonny Angara launched a nationwide school-based hydroponics project with the Philippine Reclamation Authority at the Las Piñas National High School and Parañaque National High School.The initiative is part of the "Agri Tayo, Lab for All" program. "The hydroponics project is a big contribution to make vegetable gardening in our schools more advanced and efficient. Not all schools have adequate space or

fertile soil. So this initiative is important because the Gulayan sa Paaralan Program becomes possible even if space is limited," Angara said in Filipino and English. "This is also excellent for saving water. Hydroponics uses 90 percent less water than traditional farming, making it a critical buffer against climate extremes like Super El Niño. More than this, we can expand the knowledge of the community about modern farming," he added.The two schools received two hydroponics greenhouse facilities to maximize learner reach and community engagement.The project was initiated through the Social Environmental Fund generated from reclamation projects. The first phase aims to establish hydroponics greenhouse facilities in 200 schools nationwide, scaling up to 700 units overall to tackle spatial and agricultural challenges in urban and coastal communities.During the initial phase, beneficiary schools in Metro Manila and various provinces including Cavite, Cagayan, Pangasinan, Pampanga and Masbate will each receive a hydroponics greenhouse facility. "Aside from supplementing the School-Based Feeding Program with freshly harvested vegetables, the greenhouse facilities are designed to serve as hands-on living laboratories. Through experiential learning, learners can directly observe plant growth, nutrient management, water utilization, and photosynthesis, thereby integrating real-world science into their lessons," the Department of Education (DepEd) said.The DepEd added that the project "supports Agri-Fishery Arts and agro-entrepreneurship electives under the strengthened Senior High School curriculum, helping learners cultivate practical livelihood and technical-vocational skills." "DepEd and its partners look forward to expanding the collaboration to more institutions, ensuring that more Filipino learners gain practical agricultural skills while contributing to community food security," it said.

- 'Harness e-trikes to save on gas' (2026-10-29 16:09)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said Thursday electric tricycles (e-trikes) could be instrumental in reducing gasoline expenses, as the government aims to expand local electric vehicle manufacturing. "Lower gasoline expenses mean more to take home for our families," the president said in Filipino during a visit to the manufacturing and assembly plant of Sazgar Philippines Inc. in Biñan, Laguna.Marcos said that tricycles typically travel about 90 kilometers a day in urban areas and 110 to 120 kilometers in the provinces.He said Sazgar's electric three-wheelers can travel 100 to 210 kilometers on a single six- to eight-hour charge, potentially covering tricycle drivers' daily routes in both urban and provincial areas.The Sazgar facility in Barangay Mamplasan has an annual assembly capacity of about 12,000 three-wheeled vehicles, including electric and internal combustion engine models.The president said the investment could generate jobs, strengthen domestic manufacturing and create opportunities for Filipino suppliers of vehicle parts and components.Sazgar Philippines, which is 60 percent Filipino-owned, operates the company's first manufacturing facility outside Pakistan. The plant is also envisioned as its manufacturing hub for Southeast Asia.Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon, Pakistani Ambassador to the Philippines Asima Rabbani, Sazgar Philippines President Muhammad Fahim and other government and company officials joined the president on his visit to the facility.Marcos urged the company to source more components from local manufacturers to expand opportunities for Filipino businesses and workers.The investment

comes as the government pursues its target of achieving a 50 percent electric vehicle share in the country's vehicle fleet by 2040 under its comprehensive roadmap for the electric vehicle industry.

• 2 bus firms face sanctions (2026-10-29 16:08)

TRANSPORTATION Secretary Vince Dizon issued show-cause orders to two bus companies over compliance issues in their facilities.Dizon said the terminals of Ohayami Transit and Victory Liner in Sampaloc, Manila, were found to have insufficient seating and electric fans in waiting areas and dirty restrooms with no water supply. "I have also observed inadequate cashless ticket-selling options, which was contrary to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to ensure passenger comfort and safety," Dizon said on his first day of work after returning as Department of Transportation (DOTr) head. "Just imagine, these are only minimum requirements for the bus companies to comply for the operation of their terminals for the comfort and safety of the commuting public, and yet they failed," Dizon added.Marcos recently ordered a Cabinet reshuffle where Dizon and Giovanni Lopez swapped roles. Dizon returned to head the DOTr to address mass transit and daily commuter issues, while Lopez assumed leadership of the Department of Public Works and Highways to institutionalize ongoing anti-corruption and transparency reforms.The DOTr has been intensifying safety compliance inspections ahead of the observance of All Saints' Day.

• Valenzuela City receives 2026 Galing Pook Award for hubs (2026-10-29 16:07)

VALENZUELA City received the "Galing Pook Award" for its "Building Spaces in a Spaceless City" initiative. "Striking a balance between industry and livability, the city has transformed empty or underutilized spaces into vibrant hubs for community-building, recreation, and physical wellness," said Mayor Wes Gatchalian after accepting the award in a ceremony at Malacañang Palace on Thursday.Organized by the Galing Pook Foundation in partnership with government agencies, the Galing Pook Awards recognize best practices and outstanding local governance programs.Valenzuela City has 31 public parks and open spaces. The most popular among these is the Valenzuela City People's Park.The city government has repurposed empty spaces beneath the NLEx (North Luzon Expressway) Harbor Link into public recreational spaces. "Through a partnership with NLEX Corporation, these areas were transformed into recreational zones known as the Skate Park and Paw Park — the former dedicated to cycling, skateboarding, and physical recreation, while the latter serves as an activity area where families can bond with their beloved pets," Gatchalian said.

• UE confers honorary doctorate on Supreme Court's Zalameda (2026-10-29 16:06)

THE University of the East (UE) on Tuesday conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws degree on Supreme Court Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda in recognition of his public service and commitment to the rule of law. "The law must therefore be understood not only as a body of rules, but as an instrument of justice," Zalameda said during a ceremony at the UE Theater in Manila. The event was part of the university's 80th founding anniversary.Zalameda said

judicial authority must serve ordinary Filipinos seeking justice, and that judicial office requires restraint, independence, humility and careful decision-making.Zalameda credited UE with instilling the core values that guided his career. He said the judicial reforms he intends to pursue would reflect those values and acknowledged the teachers, mentors, colleagues, family members and institutions that supported him.UE President and Chief Academic Officer Zosimo Battad praised Zalameda's legal excellence and integrity in public service, describing him as a defender of the rule of law whose career reflects honor, commitment and service to the nation.Zalameda is the 36th recipient of an honorary doctorate from UE since the university began conferring the distinction in 1957. He was recognized twice as one of UE's Outstanding Alumni.He completed high school at UE Caloocan in 1979 and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from UE Manila in 1983. He obtained his Bachelor of Laws degree from Ateneo de Manila University in 1987 and was admitted to the Philippine Bar in 1988.

- NTC mobilizes regional offices for Undas public assistance (2026-10-29 16:05)

THE National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) has directed its regional offices nationwide to coordinate with government agencies, emergency responders and telecommunications providers to support public assistance operations during from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2.NTC Commissioner Ella Blanca Lopez said effective communication and inter-agency cooperation were important in helping ensure public safety and providing timely assistance to Filipinos visiting cemeteries and memorial parks to honor their departed loved ones.Under a memorandum, all NTC regional directors were instructed to coordinate with local government units, law enforcement agencies, disaster risk reduction and management offices, emergency response units and other concerned authorities in their respective areas.The regional offices were also directed to monitor civic action groups and amateur radio groups participating in public service operations for All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.They must keep track of the groups' assigned routes, personnel locations, assistance posts and radio base station sites throughout the observance.The NTC will also coordinate with telecommunications service providers, as necessary, to address reported service concerns and help maintain reliable communications, particularly in areas expected to experience increased public activity and mobile network traffic.The commission advised the public to follow safety advisories, take note of local emergency numbers, keep mobile phones fully charged and maintain contact with family members.It also urged the public to use available communication channels responsibly, particularly when seeking emergency assistance.

- NCDA warns content creators vs exploitation of PWDs (2026-10-29 16:04)

THE National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) has expressed concern regarding content produced by digital personality Setzu featuring Boss Atan, who lives with Crouzon syndrome, which allegedly portrayed physical harm, public ridicule, and degrading portrayals. "The portrayal of harmful or violent scenarios is particularly troubling given that sports, especially basketball, are a source of inspiration and pride for Filipino youth," the NCDA said. "Content that normalizes or sensationalizes such behavior does not foster sportsmanship; instead, it

sends a damaging message to young audiences," it added.Crouzon syndrome is a rare genetic condition characterized by the premature fusion of certain skull bones.The NCDA reminded content creators and the public that exploiting persons with disabilities for entertainment, pranks, or profit, or subjecting them to public ridicule or vilification, violates Republic Act 9442, or the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons. "Persons with disabilities deserve respect, protection, and equal treatment in society, not online bullying, dangerous pranks, or exploitation in the name of entertainment," it said.

- Caloocan to provide free rides (2026-10-29 16:03)

THE Caloocan City government said it would provide free bus rides along routes near cemeteries in North and South Caloocan on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.Mayor Dale Gonzalo Malapitan said the initiative would be implemented under the city's Public Safety and Traffic Management Department.Meanwhile, the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Department, City Health Department, Environmental Management Department, City Police Station and Bureau of Fire Protection will coordinate to maintain order, safety, and cleanliness in the cemeteries."We aim to make the observance of Undas safe and convenient for our fellow citizens. Through free rides and other services, we seek to ensure the well-being of every Batang Kankaloo (Caloocan Kid)," Malapitan said.

- US defense commitment to Sierra Madre questioned (2026-10-29 16:02)

A GEOPOLITICAL analyst has questioned whether the United States is obligated to defend the Philippines if China used force in removing the BRP Sierra Madre from Ayungin Shoal, citing a 1975 US diplomatic communication that distinguished territorial defense from support for Philippine military deployments in disputed areas.Adolfo Quizon Paglinawan, a former diplomat, said in an interview that the historical US position raised questions about the scope of Washington's commitments under the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT), despite more recent American assurances of support for the Philippines in its maritime dispute with China in the South China Sea.His remarks followed Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr.'s warning on Oct. 23 that any use of force by China to tow away the grounded Philippine Navy vessel would constitute an act of war against the Philippines.Teodoro said the Sierra Madre is a ship of the Republic of the Philippines, and that "if anything is attempted against it, or anything happens to it through the use of force, that is an act of war against the Republic of the Philippines." Teodoro also said the possibility of invoking the MDT remained open, but stressed that the decision would ultimately rest with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.Paglinawan cited a June 9, 1975, diplomatic communication from then-US secretary of state Henry Kissinger discussing the treaty's application to Philippine military garrisons in the Spratly Islands.According to excerpts reproduced by Paglinawan, Kissinger said the MDT did not obligate Washington to support Philippine deployments intended to establish sovereignty over openly disputed territory.The communication distinguished between defending territory covered by the treaty and supporting military deployments aimed at advancing territorial claims in disputed areas. Kissinger also expressed doubts that the US Congress and American public would support intervention in the

Spratly dispute.Paglinawan argued that this historical position cast doubt on whether an attack on the Sierra Madre would necessarily compel US military intervention.The World War II-era landing ship was deliberately grounded at Ayungin in 1999 and now serves as a Philippine military outpost in the West Philippine Sea.Filipino troops stationed aboard it have been at the center of repeated confrontations with Chinese coast guard and other vessels.The MDT, signed in 1951, provides that the Philippines and the US act to meet common dangers in the event of an armed attack in the Pacific against either party's metropolitan territory, island territories under its jurisdiction in the Pacific, or armed forces, public vessels or aircraft.The US has repeatedly affirmed that an armed attack on Philippine armed forces, public vessels or aircraft in the South China Sea would trigger its mutual defense commitments.The 1975 communication cited by Paglinawan addressed Philippine deployments in the Spratlys and reflects a historical US interpretation of the treaty. It does not, by itself, establish how Washington would respond to a present-day attack on the Sierra Madre.Paglinawan, vice president for internal affairs of the Asian Century Philippines Strategic Studies Institute, has also questioned the legal implications of the vessel's deteriorating condition and its location at Ayungin Shoal.

- Complaint vs Lustre sent to Inquirer (2026-10-29 16:01)

THE camp of lawyer Manases Carpio, husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, said on Thursday the notice on the cyber libel complaint against veteran journalist Philip Lustre Jr. was delivered to the Philippine Daily Inquirer, his last-known professional address.It added that under Rule IV, Section 10(e) of the 2024 Department of Justice-National Prosecution Service Rules, the notice can be delivered to the respondent's last-known professional address when his residence cannot be established.It said articles published by the Inquirer identifying Lustre as their author provided an objective basis for associating him with the newspaper's business address." Where the respondent's residential address cannot be ascertained despite diligent efforts, the complainant may reasonably rely on a publicly ascertainable professional address supported by verifiable information connecting the respondent to that location," Carpio's camp said in a statement.The 72-year-old Lustre, author of the book "Kill, Kill, Kill," about the bloody drug war of former president Rodrigo Duterte, was arrested at Dapo Restaurant while attending the Saturday News Forum hosted by fellow journalists on Oct. 28. He was released on P48,000 bail on the same day.Lustre's lawyer, Dino de Leon, earlier questioned whether the journalist had been deprived of due process because he was not notified of the complaint before the warrant was issued.The case stemmed from a March 2026 Facebook post that allegedly linked Carpio to a P300-million payment involving 18 self-described former Marines who claimed to have acted as bagmen in a flood control kickback scheme.In relation to Lustre's case, the opposition-led August Twenty-One Movement (ATOM) on Thursday called for the decriminalization of cyber libel in the country." We, the August Twenty-One Movement, are adding our voice to the calls to decriminalize cyber libel in our country. Instead, let us further define and strengthen our civil case laws against those who will abuse their freedom of expression, especially if it leads to the destruction of democracies," ATOM said.

- Quezon's poker cards in exhibit show his hand in rescue of Jews (2026-10-29 13:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Poker cards of the late president Manuel Quezon are on display in an exhibit showing his hand in the rescue of over a thousand European Jews from the Holocaust.The exhibit, called Artifact in 360: Gamble of Compassion, was opened at the National Historical Commission of the Philippines' (NHCP) Quezon Memorial Shrine in Quezon City on Thursday by the NHCP Metro Manila cluster of Historical Museums."For the uninitiated, the exhibit may simply showcase the collection of poker cards...of former president Manuel L. Quezon. However, if you dig deeper, the featured artifacts showcase his so-called open door policy," Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Indhira Bañares said at the exhibit's opening.Quezon " made a massive political and diplomatic gamble when he allowed European Jews fleeing the Holocaust to find a safe haven in the Philippines...when the country was still under American occupation," she said.There was opposition from certain foreigners and locals.Bañares said that despite this, he argued "that by permitting the refugees to come to the country, the Philippines is showing the world the kind of people who we really are: hospitable, just, and humane."Information displayed in the exhibit states that the idea of the rescue was conceived while Quezon, then-United States (US) High Commissioner Paul McNutt, and then-Colonel Dwight Eisenhower who later became US president, and the Frieder brothers "were gathered around a poker table.""Around 1,300 European Jews who sought refuge in Manila benefited from his humanitarian policy," Bañares said, adding that this policy "would eventually shape the Philippines' human-centric and...human rights-based diplomacy towards refugees and other forcibly displaced people."She said that since then, the Philippines "has provided asylum and protection to" republicans who fled after the Spanish Civil War, refugees following the Vietnam War, Palestinians, and other people."The government of the Philippines continues to uphold the humanitarian tradition across all international and multilateral platforms," she said."Amidst these volatile and turbulent times, the Philippines shall not waiver from its commitment to protecting refugees and advancing durable solutions for refugees and other forcibly displaced populations. Filipino diplomats will continue to champion a world that respects the rights and dignity of every individual regardless of nationality or legal status, guarded by the conviction that our common humanity transcends borders," she said.The cards are on display until year-end at the shrine which is open Tuesdays to Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Entrance is free.Bañares quoted Quezon as saying, "It is my hope, and indeed my expectation, that the people of the Philippines will have in the future every reason to be glad that when the time of need came, their country was willing to extend a hand of welcome.""The current and future generations of Filipinos should be inspired by Quezon's legacy of defending human rights whenever they are threatened, confronting all forms of hatred and ending the vicious cycles of violence and persecution...," she said."May this legacy continue to remind us that offering refuge is not merely an act of compassion but an affirmation of our shared humanity," she said.

- ‘Housing developers' tie-up with govt offers ray of light for real estate sector' (2026-10-29 10:51)

MANILA, Philippines — The partnership between the government and property developers in promoting housing programs has created a way to revitalize housing sales and made affordable

homeownership more available even as the real estate industry weathers a prolonged slump in condominium demand, according to Colliers Philippines.The major developers' move to collaborate with the government in its housing initiatives was a positive development—one that could help clear unsold condominium inventory while advancing efforts to give more Filipinos access to homeownership, Joey Roi Bondoc, research director of Colliers Philippines, said."To somehow make the unsold inventory move, it's a good thing that major developers in the country joined the government housing projects of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) and Pag-IBIG Fund's Expanded 4PH (Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino), so that the industry keeps moving," Bondoc said.The partnerships channel private-sector housing inventory into the government's 4PH program while opening housing financing to qualified Pag-IBIG members who are seeking more affordable homeownership opportunities.So far, five major property developers have signed memorandums of understanding with Pag-IBIG in support of 4PH program — Megawide Construction Corp.; Ayala Land Inc., through its housing brands Amaia and Avida; SM Development Corp.; Filinvest Land Inc.; and Robinsons Land Corp. The participating developers have agreed to extend preferential rates and other incentives on housing units in selected projects to qualified Pag-IBIG members covered by 4PH.Pag-IBIG has likewise raised its maximum loanable amount to P10 million, significantly widening financing options for qualified borrowers, although actual loan approval and affordability will still hinge on the applicable lending requirements and the borrower's capacity to pay.Describing the government-private sector collaboration as a step in the right direction, Bondoc said that long-term demand for condominium units must be considered in gauging how much the partnerships can truly help the market."It's a step in the right direction. It's a good program between the government and private developers," he said.With the growing demand for house-and-lot developments outside Metro Manila, developers, Bondoc said, will need to factor in shifting buyer preferences as they determine which housing products and locations present the strongest market opportunities.He stressed that the potential benefits of the partnerships unfold against a difficult backdrop for the condominium sector where declining take-up, elevated financing costs, and a sizable stock of unsold completed units continue to weigh on market activity.Acquisitions of pre-selling condominium units—properties purchased before construction is completed—had fallen by an estimated 67 percent to 70 percent year on year, making the current period the weakest since Colliers began monitoring the market, according to Bondoc.With approximately 3,000 acquisitions during the first nine months of the year against 13,000 launches and 10,000 take-ups recorded in 2025, the figures, he explained, reflect different market measures and periods, citing the sharp deterioration in pre-selling activity as reported by Colliers. Roughly 32,000 completed condominium units remained unsold or idle, illustrating the challenge developers face in matching existing supply with effective demand, Bondoc said.The slowdown was attributed to elevated mortgage rates, higher prices of goods, subdued consumer spending, economic uncertainty, geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and political developments.Bondoc said mortgage rates around 7.7 percent to 7.8 percent have made financing more expensive, adding to the upfront costs buyers must shoulder when purchasing condominium units through bank financing. For units priced between P3.6 million and P7 million, he said the financial requirements could be out of reach

for some prospective buyers—particularly those earning below P60,000 to P70,000 a month.He also pointed to higher monthly down payment requirements, which could prompt some buyers to withdraw from purchases or fail to qualify for bank loans.With pre-selling activity under pressure and completed units still unsold, the expanded 4PH partnerships offer developers another potential route to reach qualified homebuyers. Yet Bondoc said the program's longer-term contribution will depend in part on sustained demand for the housing products on offer.

- Beijing bickers over 'obstacles' to Asean attendance (2026-10-29 09:16)

BEIJING — Beijing accused Manila on Thursday of "erecting multiple obstacles" to its attendance at an Asean meeting in the Philippines this week, where China will be represented by an embassy attache.While several countries, including the United States, Japan and Australia, are sending their defense chiefs, China opted to send its Manila embassy defense attache."The Philippine side has allowed certain politicians to use public office for private ends and erected multiple obstacles to obstruct China's participation in the Asean Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus," a spokesperson for the Chinese defense ministry told a news conference."This has seriously undermined the Asean principle of consensus, gravely contravened the spirit of openness and inclusiveness" of the summit, the spokesperson added.Asked about Beijing's comments, the Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro told an Asean news conference that others in the regional bloc did not share that position."It is China's position; it is not Asean's position," Gilberto Teodoro told reporters."They were given an opportunity to articulate their position, which is not any different from what they have been articulating before," he added.The two-day summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations concludes in Cebu on Thursday.US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth used the gathering to propose on Wednesday the creation of an "ambitious" US-Asean defense framework, as his country aims to build up partnerships in the region.US ally the Philippines has been engaged in years of confrontations with China over disputed areas of the South China Sea.

- AMLC secures forfeiture of P3.12M 'bribe' for lawmaker investigating govt projects (2026-10-29 08:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) has secured the forfeiture of P3.12 million linked to alleged corruption involving an attempt to prevent a lawmaker from investigating government projects.In a statement on Thursday, AMLC said the money was allegedly offered to a lawmaker in exchange for refraining from pursuing investigations into the projects. “The respondent, a government officer, allegedly attempted to dissuade the lawmaker from pursuing the investigation by offering him the money,” AMLC said. “The lawmaker refused the offer and sought police assistance, resulting in the respondent’s arrest,” it added.

- Malacañang: Dela Rosa's world is 'shrinking' (2026-10-29 06:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Thursday said Sen. Ronald Dela Rosa's world is " shrinking" as the Philippine National Police (PNP) has stepped up its operation to arrest him

and acted on credible leads as to his whereabouts.The PNP appealed to Dela Rosa "to surrender to the proper authorities and submit himself to the legal process with dignity."Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said PNP efforts to apprehend Dela Rosa have limited the fugitive senator's movements."It is true that Senator Bato [Dela Rosa]'s world is shrinking because anyone who might see him will immediately provide information to the PNP and other law enforcement agencies," Castro said in Filipino in a press briefing.The Palace press officer also said that National Bureau of Investigation Director Matibag "is also receiving information regarding the whereabouts of Senator Bato Dela Rosa."The PNP said that following the announcement of P50 million bounty for information leading to the apprehension of Dela Rosa, the PNP in close coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and other concerned agencies has significantly stepped up its efforts to arrest him."The combined effect of heightened police operations increased public awareness and the bounty announcement has substantially narrowed the senator's ability to move freely without drawing attention," the PNP said in a statement.However, the PNP declined to discuss specific intelligence information and operational details regarding the manhunt on Dela Rosa."Doing so could expose information sources, comprised the validation of leads, alert the subject to police efforts or endanger the personnel involved," it added."What we can assure the public is that information received is being carefully and throughly assessed and credible leads are being acted upon without delay," the PNP stressed.The PNP also "ensures seamless coordination among all concerned agencies to guarantee that all relevant piece of information is properly validated and acted upon."

- PNP: No need for 'wanted' poster on Dela Rosa (2026-10-29 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Thursday said that there is no need for "wanted" posters of him in public. “As of now we have not yet released a wanted poster and we will have to evaluate if the need arises at maglalabas ho tayo (we will have one),” Col. Allen Rae Co, PNP spokesman said in a press briefing at Camp Crame on Thursday. “If we will see it will help us in our manhunt operations then that’s the time that we will come up with the wanted poster,” he added. A wanted poster is a public notice distributed by law enforcement or government authorities to inform citizens that a fugitive or suspect is being sought for a crime. The senator, Co said, isn’t someone who is not recognizable. “We do not see any need for now kasi unang una sino ba hindi nakakakilala sa itsura ni Sen. Bato (first of all, who doesn't recognize Sen. Bato),” he said. “It’s not about not being able to do it but we do not see the need as of now and further evaluation so in the future if we will be able to evaluate that it will help us in looking for or arresting Sen. Bato then that’s time we will come out with a wanted poster,” he said.A P50 million bounty has been offered for information that will lead to the arrest of dela Rosa who was also given until Friday to surrender.

- Asean, daialogue partners urged to boost security cooperation, uphold intl law, protect migrant workers (2026-10-29 03:52)

LAPU-LAPU CITY — Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. on Thursday urged Asean member states and their dialogue partners to strengthen regional security cooperation, uphold international law and protect migrant workers and seafarers caught in overseas conflicts.Opening the 13th Asean Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, Teodoro outlined three priorities for regional defense cooperation.These include adherence to international law, continued progress in joint security initiatives, and collective responses to disruptions affecting food and energy security. "Our functional cooperation must remain rooted in mutual respect and adherence to international law, including the United Nations Charter and the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea," Teodoro said.He stressed the importance of respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity, avoiding interference in internal affairs, settling disputes peacefully and renouncing the threat or use of force.Teodoro also urged delegates to sustain progress under the ADMM-Plus framework and cited participating countries for supporting the Philippines and Japan as co-chairs of the experts working group on maritime security.He highlighted cooperation on maritime security, the protection of critical underwater infrastructure and people-to-people exchanges.This particularly among young people who can build trust and cooperation before assuming future leadership roles.The defense chief called for stronger cooperation on food and energy security as supply chain challenges and overseas conflicts threaten regional stability.He also urged participating countries to protect migrant workers and seafarers, particularly those from smaller countries, including ASEAN members, who have been caught in crossfire. "The international order must have a special obligation to protect migrant workers and seafarers in recognition of their vital contributions to the global economy and the way of life of the countries wherein they serve," he said.Teodoro cited two outcome documents that Asean defense ministers signed on Wednesday: a joint statement commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and the Manila Joint Declaration marking the ADMM's 20th anniversary, titled "Navigating Our Future Together."The documents reaffirmed the participating countries' commitment to shared principles, Asean unity and Asean centrality in relations with dialogue partners.Teodoro also welcomed South Korean Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul, who attended the ADMM-Plus for the first time.The Philippine delegation included Senior Undersecretary Irineo Espino; undersecretaries Ignacio Madriaga, Salvador Melchor Mison and Fabian Pedregosa; assistant secretaries Marita I. Yoro, Arsenio R. Andolong, Romeo De La Cruz and Simplicius Adicer; and Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Antonio Nafarrete.The ADMM-Plus brings together 11 Asean member states and eight dialogue partners — Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the United States — for regional defense dialogue and practical security cooperation.The Philippines hosted the meetings on Oct. 28 and 29 as part of its 2026 Asean chairmanship.

- 2 bus firms under fire for dirty toilets, uncomfortable seats in terminals (2026-10-29 03:37)

MANILA, Philippines — On his first day back at the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Secretary Vince Dizon started inspecting bus terminals as more people are expected to travel in

connection with the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day or "Undas."As a result, Dizon said on Thursday that he issued show cause orders (SCOs) against two bus companies — the Ohayami Transit and Victory Liner for violations of the required facilities at their terminals in Sampaloc, Manila.Dizon, who swapped his Cabinet post with ex-DOTr chief and now Department of Public Works and Highways Secretary Giovanni Lopez, said that during his inspection, he found insufficient seats and electric fans in the waiting areas and dirty restrooms with no water. "I have also observed inadequate cashless ticket-selling options which was contrary to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to ensure passenger comfort and safety," Dizon said.According to the DOTr, the two bus firms were ordered to explain why their respective certificate of public convenience (CPC) would not be suspended, cancelled or revoked.For Ohayami Transit, Dizon personally discovered during his inspection its non-compliant restrooms, insufficient space and inadequate ventilation in the passenger waiting areas, lack of adequate seating with backrests, absence of designated resting area for drivers and conductors and insufficient roofing or covered areas.The DOTr said inadequate water supply in its comfort rooms and also insufficient space and the absence of backrests in its seats in the passengers' waiting areas were observed at the Victory Liner's terminal. "Just imagine, these are only minimum requirements for the bus companies to comply for the operation of their terminals for the comfort and safety of the commuting public and yet they failed," Dizon said.Worse, Dizon said, he found out that the passengers were made to pay to be able to enter the terminal restrooms. "That is prohibited," he said.

- US boosts security funding for AFP modernization (2026-10-29 03:17)

MANILA, Philippines — The United States will increase its security cooperation funding to accelerate the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), although Washington has yet to disclose the amount of the additional assistance.US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth announced the increase during a meeting with Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. in Cebu on Wednesday, according to a readout released by the US Department of War.The additional funding aims to accelerate AFP modernization and improve interoperability between Philippine and American forces along the First Island Chain, a strategically important chain of islands in the western Pacific that includes the Philippines.The US statement did not specify the amount of the increase, when the additional funds would become available or which modernization projects would receive support.Hegseth and Teodoro also agreed to launch an Alliance Command and Control Modernization Sprint to improve real-time coordination between the two countries' armed forces and strengthen the resilience of their alliance.They welcomed progress in operationalizing facilities under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), including investments in critical infrastructure and storage facilities across the Philippines.The announcement comes as the Philippines seeks to strengthen its military capabilities amid growing regional security challenges, particularly in the South China Sea.Separately, the Marcos administration has proposed increasing the AFP modernization allocation in the 2027 national budget to P50 billion, from P40 billion in 2026.The proposed P10 billion increase represents a 25 percent rise in Philippine government funding for the

modernization program and is separate from the additional US security cooperation funds announced by Hegseth.The Philippines and the United States have been strengthening their defense partnership through joint military exercises, expanded access to strategic facilities and efforts to improve coordination between their armed forces.The latest funding announcement signals Washington's continued support for Philippine defense modernization.

- Filipinos injured in bus accident in Spain — PH consulate in Barcelona (2026-10-29 02:02)

MANILA, Philippines -— The Phil Consulate General in Barcelona haa confirmed that Filipinos were among those injured in the bus accident in Fogars de Montclús on Oct. 25, 2026.The accident occurred when a Sagalés bus -- with over 80 passengers -- collided with a car and plunged down an embankment of about 20 meters.The consulate did not say how many Filipinos were involved in the accident but it had established contact with them.It was also not clear whether the affected Filipinos were tourists or workers living in Spain.It remains in close coordination with local hospitals and police authorities to monitor their condition and determine their consular assistance needs."Representatives of the consulate have also visited Filipino nationals who remain admitted to hospitals to personally check on their condition, extend support, and assess any assistance they may require," the consulate said in a statement on Wednesday."The cause and circumstances of the accident remain under investigation by Spanish authorities and further updates will be provided as information is confirmed, with due regard for the privacy abd welfare of those involved," it added.The consulate expresssed its sympathy to all those affected and wished the injured a full and speedy recovery.It remains committed to providing necessary consular assistance and will continue to coordinate with the relevant authorities.

- Lopez vows to cement anti-corruption reforms, restore public confidence after flood control scandal (2026-10-29 01:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Public Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez on Thursday pledged to cement anti-corruption reforms by institutionalizing them and restoring public confidence in the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).Lopez, at his first briefing with key agency officials, cited his goal was to make the reforms, pushed by his predecessor and now Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Vince Dizon, permanent at DPWH “no matter who heads the department or sits in Malacañang.” Reiterating that the reforms were actually initiated by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and carried forward by the ex-DPWH chief, Lopez stressed that it would take “strong political will” to implement reforms at the public works department.He vowed to focus on the systems and cultural changes, being the two vital elements needed to make the reforms stick. The first entails preserving and institutionalizing the systems Dizon had introduced; the second requires a shift in how government officials and even employees carry out their duties.For Lopez, cultural change means transforming the mindset, daily habits and sense of accountability of the department's rank-and-file employees and officials—not merely its top leadership.Combined with the systems change, Lopez emphasized that cultural change would ensure that habits of anti-corruption and transparency

outlast any single administration.Urging the entire DPWH officials and employees to strictly follow proper procedures, the ex-DOTr chief believed that the agency must carry forward reforms in transparency, accountability and employee promotions.After all, he said, rebuilding public trust will take the whole of government—not just officials or individual workers.The reform programs must encompass the entire project cycle from budget preparation and procurement up to the implementation, Lopez said.The transition at DPWH came on the heels of a clean-up campaign targeting ghost projects and kickbacks, requiring employees and officials as well as contractors to embrace a zero-tolerance stance against impunity and corruption.Dizon, on Tuesday's joint press conference with Lopez, turned over several documents that appeared to be involving more erring agency officials and personnel.Dizon also revealed during the same media briefing that over 80 DPWH personnel were removed from their positions while 29 contractors were either blacklisted or suspended under his watch since he assumed the post more than a year ago.

- Duterte camp hits talk of VP replacement as premature, distraction from impeachment trial (2026-10-29 01:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's camp on Thursday called discussions about possible replacements for her premature and a distraction from questions over the fairness and legality of her impeachment trial. "These issues raise grave doubts as to whether a conviction by the Senate Impeachment Court, and any consequent attempt to install a replacement, would rest on any solid legal and moral foundation," the camp said in a statement issued by spokesman Salvador Paolo A. Panelo Jr.The camp questioned the impartiality of senators sitting as impeachment court members who face or are threatened with plunder and other criminal charges, as well as the constitutionality of lowering the threshold for conviction.It also accused the court of violating due process by denying Duterte a fair opportunity to refute Articles I and IV before prosecutors withdrew them, and criticized the Senate majority for its lack of outrage over what it described as a waste of time and public funds.Panelo cited a Social Weather Stations survey showing that only 28 percent of Filipinos trusted the Senate Impeachment Court to render a fair judgment, with a net trust rating of -7 percent.He argued that replacing Duterte would not address the country's pressing concerns, citing inflation, the worsening Super El Niño threat to food security, economic growth slowing to 2.3 percent and the peso's decline to record lows. "The impeachment has only made clear how this administration and its allies prioritize political maneuvering over the issues that matter most to ordinary Filipinos," Panelo said.