



PHILIPPINES SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: May 01, 2026 - May 08, 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' security posture from May 01 to May 08, 2026, was primarily defined by the culmination of the largest-ever Exercise Balikatan 2026, underscoring its strengthened alliances and enhanced defense capabilities. Simultaneously, maritime tensions in the South China Sea escalated, marked by a direct confrontation with China over Sandy Cay and the signing of a significant trilateral maritime cooperation pact with Vietnam and Indonesia. Domestically, the nation continued to grapple with persistent foreign cyber intrusions targeting intelligence data and implemented new cybersecurity regulations for financial institutions. These developments collectively highlight the Philippines' strategic pivot towards bolstering its external defense through multilateral partnerships while navigating complex geopolitical challenges, particularly in its contested maritime domains.

Key Security Developments

- Military Activities and Exercises: Balikatan 2026 Conclusion

The 41st iteration of Exercise Balikatan, the most expansive to date, concluded on May 8, 2026, across the Philippine archipelago. Over 17,000 personnel from the Philippines, United States, Australia, Japan, Canada, France, and New Zealand participated, with an additional 17 nations observing. Key events included coastal defense drills in Laoag City on May 4, featuring the firing of US High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS), Philippine Army 105-mm howitzers, Sabrah light tanks, and US Javelin and Stinger missile systems to repel a simulated invasion. Special operations forces also conducted maritime security training, including a live-fire assault to secure and hold Balabac Airfield on May 3. The exercise sharpened warfighting skills in maritime security, coastal defense, and the integration of combined and joint fires across air, land, sea, space, and cyber domains.

- Military Activities and Exercises: Japan's Active Participation

For the first time, Japan actively participated in the combat drills of Exercise Balikatan 2026. This included the firing of its Type 88 ground-to-surface missile to sink a designated target ship during the maritime strike phase. Japan's expanded role signifies a deepening of defense cooperation with the Philippines and its allies in the Indo-Pacific region.

- Military Activities and Exercises: Canadian Armed Forces Inaugural Active Role

The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) also marked its inaugural active participation in Exercise Balikatan 2026. Canada contributed personnel and capabilities from its Royal Canadian Navy (including HMCS Charlottetown), Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Air Force, CAF Cyber Command, and Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, training in areas such as air and missile defense, coastal defense, and maritime strike operations.

- Defense Policy and Strategic Shifts: Call for "Active Defense Posture"

The Stratbase Institute, a Philippine think-tank, urged the Philippines to "fully operationalize its posture of active defense" in response to China's increasingly aggressive actions in the West Philippine Sea. This call, made in the context of the Balikatan exercises, advocated for intensified drills with like-minded nations and a rejection of energy exploration talks with China in the disputed waters.

- Diplomatic Relations: Trilateral Maritime Cooperation Pact

On May 1, 2026, Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines signed a trilateral maritime cooperation framework in Manila. This agreement formalizes coordinated patrols, intelligence sharing, and disaster response across overlapping zones in the South China Sea and Sulu-Celebes seas. It establishes a permanent trilateral coordination cell in Cebu and commits the three navies to conducting at least four joint patrol exercises annually, starting in October 2026.

- Diplomatic Relations: Continued US-Philippines Alliance

The ongoing Balikatan exercise served as a powerful demonstration of the "ironclad" commitment to the US-Philippines alliance, coinciding with the 75th anniversary of the Mutual Defense Treaty. Both nations are also celebrating the 80th anniversary of their diplomatic relations in 2026, reinforcing their long-standing partnership in security and economic development.

- Diplomatic Relations: Philippines-China Dialogue Amid Tensions

Despite heightened maritime tensions, the Philippines and China held bilateral talks in late March 2026 to "reset" discussions on maritime issues and potential oil and gas exploration deals in the South China Sea. During these consultations, China lodged serious protests regarding the Philippines' recent maritime infringements and provocations.

- Security Incidents and Threats: South China Sea Confrontation (Sandy Cay)

On May 3, 2026, China accused the Philippines of illegally landing personnel on Sandy Cay, an unoccupied sandbar in the South China Sea. In response, Manila announced it would dispatch ships to drive off Chinese vessels it claimed were conducting illegal research in its waters. Vietnam also issued diplomatic notes protesting activities by both China and the Philippines in Sandy Cay, asserting its own territorial claims.

- Cybersecurity: Foreign Cyber Intrusions

The Philippines detected foreign attempts to access intelligence data, although no successful breaches were recorded during this period. Information and Communications Minister Ivan Uy characterized the escalating cyber threats as part of a "World War III" unfolding in the cyber domain, highlighting the non-kinetic nature of these attacks.

- **Cybersecurity: Financial Sector Regulations**

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) issued Circular No. 1232 on April 27, 2026, introducing a Cybersecurity Maturity Framework and a Cybersecurity Control Self-Assessment tool. This initiative mandates banks and other financial institutions to regularly evaluate and strengthen their cybersecurity safeguards in response to expanding digital services and increasingly sophisticated online threats.

- **Defense Acquisitions and Arms Deals: Modernization Programs**

The Philippines is continuing its defense modernization efforts, with ongoing deliveries of Black Hawk helicopters and the expected delivery of an HDC-3100 corvette from HD Hyundai Heavy Industries in 2026. The 2026 defense budget proposal, submitted in August 2025, emphasizes accelerating Horizon 3 of the Revised Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Program, focusing on acquiring multirole fighter aircraft, airborne early warning platforms, and aerial refueling tankers.

- **Maritime and Border Security: Enhanced Strategy**

The Philippines' maritime security strategy has evolved into a sophisticated deterrence campaign, combining regular patrols with a focus on transparency to expose external threats, primarily China's territorial encroachment. This strategy is supported by satellite-tracking technology and a growing network of global partnerships, aiming to ensure that coercive activities in contested waters do not go unchallenged.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

The period from May 1 to May 8, 2026, saw the Philippines solidify its position as a key player in regional security, largely driven by the conclusion of Exercise Balikatan 2026 and proactive diplomatic engagements. The unprecedented scale and multilateral nature of Balikatan, involving the US, Japan, Australia, Canada, France, and New Zealand, sent a clear message regarding the collective resolve to uphold a rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific. This robust display of interoperability and combined defense capabilities, particularly in coastal defense drills in Laoag City and an airfield seizure on Balabac Airfield, directly addresses the growing assertiveness of China in the South China Sea. The exercises, while not explicitly naming China, were widely understood to be rehearsing responses to

potential Chinese aggression in key regional chokepoints, thus influencing the broader strategic landscape.

The signing of the trilateral maritime cooperation pact with Vietnam and Indonesia on May 1, 2026, represents a significant step towards enhancing regional stability through collective resilience among Southeast Asian nations. This framework for coordinated patrols, intelligence sharing, and disaster response in the South China Sea and Sulu-Celebes seas demonstrates a growing regional consensus to manage maritime disputes and counter "gray-zone coercion" through multilateral mechanisms. This diplomatic initiative, alongside the robust US-Philippines alliance, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary of the Mutual Defense Treaty and 80th anniversary of diplomatic relations, reinforces a multifaceted approach to security that balances alliance-building with regional cooperation.

However, these developments are set against a backdrop of persistent and escalating tensions with China in the South China Sea. The accusation by China on May 3, 2026, that the Philippines illegally landed personnel on Sandy Cay, and Manila's counter-response regarding illegal Chinese research vessels, highlights the volatile nature of these disputes. While the Philippines and China held "reset" talks in late March 2026 to discuss maritime tensions and potential oil and gas exploration, the recent incident at Sandy Cay underscores the fragility of such dialogues. The Philippines, as the ASEAN chair in 2026, is committed to prioritizing maritime security and accelerating the adoption of a legally binding Code of Conduct for the South China Sea, aiming to reduce miscalculations and promote peaceful resolution. The interplay of these alliances, regional partnerships, and ongoing territorial disputes defines a complex and dynamic geopolitical environment for the Philippines.

Military and Defense Analysis

The Philippine military is undergoing a significant transformation, with the period under review showcasing a clear commitment to enhancing its force posture and modernization programs. The successful conclusion of Exercise Balikatan 2026 was a critical demonstration of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) improved interoperability with its allies, particularly the United States. The drills, which covered air, land, sea, space, and cyber domains, allowed Philippine forces to train shoulder-to-shoulder with advanced military capabilities, including the US HIMARS and Javelin missile systems, and Japan's Type 88 ground-to-surface missiles. This exposure and joint training are vital for accelerating the AFP's modernization and enhancing its capabilities in maritime security and coastal defense, particularly in the context of defending its interests in the West Philippine Sea.

Defense spending trends indicate a sustained increase, with a proposed 2026 defense budget of PHP 299.3 billion (approximately USD 5.2 billion), marking the third consecutive year of double-digit growth. This increased allocation is aimed at accelerating Horizon 3 of the Revised AFP Modernization Program, which prioritizes the acquisition of multirole fighter aircraft, airborne early warning platforms, and aerial refueling tankers to extend detection ranges and enhance air superiority. While the Philippines has made notable acquisitions like BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles from India and C-295 transport aircraft from Airbus Defence and Space, and continues to receive Black Hawk helicopter deliveries, gaps remain in its integrated air and missile defense (IAMD) networks. The country still requires sufficient quantities of air defense batteries, modern fighter jets, interceptors, and medium-range IAMD systems to effectively offset the risks of hosting US forces and to assert its sovereignty more effectively. The ongoing delivery of an HDC-3100 corvette in 2026 further contributes to naval capability development.

Outlook and Forecast

In the short-term (1-3 months), the Philippines is expected to maintain its assertive stance in the South China Sea, likely continuing its transparency initiatives and joint maritime patrols with allies and partners. The momentum from Balikatan 2026 will likely translate into further bilateral and multilateral defense engagements, focusing on refining the interoperability achieved during the exercise. Diplomatic efforts will continue to balance engagement with China on economic fronts while robustly defending sovereign rights in contested waters. The trilateral maritime cooperation pact with Vietnam and Indonesia will begin to operationalize, with the establishment of the coordination cell in Cebu and preparations for joint patrol exercises commencing in October 2026.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas remain concentrated in the West Philippine Sea, particularly around features like Sandy Cay, Scarborough Shoal, and Second Thomas Shoal. The recent confrontation at Sandy Cay underscores the potential for rapid escalation, even from seemingly minor incidents involving personnel or research vessels. China's continued "gray-zone tactics," including swarming operations and obstruction of lawful activities, will pose ongoing challenges. Another risk area is the potential for increased cyberattacks targeting critical infrastructure and government systems, given the detected foreign intrusions and the ongoing "cyber World War III" as described by Philippine officials.

Indicators to monitor include the frequency and nature of maritime incidents in the South China Sea, particularly any attempts by China to further militarize disputed features or impede Philippine resupply missions. Progress on the Code of Conduct (CoC) in the South China Sea, especially as the Philippines chairs ASEAN in 2026, will

be a crucial indicator of regional diplomatic effectiveness. The pace and scope of the Philippines' defense modernization program, including specific acquisitions of air and missile defense systems and multirole fighters, will also be important to watch as they directly impact the country's deterrence capabilities. Furthermore, monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of new cybersecurity regulations for financial institutions will be key to assessing the nation's resilience against digital threats.

Strategic recommendations for the Philippines include continuing to diversify and strengthen its network of security alliances and partnerships, leveraging platforms like ASEAN to build collective resilience against external pressures. Investing further in indigenous defense capabilities, particularly in integrated air and missile defense, is crucial to reduce reliance on external powers and enhance strategic autonomy. Maintaining a clear and consistent communication strategy regarding its maritime claims and incidents in the South China Sea, supported by transparency initiatives, will be vital in shaping international opinion and garnering support. Finally, a proactive and adaptive cybersecurity strategy, coupled with international cooperation on cyber threat intelligence, is essential to safeguard critical national infrastructure and intelligence assets.

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: GMA Network

- [DILG: 49 BFP officials face Ombudsman raps over alleged fire truck procurement irregularities](#) (2026-05-08 05:59)

A total of 49 officials of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) have been charged before the Ombudsman over alleged irregularities in the procurement of fire trucks, Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla said Friday.

- [Zaldy Co reportedly staying in Paris' Champs-Élysées, says Jonvic Remulla](#) (2026-05-08 05:26)

Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Friday said former lawmaker Zaldy Co, accused in the flood control mess, is currently staying in a 10-bedroom house on Champs-Élysées Avenue in Paris.

- [Palace to VP Sara: Marcos admin inherited big debt of Duterte admin](#) (2026-05-08 05:22)

LAPU-LAPU CITY, Cebu -- Malacañang on Friday hit back at Vice President Sara Duterte for criticizing the country's growing debt, saying the Marcos Jr. administration inherited a huge debt left by the administration of her father, former president Rodrigo Duterte.

- [DepEd launches disaster risk platform to reduce class disruptions during calamities](#) (2026-05-08 05:15)

DepEd launches disaster risk platform to reduce class disruptions during calamities

- [Atong Ang spotted in Cavite in April --SILG Remulla](#) (2026-05-08 04:32)

Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Friday said Atong Ang, who is among the accused in the missing sabungeros case, was reportedly seen in Cavite last month.

- [Marcos eyes adoption of ASEAN leaders' maritime cooperation declaration](#) (2026-05-08 03:46)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Friday expressed optimism regarding the adoption of a declaration on maritime cooperation among Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) leaders.

- [Sara Duterte hits Marcos admin over rising debt, unemployment](#) (2026-05-08 03:21)

Vice President Sara Duterte criticized the Marcos administration over unemployment and the country's growing debt, saying the government was failing to focus on governance and was instead reacting to critics and political attacks.

- [Marcos to ASEAN leaders: Study adjustments, best approaches amid Middle East conflict](#) (2026-05-08 02:59)

Philippine President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Friday called on fellow heads of states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to find the best course of action for the region amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

- [Sara Duterte challenges Romualdez, Co to 'tell the truth' on flood control issue](#) (2026-05-08 02:35)

Vice President Sara Duterte challenged lawmakers Martin Romualdez and Zaldy Co to “tell the truth” regarding allegations surrounding controversial flood control projects.

- [Franco Mabanta, 4 others to post bail over alleged extortion try on Romualdez](#) (2026-05-08 00:42)

Peanut Gallery Media Network (PGMN) founder Franco Mabanta and four others arrested over the alleged extortion attempt against former House Speaker Martin Romualdez are expected to post bail Friday, according to their lawyer.

- [CJ Hirro 'person of interest' in alleged extortion on Romualdez --NBI](#) (2026-05-08 00:16)

CJ Hirro 'person of interest' in alleged extortion on Romualdez --NBI

- [LIVE UPDATES: ASEAN Summit 2026 \(May 8, 2026\)](#) (2026-05-07 23:43)

Here are the latest news and updates on the ASEAN Summit 2026 in Cebu and related developments.

- [LIVE UPDATES: Conflict in the Middle East \(May 8, 2026\)](#) (2026-05-07 23:38)

Here are the latest news and updates on the US-Israel war against Iran and related developments.

- [DSWD eyes completion of cash aid to PUV drivers by May 20, 2026](#) (2026-05-07 16:58)

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is eyeing to finish its distribution of cash relief assistance to public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers by May 20.

- [VP Sara Duterte, lawyer deny laptop-throwing incident](#) (2026-05-07 15:58)

Vice President Sara Duterte denied reports that she threw a laptop at a member of her defense team, lawyer Michael Poa.

- [BSP chief Remolona still highest-paid gov't official in 2025 - COA](#) (2026-05-07 14:49)

Eli Remolona, governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), is still the highest-paid non-elected government official last year, according to the Commission on Audit's (COA) Report on Salaries and Allowances (ROSA) for 2025.

- [PCSO: No winners of major lotto jackpot draws on May 7, 2026](#) (2026-05-07 14:22)

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said there were no winners of the major lotto jackpot draws on Thursday, May 7, 2026.

- [Body of one of 'Toboso 19' was misidentified, say kin](#) (2026-05-07 14:16)

The remains of a researcher who was supposedly among those killed in an alleged encounter in Toboso, Negros Occidental was misidentified, according to his relatives.

- [LIVE UPDATES: ASEAN Summit 2026 \(May 7, 2026\)](#) (2026-05-07 13:28)

Here are the latest news and updates on the ASEAN Summit 2026 in Cebu and related developments.

- [At Philippines-arranged meeting, Cambodia, Thailand task ministers to sustain talks](#) (2026-05-07 12:35)

Cambodia and Thailand have agreed to direct their own foreign ministers to sustain dialogues to prevent escalation of conflict and to make conditions for peace and stability, Philippine President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. said Thursday.

- [Sherwin Gatchalian urges passage of Senate bill increasing workers' take-home pay](#) (2026-05-07 11:13)

Senator Sherwin Gatchalian has called for the urgent passage of a proposed measure that would increase the take-home pay of Filipino workers amid the rising costs driven by the tensions in the Middle East.

- [BI intercepts Vietnamese woman wanted by Interpol for drug raps](#) (2026-05-07 11:11)

A 25-year-old Vietnamese woman wanted for drug-related offenses was intercepted upon her arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 1 last week, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) said.

- [At least 200 House members want VP Duterte impeached, solons say](#) (2026-05-07 10:52)

At least 200 lawmakers of the House of Representatives are expected to vote to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte, two members of the House justice committee said on Thursday.

- [Romualdez slams Mabanta: Extortion is a crime, not journalism](#) (2026-05-07 10:20)

The camp of Leyte Representative and former speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez accused political content creator Franco Mabanta and his Peanut Gallery Media Network (PGMN) company of extortion, saying Mabanta and his crew were not doing the work of journalists.

- [Leandro Leviste faces legal action from DOE over solar energy commitment](#) (2026-05-07 09:52)

The Department of Energy (DOE) has filed a complaint with the Department of Justice against Batangas Rep. Leandro Leviste and five officials of the Solar Para sa Bayan Corporation (SPBC) for alleged violations of the Public Service Act.

- [Gov't lawyers scolded for failure to present evidence in Marcos forfeiture case](#) (2026-05-07 09:24)

Sandiganbayan justices on Thursday scolded government lawyers for their failure to present additional evidence in the forfeiture case against the late President Ferdinand Marcos and his immediate family members, including incumbent President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. and Senator Imee Marcos.

- [QC court junks petition to halt House impeachment vs Sara Duterte](#) (2026-05-07 09:04)

The Quezon City Regional Trial Court (RTC) has junked the petition filed by lawyer Manases Carpio, the husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, seeking to stop the ongoing impeachment proceedings against her.

- [Kiko Pangilinan on being 'impeachment manager:' Nothing final yet](#) (2026-05-07 08:43)

Senator Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan said Thursday there is nothing final yet on the suggestion that he act as an “impeachment manager” for the possible impeachment trial against Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [DepEd: Private Senior High Schools must secure govt recognition by SY 2027-2028](#) (2026-05-07 08:31)

Education Secretary Sonny Angara has issued new guidelines requiring all private institutions offering Senior High School (SHS) to transition from provisional permits to formal Government Recognition by School Year 2027-2028, in a move aimed at strengthening quality assurance and accountability in the education sector.

- [1,148 SHS graduates hired at Labor Day 2026 fairs - DepEd](#) (2026-05-07 08:06)

At least 1,148 Senior High School (SHS) graduates were hired on the spot during nationwide Labor Day Job Fairs, the Department of Education (DepEd) said Thursday, as the agency touted the employability and workforce readiness of graduates under the K to 12 program.

- [Comelec to submit comment to SC on petition vs. overseas voting](#) (2026-05-07 07:21)

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) said Thursday it will comply with the Supreme Court (SC) decision ordering it to comment on a motion seeking to intervene in a pending petition challenging the online overseas voting process.

- [ASEAN Maritime Center in PH pushed -- DFA's Lazaro](#) (2026-05-07 07:03)

LAPU-LAPU CITY, Cebu -- The Philippines is seeking to house a maritime center that will be used by Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member-states to enhance maritime security in the region.

- [Over 40 Chinese vessels swarming around Kalayaan Island Group, PCG says](#) (2026-05-07 06:56)

Over 40 Chinese vessels swarming around Kalayaan Island Group, PCG says

- [DOST chief Solidum highest paid Cabinet secretary in 2025](#) (2026-05-07 06:50)

Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Renato Solidum, Jr. received the highest amount of salary and allowances among Cabinet members for the year 2025 at P6.66 million, the Commission on Audit's 2025 Report on Salaries and Allowances showed.

- [2028 elections 'certain to come' -- Comelec's Garcia](#) (2026-05-07 06:04)

Commission on Elections chairperson George Erwin Garcia assured the public Thursday that the 2028 national elections will proceed amid speculation that it would not push through.

- [Proposed changes to GE curriculum open to revisions - CHED](#) (2026-05-07 05:35)

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) on Thursday assured educators, students, and other stakeholders that the proposed reframed General Education (GE) curriculum remains open to revisions following strong public engagement during recent consultations.

- [Curlee Discaya back in Senate detention after shoulder surgery](#) (2026-05-07 05:21)

Curlee Discaya back in Senate detention after shoulder surgery

- [CHED opens merit scholarship applications for college, TECH-VOC students](#) (2026-05-07 05:20)

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has opened applications for the Bagong Pilipinas Merit Scholarship Program (BPMSP) for the first semester of Academic Year 2026-2027, offering government-funded tuition support, stipends, and academic incentives to outstanding senior high school graduates pursuing priority college and technical-vocational courses.

- [Franco Mabanta undergoes inquest over alleged robbery, extortion on Romualdez](#) (2026-05-07 04:54)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said Peanut Gallery Media Network (PGMN) founder Franco Mabanta and four others underwent inquest proceedings on Wednesday evening for alleged robbery and extortion against former Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez.

- [Regional leaders start arriving in PH for ASEAN Summit 2026](#) (2026-05-07 04:50)

Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have started arriving in Cebu, Philippines to participate in the 48th ASEAN Summit and Related Meetings.

- [Senate bill pushes for P5K cash grant for fresh grads](#) (2026-05-07 04:44)

Senator JV Ejercito has filed a measure seeking to provide fresh graduates with a one-time cash assistance of P5,000 to help cover expenses related to job searching.

- [Bato dela Rosa files 2 bills amid absence in Senate](#) (2026-05-07 04:15)

Amid his continued absence, Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa has filed two proposed measures, including a bill penalizing foreign interference in the country.

- [VP Sara Duterte 'not afraid' to lose post amid impeachment battle](#) (2026-05-07 03:26)

Vice President Sara Duterte said she is unbothered by the possibility of losing her post amid ongoing impeachment efforts.

- [Batangas lawmakers condemn Leandro Leviste's accusations vs Rectos as 'baseless'](#) (2026-05-07 03:20)

Batangas lawmakers condemn Leandro Leviste's accusations vs Rectos as 'baseless'

- [Revilla camp 'wait, pray' ahead of court decision on bail petition](#) (2026-05-06 18:28)

The camp of Senator Ramon “Bong” Revilla, Jr. is continuously praying amid the pending petition for bail lodged by Revilla in connection with the malversation case filed against him over the P92.8-million flood control project in Pandi, Bulacan.

- [PH asks Myanmar for 'brief access' to Suu Kyi amid transfer to house arrest](#) (2026-05-06 17:29)

The Philippines has asked Myanmar to allow Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro “brief access” to Aung San Suu Kyi following reports that she has been transferred to house arrest.

- [EXPLAINER: What is ASEAN?](#) (2026-05-06 16:41)

The Philippines is hosting the 48th Association of Southeast Nations (ASEAN) Summit, marking its fifth time to chair the regional bloc. Leaders from 11 member-nations will converge in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu for the ASEAN Summit and Related Summits this week.

- [PHIVOLCS reports Magnitude 5.6 earthquake near Davao Oriental's Caraga town](#) (2026-05-06 16:21)

A magnitude 5.6 earthquake hit near Davao Oriental on Wednesday night.

- [QC bettor bags P15M prize in May 6, 2026 Megalotto 6/45 draw](#) (2026-05-06 14:32)

A bettor from Quezon City won the P15 million jackpot prize in the Megalotto 6/45 draw of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Wednesday, May 6, 2026.

- [Meralco to heed ERC order halting disconnections for May to July bills](#) (2026-05-06 13:59)

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) is currently reviewing the possible suspension of certain pass-on charges reflected in the electricity bills of consumers.

- [All leaders except Myanmar president will attend ASEAN Summit 2026 in Cebu](#) (2026-05-06 13:42)

LAPU-LAPU CITY- All the heads of state of its member nations, except that of Myanmar, will attend the ASEAN Summit 2026 and related meetings in Cebu, Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary and ASEAN spokesman Dominic Xavier Imperial said on Wednesday.

- [House justice panel wants VP Duterte's removal, perpetual ban from public office](#) (2026-05-06 13:38)

Vice President Sara Duterte should be impeached, perpetually banned from occupying public office, and prosecuted for the impeachable offenses she allegedly committed as the country's second highest official, the House justice committee said.

- [Marcos arrives in Cebu for ASEAN Summit 2026](#) (2026-05-06 13:30)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. arrived in Cebu Wednesday evening for the 48th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit, which the Philippines hosts as chair of the international organization.

- [Leandro Leviste dares Ralph Recto to face Congress amid allegations](#) (2026-05-06 12:44)

Batangas 1st District Rep. Leandro Leviste has denied Executive Secretary Ralph Recto's allegation that he offered P1 billion for Recto's wife not to run in the 2025 elections.

- [Japan's Type 88 missiles sink ex-PN ship in Balikatan exercise](#) (2026-05-06 12:33)

Japanese forces taking part in the Balikatan exercise fired two Type 88 anti-ship missiles at a

decommissioned Philippine Navy ship on Monday, the first time these weapons were tested in the annual military event.

- [Lacson links Marcoleta to P500-M allocables for DPWH infra projects](#) (2026-05-06 11:03)

Senator Panfilo "Ping" Lacson said Wednesday evidence showed that Senator Rodante Marcoleta was allocated P500 million in allocables for infrastructure projects by the late Public Works Undersecretary Maria Catalina Cabral.

- [Female cadet from Batangas leads PMA Class of 2026](#) (2026-05-06 10:53)

A female cadet from Batangas is leading this year's Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Talang Dangal Class of 2026, along with four other female cadets in the Top 10.

- [De Lima to Robin: Not the job of genuine opposition to be obstructionist](#) (2026-05-06 10:21)

"[W]e're not supposed to be an obstructionist. Pag ganoon na lahat na lang i-oppose ng minority, you're no longer a genuine minority," Rep. Leila De Lima said.

- [DepEd: 4.5M struggling readers improved in one school year](#) (2026-05-06 10:07)

The Department of Education (DepEd) on Wednesday said 4.5 million learners across all grade levels who were initially identified as struggling readers improved their literacy skills by the end of School Year 2025-2026.

- [CHED plan to cut college GE units sparks fears it could 'water down' ethics, humanities courses](#) (2026-05-06 09:19)

A proposed overhaul of the college general education (GE) curriculum by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) is facing mounting criticism from academics and schools, with educators warning that the planned reduction of GE units could dilute the teaching of ethics, philosophy, literature, arts, and Philippine history.

- [Senate not convening as impeachment court? Possible, says Lacson](#) (2026-05-06 09:16)

Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo "Ping" Lacson on Wednesday said it remains a "possibility" that the Senate may not convene as an impeachment court when the Articles of Impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte are transmitted from the House of Representatives to the Senate.

- [LGUs open to hosting nuclear plants, but need gov't funding - solon](#) (2026-05-06 08:22)

A number of local governments have expressed their willingness to host nuclear power plants to boost the country's supply and bring down power rates, but this would need appropriations from the national government, a lawmaker said Wednesday.

- [3,500 apply for 114 jobs at Ombudsman's office](#) (2026-05-06 08:10)

At least 3,500 individuals have applied for 114 permanent positions at the Office of the Ombudsman, Assistant Ombudsman for Internal Affairs Luigi Bonoan said Wednesday.

- [Palace on Leviste vs. Recto: Their issue stays between them](#) (2026-05-06 08:00)

Malacañang does not want to engage on the exchange of tirades between Executive Secretary Ralph Recto and Batangas 1st District Representative Leandro Leviste.

- [EXPLAINER: What is a Tomahawk missile and how powerful is it?](#) (2026-05-06 07:51)

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said a live-fire exercise involving a United States Tomahawk Land Attack Missile (TLAM) was conducted on Monday as part of the 2026 Balikatan exercises.

- [Franco Mabanta denies involvement in alleged robbery-extortion on Romualdez](#) (2026-05-06 07:18)

Online media network founder Franco Mabanta on Wednesday denied being involved in an alleged robbery by extortion try on former House Speaker Martin Romualdez.

- [Marcos to push for energy and food security at ASEAN Summit 2026](#) (2026-05-06 07:11)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Wednesday said he would lead discussions during the 48th ASEAN Summit and Related Meetings on how the region can guarantee the supply of food and energy amid tensions in the Middle East.

- [No ASEAN consensus yet on recognition of recent Myanmar polls -- spox](#) (2026-05-06 06:34)

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has yet to reach a consensus on whether it will recognize the recent election in Myanmar, which was won by Myanmar junta chief Min Aung Hlaing, ASEAN 2026 spokesperson Dominic Xavier Imperial said Wednesday.

- [PNP declares 'full operational readiness' for ASEAN Summit in Cebu](#) (2026-05-06 05:27)

PNP declares 'full operational readiness' for ASEAN Summit in Cebu

- [30 NUP solons back VP Sara Duterte impeachment; 'yes' votes may hit 180 -- Puno](#) (2026-05-06 05:12)

At least 30 of the 55 members of the National Unity Party (NUP) are expected to vote in favor of the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte--a number that could push the total “yes” votes to as many as 180, House Deputy Speaker and Antipolo 2nd District Rep. Ronaldo Puno said Wednesday.

- [Philippines urges Myanmar to allow ASEAN envoy access to Aung San Suu Kyi](#) (2026-05-06 05:09)

The Philippines called on Myanmar Wednesday to allow ASEAN's special envoy to meet with detained leader Aung San Suu Kyi, pressing for greater transparency after authorities allowed her to serve the remainder of her sentence under house arrest.

- [Franco Mabanta, 4 others face robbery by extortion charges in Martin Romualdez case](#) (2026-05-06 05:03)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Wednesday said online media network founder Franco Mabanta and four others will face charges of robbery by extortion in relation to alleged violations of the Cybercrime Prevention Act following an entrapment operation linked to an alleged P300-million payoff demand involving former House speaker Martin Romualdez.

- [ASEAN 'encouraged by the progress' of SCS Code of Conduct, spokesman says](#) (2026-05-06 04:34)

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is seeing good developments regarding negotiations on the Code of Conduct (COC) on the South China Sea, ASEAN 2026 spokesperson Dominic Xavier Imperial said Wednesday.

- [Marcos witnesses Joint Task Force maritime strike amid Balikatan 2026](#) (2026-05-06 04:23)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Wednesday witnessed the Joint Task Force Maritime Strike of the Philippines and United States Exercise Balikatan 41-2026 at Camp Aguinaldo.

- [EXPLAINER: Who is Franco Mabanta?](#) (2026-05-06 03:46)

Social media personality and political content creator Franco Mabanta has come under public scrutiny following his arrest by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), along with four others, over an alleged extortion attempt involving House Speaker Martin Romualdez.

- [Sara Duterte expresses concerns over inflation, peso, fuel prices, warns trolls](#) (2026-05-06 03:28)

Vice President Sara Duterte on Tuesday expressed concern over inflation, peso depreciation, and high fuel prices in the country while suggesting more assistance to the most vulnerable sectors. She also warned against alleged troll farms being used to smear her image ahead of the 2028 national elections.

- [Japan's defense minister pays courtesy call on Marcos](#) (2026-05-06 02:17)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. received Japan's Minister of Defense Shinjiro Koizumi during a courtesy call at Malacañang Palace on Tuesday.

- [62 Chinese vessels spotted in West Philippine Sea in April 2026 -- AFP](#) (2026-05-06 02:14)

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Wednesday said a total of 62 Chinese vessels were spotted in some West Philippine Sea (WPS) features in April 2026.

- [Sara Duterte says it's unfair to drag family members into impeachment proceedings](#) (2026-05-06 01:14)

Vice President Sara Duterte said it is “unfair” to involve family members in her impeachment proceedings after several of them were mentioned in allegations of unexplained wealth, misuse of funds, and illegal drug payouts.

- [NBI arrests media personality Franco Mabanta for alleged extort try on Martin Romualdez](#) (2026-05-06 00:41)

The National Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday said it arrested online media network personality Franco Mabanta after an alleged extortion try on former speaker and incumbent Leyte 1st District Representative Martin Romualdez.

- [LIVE UPDATES: Conflict in the Middle East \(May 6, 2026\)](#) (2026-05-05 22:50)

Here are the latest news and updates on the US-Israel war against Iran and related developments.

- [PNP gains 63% trust, 61% satisfaction ratings in latest OCTA survey](#) (2026-05-05 17:33)

A majority of adult Filipinos or 63% trust the Philippine National Police (PNP) while 61% were satisfied with their performance in the first quarter of the year, according to the latest Tugon ng Masa survey.

- [PNP beefing up surveillance, collaboration with businesses after foiled pawnshop robbery](#) (2026-05-05 17:08)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) is beefing up surveillance in high-risk areas and intensifying collaboration with business establishments following a foiled attempt to rob two pawnshops in Quezon City.

- [PH hosts 1st ASEAN Bar Leaders' Summit, pushes regional legal cooperation](#) (2026-05-05 16:46)

Seven Southeast Asian bar associations are in the country for this year's ASEAN Bar Leaders' Summit.

- [LTFRB summons 9 motor taxi firms for discrepancy in allowed ride-hailing units](#) (2026-05-05 15:51)

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has issued show cause orders (SCOs) against nine motorcycle taxi platform providers (MTPPs) as part of the ongoing probe of discrepancies in the number of authorized ride-hailing services.

- [ABS-CBN hit in House for alleged labor code violations](#) (2026-05-05 15:17)

Two members of the House of Representatives on Tuesday criticized ABS-CBN over alleged violations of the Labor Code and skirting franchise law.

- [The Manila Times Chairman Emeritus Dante Arevalo Ang passes away](#) (2026-05-05 14:55)

The Manila Times announced on Tuesday evening that journalist, Chairman emeritus, and owner Dante Arevalo Ang has passed away.

- [12 winners bag major lotto jackpot prizes on May 5, 2026](#) (2026-05-05 14:14)

Not one, not two - but 12 bettors won the jackpot prizes in all of the major lotto draws of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

- [Impeachment articles against Sara Duterte reach House plenary](#) (2026-05-05 13:38)

The committee report on the articles of impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte has reached the House of Representatives plenary.

- [PH, Japan boost security ties through defense equipment, technology](#) (2026-05-05 13:25)

The Philippines and Japan took another step to deepen their ties following the signing of their statement on the further promotion of defense equipment and technology cooperation.

- [Leandro Leviste, Ralph Recto trade billion-peso allegations](#) (2026-05-05 12:41)

Batangas 1st District Rep. Leandro Leviste on Tuesday accused Executive Secretary Ralph Recto of allegedly accepting at least P1 billion in contractor money and linked his fellow lawmakers to vote-buying, prompting other House members to strike Leviste's remarks off the record due to lack of evidence.

- [ERC suspends power disconnections from May to July 2026; allows installment payments](#) (2026-05-05 12:31)

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) has suspended the disconnection of residential and non-residential consumers who will fail to pay their electric bills from May 2026 to July 2026 while allowing up to three-month installment payments.

- [Motoristang nagpa-gas sa QC ng halagang P1,500, hindi nagbayad](#) (2026-05-05 11:45)

Hinahanap na ng Quezon City Police District (QCPD) ang driver ng isang kotse na sangkot sa isa namang insidenteng “gas-and-run” sa isang gasolinahan sa kahabaan ng Mindanao Avenue sa Quezon City.

- [DOST-PSHS to offer AI elective course next school year](#) (2026-05-05 10:48)

The Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Science High School System (DOST-PSHS) said on Tuesday that it will offer an artificial intelligence (AI) elective course at its main campus in Quezon City starting next school year.

- [House approves National Land Use bill](#) (2026-05-05 10:43)

The House of Representatives on Tuesday approved on third and final reading the proposed National Land Use Act, a measure that has languished in Congress for at least 28 years.

- [7 senators have signed Blue Ribbon's partial flood control report --Lacson](#) (2026-05-05 10:39)

Only two signatures are now needed for the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee to sponsor and present to the Plenary its partial report on the flood control controversy.

- [SWS: 38% of Filipinos see quality of life to improve in next 12 months](#) (2026-05-05 10:19)

Thirty-eight percent of Filipinos aged 18 years and above believe that their quality of life will improve in the next 12 months, the latest survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) showed.

- [PH, US, Japan, Canada hold counter-landing live fire drill in Ilocos Norte](#) (2026-05-05 09:21)

Philippine and allied forces showcased coordinated firepower and coastal defense capabilities during a counter-landing live fire drill Monday in Ilocos Norte as part of the Balikatan Exercise.

- [Marcos, ED Council OK 'refinements' in MRT-7 implementation](#) (2026-05-05 09:15)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. and the Economy and Development (ED) Council on Tuesday approved the technical tweaks to the implementation of the Metro Rail Transit 7 (MRT-7) in a bid to resolve longstanding delays.

- [Group calls for broader consultations on data rollover bills](#) (2026-05-05 09:00)

A consumer advocacy group has called for broader consultations on proposed data rollover bills, saying it could undermine the affordability and flexibility of prepaid mobile data offerings in the country if not carefully designed.

- [NUP, LP to go for 'conscience vote' in VP Sara impeachment](#) (2026-05-05 08:58)

NUP, LP to go for 'conscience vote' in VP Sara impeachment

- [EXPLAINER: What is ashfall and why is it dangerous?](#) (2026-05-05 08:24)

When volcanoes such as Mount Mayon erupts, lava flows and pyroclastic currents are not the only threats communities need to watch out for: there is also the danger posed by ashfall.

- [SC seeks Comelec, DFA comment on online voting challenge](#) (2026-05-05 08:09)

The Supreme Court (SC) has directed the Commission on Elections (Comelec) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to comment on a motion seeking to intervene in a pending

petition challenging online overseas voting.

- [Luistro: House 'ready' for plenary vote on VP Sara impeachment by May 11](#) (2026-05-05 08:05)

The House of Representatives will be ready to vote on the Articles of Impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte by May 11, House justice committee chairperson and Batangas Second District Rep. Gerville Luistro said.

- [DA denies importation of cabbage, says Palace](#) (2026-05-05 07:55)

The Department of Agriculture has denied that the government is importing cabbage, Malacañang said Tuesday.

- [Brothers Raffy, Erwin Tulfo won't run for higher posts in 2028](#) (2026-05-05 07:21)

The Tulfo siblings will not run for higher posts in the 2028 national and local elections (NLE), Senator Erwin Tulfo said Tuesday.

- [US Tomahawk missile fired from Tacloban hits target in Nueva Ecija -- PH military](#) (2026-05-05 07:21)

A United States Army Tomahawk cruise missile launched from Tacloban Airport struck a designated impact area in Laur, Nueva Ecija early Tuesday morning as part of the Balikatan Exercise, a Philippine military spokesperson confirmed.

- [DepEd tightens heat, safety protocols for 2026 Palarong Pambansa in Agusan del Sur](#) (2026-05-05 05:47)

DepEd tightens heat, safety protocols for 2026 Palarong Pambansa in Agusan del Sur

- [Marcos declares special non-working days in Lapu-Lapu, Cordova for ASEAN Summit 2026](#) (2026-05-05 05:34)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. has declared May 6 to 8 as special non-working days in Lapu-Lapu and Cordova, Cebu amid the ASEAN Summit and Related Summits this month.

- [No hantavirus cases recorded in PH this 2026 -DOH](#) (2026-05-05 05:27)

The Department of Health (DOH) said there had been no cases of hantavirus so far in the country in 2026.

- [Bongbong Marcos disappointed, hasn't spoken with Imee for almost 3 years --Palace](#) (2026-05-05 05:22)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. said he hasn't spoken to his sister, Senator Imee Marcos, for almost three years, noting that the latter has not been attending family gatherings.

- [ASEAN Summit 2026 to focus on energy security, disaster resilience - PCO](#) (2026-05-05 05:20)

The 48th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Leaders' Summit in Cebu later this week will discuss ways on how member states can ensure energy security amid the tensions in the Middle East, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Acting Secretary Dave Gomez said Tuesday.

- [Group files graft, misconduct raps vs DOTr officials over Stradcom contract](#) (2026-05-05 04:55)

A transport group has filed two complaints for graft, grave misconduct, gross neglect of duty, and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service against former and current officials of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) over the alleged unlawful extension of the government contract of IT provider Stradcom Corp.

- [Carpio camp questions House handling of AMLC report, says Mans denied due process](#) (2026-05-05 04:52)

The camp of Manases "Mans" Carpio on Tuesday questioned how lawmakers handled Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) records presented during the House hearing on the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [DILG orders LGUs to ensure orderly movement of fuel amid oil crisis](#) (2026-05-05 04:09)

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) mandated the continuous and orderly movement of fuel amid the oil crisis.

- [ICC Prosecution opposes Duterte's bid to appeal charges](#) (2026-05-05 04:02)

The International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecution has sought the denial of former President Rodrigo Duterte's request to appeal the ruling that confirmed his charges for alleged killings during his time as Davao mayor and as president.

- [Chinese vessel stops shadowing as PH civilian mission sails back to Manila -- Atin Ito](#) (2026-05-05 03:30)

A Chinese vessel stopped shadowing as the Philippine civilian mission in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) sailed back to Manila on Tuesday morning, according to civil society coalition Atin Ito.

- [ADB cites PH among nations with most comprehensive response amid Middle East crisis --PCO](#) (2026-05-05 03:04)

The Asian Development Bank has cited the Philippines as one of the countries with the most extensive and comprehensive responses to the global economic shocks brought by the crisis in the Middle East, the Presidential Communications Office said.

- [Paraguay's president to have bilateral talk with Marcos](#) (2026-05-05 03:00)

Paraguay President Santiago Peña Palacios will undertake an official visit to the Philippines on May 11 following an invitation from President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

- [Sara Duterte prays there will be presidential election in 2028](#) (2026-05-05 01:08)

Vice President Sara Duterte has expressed hope that there will be a presidential election in 2028 and it will be conducted in an honest, orderly, and peaceful manner.

- [Sara Duterte questions lawmakers' 'certainty' on her impeachment](#) (2026-05-05 00:33)

Vice President Sara Duterte has raised concerns over statements made by some lawmakers who expressed certainty that she will be impeached.

- [LIVE UPDATES: Conflict in the Middle East \(May 5, 2026\)](#) (2026-05-04 22:18)

Here are the latest news and updates on the US-Israel war against Iran and related developments.

- [VP Sara Duterte reacts to ICC decisions: 'Best way to move forward is to prepare for trial'](#) (2026-05-04 22:08)

The defense team of former president Rodrigo Duterte, considering the recent decisions of the International Criminal Court (ICC), will have to move on and prepare for trial, said Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [PNP: 104 arrested for cyber offenses in April, 209 cases filed](#) (2026-05-04 20:04)

The Philippine National Police's (PNP) Anti-Cybercrime Group (ACG) arrested 104 individuals in April for various online offenses.

- [LTFRB summons 6 bus operators for not offering fare discounts](#) (2026-05-04 19:35)

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has summoned six bus operators for allegedly failing to provide fare discounts to their passengers under the service contracting program rules.

- [Drug war victims oppose bid to appeal confirmed ICC charges vs Duterte](#) (2026-05-04 17:43)

The common legal representatives of the victims (CLRV) of former President Rodrigo Duterte's war on illegal drugs have objected to his request for leave to appeal the confirmed charges against him.

- [Marcoleta to Romualdez: You can also be mastermind if you tolerated anomalies](#) (2026-05-04 17:14)

Sen. Rodante Marcoleta said ex-Speaker Martin Romualdez may still be considered a mastermind of the flood control corruption if he created or tolerated an environment with anomalies.

- [Raffy Tulfo ties Sara Duterte in Pulse Asia match-up poll; Leni closes in](#) (2026-05-04 14:59)

Sen. Raffy Tulfo tied Vice President Sara Duterte, 46 percentage points apiece, in a Pulse Asia presidential preference poll that pitted the two officials against each other from February 27 to March 2. Results of a similar question that matched Duterte with former Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo showed the Vice President leading her predecessor, 51 to 43.

- [Mans Carpio's camp says P2 billion inflow should only be P2 million, cites bank 'glitch'](#) (2026-05-04 14:10)

A lawyer for Second Gentleman Manases Carpio on Monday said that the reported P2 billion total inflow into his bank for two decades, as reported before the House Committee on Justice's impeachment hearing on Vice President Sara Duterte, should only be P2 million.

- [No jackpot winners for May 5, 2026 major lotto draws - PCSO](#) (2026-05-04 14:01)

No one took home the jackpot prizes in the major lotto draws of the Philippine Charity

Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Monday night, May 5, 2026.

- [Private schools highlight risk of CHED's 'blanket denial' of tuition hike bids](#) (2026-05-04 13:51)

The Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA) on Monday urged the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to adopt a “fair and lawful” review of tuition increase applications, warning that a blanket rejection of petitions from private colleges and universities could hurt both institution and students.

- [Mar Roxas urged to run for president in 2028 polls](#) (2026-05-04 13:23)

Caloocan 2nd District Rep. Edgar Erice is pushing for fellow Liberal Party member and former Interior secretary Mar Roxas to run for president in the 2028 national elections.

- [DMW warns vs illegal recruiters exploiting Middle East crisis](#) (2026-05-04 11:17)

The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) on Monday warned the public against illegal recruiters, traffickers, and syndicates offering job opportunities in the Middle East that may expose workers to undocumented, unsafe, or exploitative conditions abroad.

- [Sotto backs resumption of flood control hearings](#) (2026-05-04 10:38)

Senate President Vicente “Tito” Sotto III on Monday said the investigation of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee into alleged anomalies in flood control projects should continue, noting that several issues involving the 2025 national budget have yet to be fully examined.

- [Bojie Dy pushes for passage of 'Kalinga' law](#) (2026-05-04 10:06)

Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III on Monday pushed for the immediate passage of the Kalinga Act, or the Komprehensibong Alalay sa Livelihood, Inflation, Negosyo, at Goods Assistance Act, in response to the burden brought about by rising oil prices.

- [NWRB rolls out contingency plan amid declining drop in dam water levels](#) (2026-05-04 09:57)

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) on Monday said it has implemented contingency measures in anticipation of a significant drop in dam water levels.

- [Erice to skip VP Sara impeach vote: 'Both Duterte and Marcos rivers lead to hell'](#) (2026-05-04 09:55)

Rep. Edgar Erice said he was not playing both sides over his position not to participate in the expected House plenary vote on the Articles of Impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [DepEd clarifies 3-term calendar, says reform reorganizes school year, not curriculum](#) (2026-05-04 09:36)

The Department of Education (DepEd) has clarified that its planned three-term school calendar for School Year 2026-2027 will reorganize the structure of the academic year, but will not change the curriculum or reduce classroom instruction.

- [Bill filed to remove VAT on system loss charges](#) (2026-05-04 09:28)

A bill seeking to remove the value-added tax (VAT) on system loss charges in electricity bills has been filed in the Senate.

- [Senate impeachment court to convene once articles received on Sara Duterte -Sotto](#) (2026-05-04 09:27)

The Senate will convene as an impeachment court upon receipt of the Articles of Impeachment from the House of Representatives against Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [Senate approves FOI bill](#) (2026-05-04 09:13)

The Senate on Monday approved, on third and final reading, a measure seeking to provide the public with easier access to official government records, documents, and research data.

- [Person files raps against users who posted argument with Matibag online](#) (2026-05-04 08:54)

The person with whom National Bureau of Investigation director Melvin Matibag had an altercation over the phone has filed a complaint with the NBI against individuals who posted what appeared to be a video of the heated exchange that supposedly happened in 2020.

- [SC asks SP Sotto to comment on petition asking to cite him in indirect contempt](#) (2026-05-04 08:52)

The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday directed Senate President Vicente “Tito” Sotto III to comment on a petition asking the High Court to cite him for indirect contempt over his criticisms following the court's ruling on the Articles of Impeachment against Vice President

Sara Duterte.

- [PNP awards over P4.1M to informants of 21 wanted persons](#) (2026-05-04 08:00)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday handed over a total of P4,145,000 in monetary rewards to civilian informants whose tips led to the arrest of 21 wanted persons facing serious criminal charges.

- [Over 50,000 families affected by Mayon's unrest --DSWD](#) (2026-05-04 07:51)

More than 50,000 families are affected by the Mayon Volcano's unrest, with over 1,000 of them in evacuation shelters, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said on Monday.

- [VP Sara Duterte presses perjury complaint vs Madriaga, files reply-affidavit in Taguig](#) (2026-05-04 07:35)

Vice President Sara Duterte on Monday filed her reply-affidavit in the perjury complaint she lodged against Ramil Madriaga, with her legal team insisting they had submitted enough evidence to prove that the jailed witness lied under oath when he linked her to alleged illegal campaign funds and cash deliveries.

- [Erwin Tulfo dismisses Senate coup talks anew](#) (2026-05-04 07:04)

Senator Erwin Tulfo on Monday dismissed speculation of a possible change in Senate leadership amid the anticipated impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [JV Ejercito asks Bato to comment on proposed 'no work, no pay' policy](#) (2026-05-04 04:22)

Senate ethics committee chairperson JV Ejercito said Monday that he asked Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa to comment on the proposal to amend the rules and include the “no work, no pay” policy for absentee senators.

- [LTFRB probes 21 ride-hailing firms over 'bloated' fuel subsidy list](#) (2026-05-04 04:18)

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on Monday issued show cause orders to 21 transport network companies (TNCs) over alleged discrepancies in the number of fuel subsidy beneficiaries.

- [House justice panel approves VP Sara Duterte impeachment for plenary vote](#) (2026-05-04 04:12)

The House Committee on Justice on Monday unanimously approved the committee report with attached resolution setting forth the articles of impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte, clearing the way for the House plenary vote.

- [PNP to receive 17,000 'AI-ready' body cameras](#) (2026-05-04 04:07)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday said it is set to acquire around 17,000 body-worn cameras as part of efforts to improve transparency and accountability in police operations.

- [PNP chief Nartatez: Atong Ang, Zaldy Co arrest 'soon'](#) (2026-05-04 03:41)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday expressed confidence that authorities will eventually arrest businessman Atong Ang and former lawmaker Zaldy Co, who are facing separate high-profile cases.

- [Jay Sonza posts P10,000 bail --lawyer](#) (2026-05-04 03:36)

Former TV host Jay Sonza on Monday posted bail amounting to P10,000 for his temporary liberty, according to lawyer Mark Tolentino.

- [Sotto: Senate to conduct pre-trial after articles of impeachment vs Sara Duterte transmitted](#) (2026-05-04 03:21)

Senate President Vicente “Tito” Sotto III on Monday said the Senate will be holding pre-trial proceedings first before the trial proper, should the House of Representatives transmit the articles of impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [PNP: Focus crimes down by 30% in January-April 2026 compared to same period in 2025](#) (2026-05-04 02:49)

The Philippine National Police said Monday focus crimes declined by 30% from January to April 2026 compared to the same period in 2025, citing the impact of its “Safer Cities” initiative.

- [Marcos: Gov't working on opening thoroughfares amid Mayon unrest](#) (2026-05-04 02:14)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. said Monday the government is working to open all thoroughfares to provide assistance for those affected by Mayon Volcano's unrest.

- [LIVE UPDATES: Conflict in the Middle East \(May 4, 2026\)](#) (2026-05-03 22:43)

Here are the latest news and updates on the US-Israel war against Iran and related developments.

- [Pope Leo XIV names new Urdaneta bishop](#) (2026-05-03 22:16)

Pope Leo XIV has appointed Fr. Nick Vaquilar of the Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia as the new bishop of the Diocese of Urdaneta following the resignation of Urdaneta Bishop Jacinto Jose.

- [LTO summons driver of black van for hit-and-run of traffic enforcer](#) (2026-05-03 21:22)

The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has summoned the driver of a black van involved in the viral hit-and-run of a traffic enforcer.

- [LTO summons driver of SUV over use of illegal blinkers](#) (2026-05-03 18:56)

The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has issued a show cause order (SCO) against the driver of a sports utility vehicle (SUV) for illegally using red and blue blinkers.

- [For executing counterflow, bus driver gets into trouble with LTO](#) (2026-05-03 17:49)

The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has called out a bus driver who went viral online for executing a counterflow on a public road.

- [Senate to take up anti-political dynasty, LEDAC measures upon resuming session](#) (2026-05-03 14:32)

The Senate is expected to act on various measures such as the proposed Anti-Dynasty Law and the priority measures endorsed by the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) as it resumes session on Monday, May 4.

- [PCSO: No jackpot winners for May 3, 2026 major lotto draws](#) (2026-05-03 14:08)

No one won the jackpot prizes in the major lotto draws of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Sunday, May 3.

- [Marcos orders full government response to Mayon ashfall](#) (2026-05-03 12:00)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. has ordered the rapid deployment of government assistance to the communities affected by the ashfall from Mayon Volcano's unrest.

- [Jay Sonza to post bail, says NBI](#) (2026-05-03 11:41)

The court has allowed former TV host Jay Sonza to post a P10,000 bail following his arrest last week, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) confirmed on Sunday.

- [ICC Trial Chamber orders submissions on Rodrigo Duterte detention review](#) (2026-05-03 09:03)

The International Criminal Court (ICC) Trial Chamber III has directed concerned parties to submit their observations on the continued detention of former president Rodrigo Duterte by May 8, following the confirmation of charges against him.

- [Imee calls on gov't to pursue G2G oil procurement](#) (2026-05-03 08:49)

Senator Imee Marcos called on the government to pursue direct government-to-government (G2G) oil procurement to cushion the impact of the oil crisis brought by the tensions in the Middle East.

- [Erice eyes SC petition on anti-dynasty law, doubts Congress will pass measure](#) (2026-05-03 08:39)

Caloocan Rep. Edgar Erice said Sunday he is considering filing a petition before the Supreme Court to push for an Anti-Political Dynasty Law, citing doubts that Congress will approve the measure.

- [House panel to adopt, send VP Sara impeachment report to plenary on May 4](#) (2026-05-03 08:20)

The House Committee on Justice is expected to adopt its committee report finding probable cause to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte on Monday, May 4, 2026.

- [CAAP issues flight safety advisory for Mayon Volcano amid eruption](#) (2026-05-03 07:31)

The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines on Sunday issued a flight safety advisory for the Mayon Volcano in Legazpi, Albay that erupted during the weekend.

- [Erice to skip vote on VP Sara impeachment](#) (2026-05-03 06:50)

Caloocan Representative Edgar Erice on Sunday said he will not take part in the voting of the House of Representatives on the impeachment complaint against Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [PCG: Aircraft, vessels sent after 4 Chinese ships operating illegally in PH waters](#)
(2026-05-03 04:35)

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) will deploy aircraft and vessels after detecting four Chinese research ships conducting illegal maritime scientific research in the waters off Batanes, Palawan and Pangasinan.

- [7,300-strong security force deployed for ASEAN Summit 2026 in Cebu](#) (2026-05-03 03:34)

More than 7,300 personnel were deployed to handle security and emergency response for the 48th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Leaders' Summit in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, from May 7 to 8, 2026.

- [Who is Melchor Carandang, the deputy ombudsman dismissed by Duterte admin?](#)
(2026-05-03 03:22)

The Supreme Court recently voided the dismissal of then overall deputy ombudsman Melchor Arthur Carandang following his investigation into the wealth of former president Rodrigo Duterte and his family.

- [Approval of 2 LEDAC bills eyed as House resumes sessions this week --Sandro Marcos](#)
(2026-05-03 01:43)

The House of Representatives aims to approve two Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council priority measures as it resumes session this week, House Majority Leader Sandro Marcos said.

- [PH civilian mission plants PH flag on Pagasa Cay 2 amid Chinese vessels' presence](#)
(2026-05-03 00:51)

Civil society coalition Atin Ito on Sunday planted the Philippine flag on Pagasa Cay 2 (Sandy Cay) in the West Philippine Sea during its 4th civilian mission amid the heavy presence of Chinese vessels.

- [LIVE UPDATES: Conflict in the Middle East \(May 3, 2026\)](#) (2026-05-02 22:50)

Here are the latest news and updates on the US-Israel war against Iran and related developments.

- [US, Philippines deploy anti-ship missile system in Batanes near Taiwan for war games](#)
(2026-05-02 18:14)

BATANES, Philippines - Philippine and US forces on Saturday showcased the NMESIS anti-ship missile system in Batanes province, near Taiwan, during annual war games, as tensions simmer over the self-governed island that China views as its own territory.

- [Lotto 6/42 bettor wins P35.4M jackpot](#) (2026-05-02 16:25)

A bettor scooped the Lotto 6/42 jackpot worth P35.4 million on Saturday night.

- [Tour of St. Carlo Acutis' relic in Visayas set for November and December](#) (2026-05-02 13:28)

The relic of St. Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint, will return to the Philippines to visit churches in the Visayas. I

- [Why PH mission's China-made drone failed to take off in WPS](#) (2026-05-02 13:25)

One of the most notable incidents during the Atin Ito 4th Civilian Mission was the failure of its drones to take flight.

- [Malacañang approves Sara Duterte's travel for May 2 to 15](#) (2026-05-02 10:27)

The Office of the President (OP) has approved the rescheduled travel of Vice President Sara Duterte, Palace Press Officer Undersecretary Atty. Claire Castro said Saturday.

- [PCG issues radio challenges to China Coast Guard vessel near Pag-asa Island](#) (2026-05-02 10:16)

A Chinese Coast Guard ship allegedly shadowed a Filipino vessel as the Philippine Coast Guard conducted a mission in the Kalayaan Island Group, PCG Rear Admiral Jay Tarriela said Saturday.

- [Over 50,000 TNVS, MC taxi drivers found 'colorum' during aid distribution](#) (2026-05-02 08:39)

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) has uncovered thousands of Transport Network Vehicle Service (TNVS) drivers and motorcycle taxi riders are operating without franchises or are deemed “colorum” during payouts of the government's cash aid to transport sector workers amid rising fuel costs.

- [Impeachment process vs VP Sara 'stress test' for PH democracy - lawyer](#) (2026-05-02 07:33)

The impeachment process against Vice President Sara Duterte would be a “stress test” of whether Philippine democracy and its institutions can withstand political pressure, according to a human rights lawyer on Saturday.

- [SC scraps Duterte admin's order dismissing Carandang as Deputy Ombudsman](#) (2026-05-02 07:17)

The Supreme Court has voided the dismissal from service of then-Overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Arthur Carandang following his probe into the wealth of former President Rodrigo Duterte.

- [Who will be the prosecutors in VP Sara Duterte's impeachment trial?](#) (2026-05-02 06:00)

Bicol Saro Party-list Representative Terry Ridon on Saturday named the possible members of the House prosecution team for the anticipated Senate impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [106 votes to impeach Sara 'not difficult to surmount' -- Ridon](#) (2026-05-02 05:55)

A member of the House justice committee on Saturday expressed confidence that the lower chamber can muster sufficient votes to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [Motorcycle taxi riders group renews call for passage of MC Taxi law](#) (2026-05-02 03:05)

A motorcycle taxi (MC) riders' group has called on lawmakers anew to finally pass the long-delayed Motorcycle Taxi Bill, urging government to craft a law that recognizes riders as independent transport workers and protects their right to earn a living with dignity.

- [Cop dismissed from service over grave misconduct in ex-wife Mollenido, son killing](#) (2026-05-02 02:39)

A police officer was dismissed from service after being found liable for grave misconduct for his acts related to the handling of the deaths of his ex-wife Police Senior Master Sergeant Diane Marie Mollenido and her son, the National Police Commission said.

- [LIVE UPDATES: Conflict in the Middle East \(May 2, 2026\)](#) (2026-05-01 22:52)

Here are the latest news and updates on the US-Israel war against Iran and related developments.

- [Qualified OFWs to get additional Civil Service exam points starting 2026](#) (2026-05-01 16:42)

In a social media post, the CSC said a resolution it recently passed (CSC Resolution No. 2600596) paves the way for qualified OFWs who obtain a general rating of not lower than 70.00 to be granted additional civil service exam points, subject to the commission's guidelines.

- [NBI affidavit recommends charges vs. VP Sara for grave threat, sedition](#) (2026-05-01 14:17)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has recommended the filing of three counts of grave threat and one count of inciting to sedition against Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [No winners of major lotto draws on Friday, May 1, 2026](#) (2026-05-01 13:55)

There were no winners of either of the major lotto jackpots offered on Friday, May 1, 2026, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) announced.

- [Philippine mission's China-made drone won't fly in West Philippine Sea](#) (2026-05-01 13:20)

A China-made drone for a Filipino civilian mission to the West Philippine Sea would not take off, as it received prompts that required the operator to register the unit with Chinese authorities.

- [House justice panel preparing report on VP Sara impeachment case](#) (2026-05-01 11:52)

The committee report of the House Committee on Justice that will contain the resolution and Articles of Impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte is now being drafted.

- [SHS graduates get priority access to Labor Day job fairs via 'Green Lane'](#) (2026-05-01 10:36)

Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) rolled out dedicated “Green Lanes” to help them secure jobs faster.

- [Lacson, Cayetano disagree over partial Blue Ribbon report](#) (2026-05-01 10:16)

Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo "Ping" Lacson and Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano expressed differing views about the partial committee report of the Blue Ribbon Committee regarding its flood control investigation.

- [Philippine embassy aware of Zaldy Co in France but can't investigate, arrest him](#) (2026-05-01 10:02)

The Philippine Embassy in Paris has reason to believe Zaldy Co is in France and supposedly has

properties in the country, but may not conduct surveillance or arrest him, Ambassador to France Eduardo de Vega said.

- [PH civilian mission advance team reached Pag-asa Island in West PH Sea -- Atin Ito](#) (2026-05-01 09:03)

The advance party of the fourth Philippine civilian mission in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) arrived on Pag-asa Island Friday afternoon, according to civil society coalition Atin Ito.

- [HOW MUCH? Philippines minimum wage rates, ranked from highest to lowest](#) (2026-05-01 08:51)

The Labor Code of the Philippines provides that the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board are tasked “to determine and fix minimum wage rates applicable in their regions, provinces, or industries therein, and to issue the corresponding wage orders” subject to the guidelines issued by the National Wages and Productivity Commission.

- [Jay Sonza transferred to NBI facility in Muntinlupa](#) (2026-05-01 08:43)

Former TV host Jay Sonza was transferred Friday from the headquarters of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in Pasay to its facility in the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City, his lawyer said.

- [EXPLAINER: Is the charge against Jay Sonza non-bailable? Lawyers weigh in](#) (2026-05-01 07:51)

TV host Jay Sonza was recently arrested in Quezon City for spreading false information regarding the health of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The Pasay Regional Trial Court (RTC) stated in the arrest warrant issued against him that his case is not bailable. However, National Union of Peoples' Lawyers (NUPL) President Ephraim Cortez believes that the charges should be bailable under the country's laws.

- [PCO: Jay Sonza's arrest shows gov't effort to guard the truth](#) (2026-05-01 07:03)

The Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said Friday the arrest of former TV host Jay Sonza by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) reflected the government's commitment to fighting online abuse and purveyors of fake news.

- [PNP: Labor Day 2026 protests peaceful so far](#) (2026-05-01 07:01)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Friday said Labor Day protests across the country have

been “peaceful” so far, with no untoward incidents reported as of its latest monitoring.

- [Raps filed vs. DOH usec over gov't contracts won by brother's firm; official denies](#) (2026-05-01 06:24)

A group identified as Concerned Health Workers has filed complaints with the Office of the Ombudsman against Health Undersecretary Glen Baggao over government contracts won by his brother's construction firm.

- [US issues security alert after 2 Americans killed in Negros clash](#) (2026-05-01 05:23)

The United States Embassy in Manila on Friday issued a security alert for its citizens in the Philippines following the deaths of two Americans in a reported clash in Toboso, Negros Occidental.

- [DepEd targets 2.4M private school subsidy beneficiaries for SY 2026-2027](#) (2026-05-01 03:06)

The Department of Education (DepEd) said more than 2.4 million students are expected to benefit from government subsidies for private education in School Year 2026-2027, as the agency expands assistance for low-income learners enrolled in private schools.

- [Jay Sonza's camp to question non-bailable warrant, says it's 'highly irregular'](#) (2026-05-01 02:43)

The camp of arrested TV host Jay Sonza on Friday said they will question the issuance of a non-bailable warrant against him, saying this is “highly irregular” for the minor offense of unlawful publication.

- [Marcos vows more and better jobs on Labor Day 2026](#) (2026-05-01 02:29)

In commemoration of this year's Labor Day, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Friday renewed his commitment to provide more and better jobs for Filipinos despite the economic pressures the country currently faces.

- [China Coast Guard vessel shadows PH civilian mission in West PH Sea --Atin Ito](#) (2026-05-01 01:34)

A China Coast Guard (CCG) vessel was spotted shadowing a Philippine civilian mission bound for Pag-asa Island in the West Philippine Sea on Friday morning, civil society coalition Atin Ito said.

- [NAPOLCOM: 11 cops in missing sabungeros case ordered dismissed over alleged abductions in 2021](#) (2026-05-01 00:50)

The National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) has ordered the dismissal from the service of 11 police officers allegedly linked to the missing sabungeros over separate alleged abduction incidents in 2021.

- [LIVE UPDATES: Conflict in the Middle East \(May 1, 2026\)](#) (2026-05-01 00:39)

Here are the latest news and updates on the US-Israel war against Iran and related developments.

- [Workers groups gather for nationwide Labor Day 2026 protests](#) (2026-05-01 00:20)

Various workers' groups gathered across the country on Friday to mark Labor Day 2026, staging rallies and preparing for marches to press for higher wages, job security, and other demands.

- [Inflation, wage hike top concerns of Pinoys even before Middle East conflict -OCTA](#) (2026-05-01 00:03)

Even before the fuel price shock brought by the Middle East conflict, Filipinos are already concerned about controlling the increase in prices of basic goods and services and increasing the salaries of workers, according to the results of an OCTA Research survey released Friday.

Source: PhilStar Global

- [Weekend storm watch begins: 'Hagupit' nears Philippines' vicinity](#) (2026-05-08 01:06)

PAGASA says the storm could enter by Saturday night or Sunday morning.

- [Price Tracker: Oil, fuel monitor for May 8](#) (2026-05-07 23:30)

Here are the reported benchmark prices and range for May 8.

- [Quake jolts Davao Oriental](#) (2026-05-07 16:00)

A magnitude-5.6 earthquake jolted Davao Oriental on Wednesday night, with aftershocks expected to follow, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

- [Firing of US Typhon missile during Balikatan hit](#) (2026-05-07 16:00)

Militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan Eastern Visayas chapter has condemned the firing of a US Typhon mid-range capability missile system during the Philippines-US Balikatan Exercises.

- [PNP limits inspection of relief convoys for Mayon evacuees](#) (2026-05-07 16:00)

To ensure that relief supplies will immediately reach Albay communities affected by the eruption of Mayon Volcano, the Philippine National Police (PNP) has prohibited local police chiefs from conducting unnecessary inspection of humanitarian convoys.

- [DPWH official charged for delayed flood project](#) (2026-05-07 16:00)

Complaints have been filed against a former official of the Department of Public Works and Highways in the Cordilleras and a contractor in connection with the delayed completion of a flood-control project in Mountain Province.

- [BARMM poll COC filing smooth, orderly](#) (2026-05-07 16:00)

No untoward incident has been recorded during the three-day filing of certificates of candidacy for the first parliamentary election in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

- [2 women caught with P56.6 million shabu at NAIA](#) (2026-05-07 16:00)

Over eight kilos of shabu valued at P56.6 million were seized from two women who were arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1 on Wednesday.

- [‘Gas-and-run’ suspect surrenders](#) (2026-05-07 16:00)

After police launched an intensified manhunt for his arrest, a motorist who fled without paying P1,500 worth of fuel at a gas station in Quezon City surrendered to authorities on Wednesday night.

- [3 dead in Taguig fires](#) (2026-05-07 16:00)

Two fires broke out in Taguig on Wednesday, leaving three people dead after being trapped at their home.

- [BOC: No bidders for 6 luxury cars](#) (2026-05-07 16:00)

With the country already facing economic challenges, the Bureau of Customs yesterday failed to auction off six luxury cars that would have added P69.8million to the BOC’s coffers.

- [NBI chief: No politics in Mabanta’s arrest](#) (2026-05-07 16:00)

The National Bureau of Investigation yesterday dismissed allegations that the arrest of political content creator Franco Mabanta and four others was politically motivated, insisting that the operation was based on evidence of extortion.

- [COC filing for BARMM parliament aspirants smooth, orderly](#) (2026-05-07 11:19)

All went well in the three-day filing of certificates of candidacy at the Commission on Elections by candidates for the Bangsamoro 80-seat parliament, a requisite for the first-ever September 14 parliamentary polls in the autonomous region.

- [Marcos, Brunei sultan, ASEAN leaders land in Cebu for summit](#) (2026-05-07 07:18)

ASEAN leaders arrive in Cebu as energy security and economic uncertainty dominate summit agenda.

- [Batangas lawmakers close ranks, file reso vs Leviste's House speech](#) (2026-05-07 02:42)

Lawmakers from five of six Batangas districts filed a resolution defending the executive secretary and provincial governor.

- [Tropical storm may enter PAR by weekend, to be named 'Caloy'](#) (2026-05-07 02:30)

Tropical Storm "Hagupit" may enter the Philippine area of responsibility between Saturday evening and Sunday morning, state weather bureau PAGASA said Thursday, May 7.

- [Price Tracker: Oil, fuel monitor for May 7](#) (2026-05-07 00:10)

Fuel prices are tracking a mixed direction for next week, with diesel poised for a possible rollback while gasoline may climb again.

- [MILF-linked party accredited for BARMM elections](#) (2026-05-06 16:00)

The Commission on Elections has accredited the United Bangsamoro Justice Party (UBJP) as a regional parliamentary political party in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

- [Irrigation supply for Central Luzon farms Extended](#) (2026-05-06 16:00)

A request to extend water allocation for Bustos Dam for the irrigation needs for some farmlands in Bulacan and Pampanga has been approved by the National Water Resources Board.

- [8,544 hectares of Albay land areas hit by ashfall](#) (2026-05-06 16:00)

Up to 8,544 hectares of land areas in Albay have been affected by ashfall following the recent eruption of Mayon Volcano, based on satellite images mapping analysis by the Philippine Space Agency. PhilSA said the extent of areas blanketed by the volcanic ash is equivalent to about half the size of Quezon City.

- [Storm may enter PAR this week](#) (2026-05-06 16:00)

A tropical storm with the international name Hagupit is likely to enter the Philippine area of responsibility this week.

- [Work at Cebu courts suspended for ASEAN Summit](#) (2026-05-06 16:00)

Work at the first and second level courts in the cities of Mandaue and Cebu is suspended until tomorrow in line with the holding of the 48th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit and Related Meetings, the Supreme Court announced yesterday.

- [4 HPG cops probed for extortion](#) (2026-05-06 16:00)

Four members of the police Highway Patrol Group are being investigated after a transport network vehicle service driver accused them of extortion.

- [Brigada Eskwela set from June 1 to 5](#) (2026-05-06 16:00)

Schools will be cleaned and repaired from June 1 to 5 for the opening of classes on June 8, according to Education Secretary Sonny Angara.

- [DOH: No Pinoy infected with hantavirus](#) (2026-05-06 16:00)

None of the 38 Filipino crewmen on a quarantined cruise ship in Cabo Verde is exhibiting symptoms of hantavirus, according to the Department of Health (DOH).

- [6 in 10 Pinoys trust PNP – OCTA](#) (2026-05-06 16:00)

Six in 10 Filipinos trust and were satisfied with the performance of the Philippine National Police (PNP), according to a survey of the OCTA Research group.

- [DPWH: Navotas fire out in 5 more days](#) (2026-05-06 16:00)

After almost a month of firefighting, the Navotas sanitary landfill blaze will be extinguished by May 11, according to the Department of Public Works and Highways.

- [Price Tracker: Oil, fuel monitor for May 6](#) (2026-05-05 23:30)

Fuel prices rose again as the government reported on how transport and household costs contributed to rapid April inflation.

- [PNP imposes 3-strike policy on ‘gas-and-run’](#) (2026-05-05 16:00)

The Philippine National Police will impose a three-strike policy against police commanders for failure to address “gas-and-run” incidents.

- [Police identify suspect in billiards patron’s slay](#) (2026-05-05 16:00)

Police have identified one of the two assailants who killed billiards patron and businessman Ceferino “Perry” Mariano and his driver in an ambush in Quezon City.

- [Cash reward offered for arrest of Lanao cop killers](#) (2026-05-05 16:00)

The governor of Lanao del Sur has offered a cash reward for any information that can lead to the arrest of three suspects in the killing of a policeman in the town of Buadiposo-Buntong on Monday.

- [Government eyeing to boost hog repopulation](#) (2026-05-05 16:00)

The Department of Agriculture is planning to procure around 32,000 gilts or female pigs that have not yet given birth, to intensify hog repopulation and speed up recovery from the impact

of African swine fever.

- [US fires missile during Balikatan](#) (2026-05-05 16:00)

The United States fired its Typhon mid-range capability missile system in the country for the first time, launching a Tomahawk cruise missile from Tacloban shortly after midnight yesterday.

- [Security in Eastern Samar intensified following strong quake](#) (2026-05-05 16:00)

To maximize disaster response in Eastern Samar following the occurrence of a magnitude-6 earthquake on Monday, police intensified visibility and security operations in the province.

- [Prelate declines appointment to head Bohol diocese](#) (2026-05-05 16:00)

A priest has declined Pope Leo XIV's appointment for him to head the Diocese of Tagbilaran in Bohol.

- [Mayon ashfall affects 132 schools](#) (2026-05-05 16:00)

Volcanic ash has blanketed up to 132 schools in Albay following the recent eruption of Mayon Volcano, which displaced 52,590 families who are now staying in evacuation centers.

- [‘Navotas landfill fire halfway contained’](#) (2026-05-05 16:00)

More than half of the fire-stricken area at the old Navotas sanitary landfill has been contained, Mayor John Rey Tiangco said on Monday.

- [More motorcycle taxi firms summoned](#) (2026-05-05 16:00)

Nine more motorcycle taxi firms have been summoned by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board over the investigation into alleged “tempo” drivers.

- [Batanes fishers get new high-capacity vessel, fuel subsidies](#) (2026-05-05 10:43)

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has taken crucial steps to strengthen fishing communities in the country's northernmost province, providing local fishers a new fishing vessel and fuel subsidies as oil prices remain at record highs.

- [P6.6-M worth of cannabis shrubs destroyed in Kalinga](#) (2026-05-05 10:27)

About P6.6 million worth of marijuana shrubs were destroyed in a two-day eradication operation in Tinglayan, Kalinga from Sunday to Monday.

- [Authorities offer reward vs 3 suspects in Lanao del Sur police clash](#) (2026-05-05 10:18)

The governor of Lanao del Sur has offered a cash reward for any information on the whereabouts of three wanted men who killed a policeman and wounded four others during a law enforcement operation in Buadiposo-Buntong town on Monday morning, May 4.

- [Suspension of port fee collection from BARMM seafarers sought](#) (2026-05-05 09:52)

Five members of the 80-seat Bangsamoro Parliament have drafted a resolution seeking the suspension of the P10 terminal fee collected by a regional government agency from each passenger of boats operating in the autonomous region.

- [Priest named new Tagbilaran bishop declines position](#) (2026-05-05 02:26)

A priest recently tapped to be the new bishop of the Diocese of Tagbilaran has announced his decision not to accept the post.

- [Price Tracker: Oil, fuel monitor for May 5](#) (2026-05-04 23:00)

Fuel prices will increase again on Tuesday, May 5, with diesel and gasoline both set for hikes of more than P2 per liter.

- [Jay Sonza ordered freed after posting P10,000 bail](#) (2026-05-04 16:00)

Former broadcaster Jay Sonza was ordered released from detention yesterday after posting bail of P10,000 in connection with a case of unlawful publication he is facing before a Pasay court.

- [Quezon City unveils more e-buses](#) (2026-05-04 16:00)

The Quezon City government has acquired an additional eight electric buses for its free rides program.

- [500 Obando evacuees return home](#) (2026-05-04 16:00)

As the air quality in two coastal villages in Obando has improved the past few days, about 500 people who sought shelter at the town's evacuation centers returned to their houses yesterday.

- [1 cop killed, 4 wounded in Lanao warrant service](#) (2026-05-04 16:00)

A police officer died while four others were wounded in a clash while serving a warrant of arrest in Buadiposo Buntong town in Lanao del Sur yesterday.

- [Magnitude 6.0 quake jolts Eastern Samar](#) (2026-05-04 16:00)

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck Eastern Samar yesterday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology reported.

- [COC filing in BARMM starts today](#) (2026-05-04 16:00)

The filing of certificates of candidacy or COC for district representatives in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao will begin today, the Commission on Elections announced.

- [AFP: Probe killings of 60 Negros civilians](#) (2026-05-04 16:00)

A group of former New People's Army rebels has asked the Commission on Human Rights and other government bodies to investigate the killing of at least 60 people on Negros Island since

last year, claiming the killing has evolved into an unprecedented pattern.

- [Cop sacked for ‘rape’ of unconscious woman](#) (2026-05-04 16:00)

For allegedly raping an unconscious woman at a motel in Manila in December last year, a patrolman has been dismissed from the police service.

- [Former, current transport execs face graft raps](#) (2026-05-04 16:00)

Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez is facing a complaint for graft before the Office of the Ombudsman over alleged irregularities in the continued collection of computer fees from motorists.

- [GSIS offers e-bike loan to ease transport costs](#) (2026-05-04 16:00)

The Government Service Insurance System yesterday rolled out a loan facility, which aims to help GSIS members reduce daily transportation costs and fuel expenses.

- [P52-M worth of smuggled cigarettes seized in Davao Oriental](#) (2026-05-04 09:47)

A Navy team and police officers seized P52 million worth of imported cigarettes in a seaborne anti-smuggling operation in the municipal waters of Governor Generoso, Davao Oriental, on Friday night, May 1.

- [4 cops wounded, 1 dead in botched Lanao del Sur operation](#) (2026-05-04 09:38)

Five policemen were wounded in a clash with a wanted person and his heavily armed accomplices in Barangay Lumbak, Buadiposo-Buntong, Lanao del Sur on Monday morning, May 4, with one of the injured officers later dying.

- [BARMM marks Labor Day with outreach benefiting thousands](#) (2026-05-04 09:10)

More than 20 jobseekers were hired by various establishments, while three programs of the Bangsamoro labor ministry received cash grants as operational support during its Labor Day commemoration on Friday, May 1.

- [Marcos teases Philippine General Hospital groundbreaking in Cavite](#) (2026-05-04 07:00)

A Philippine General Hospital branch in Carmona, Cavite is set to break ground this May.

- [Magnitude 6.1 quake strikes Eastern Samar; aftershocks expected](#) (2026-05-04 06:45)

A magnitude 6.1 quake struck near San Julian, Eastern Samar.

- [Mayon ashfall: Albay cleanup straining water supply](#) (2026-05-04 01:55)

Water supplies are running low in parts of Albay, as cleanup efforts for Mayon ashfall intensify.

- [Price Tracker: Oil, fuel monitor for May 4](#) (2026-05-04 01:00)

The stretch of fuel price rollbacks seen in late April is expected to give way to renewed increases in early May.

- [DENR probes compliance audit of Navotas landfill](#) (2026-05-03 16:00)

An investigation has been launched on the compliance audit on the operations of the Navotas sanitary landfill, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

- [Benguet trekking trails reopen](#) (2026-05-03 16:00)

Outdoor activities are back in this upland town as the local government lifted the suspension of trekking activities and reopened the eco-tourism sites starting on Friday.

- [Ilocos' Kaliwet Bailey bridge collapses](#) (2026-05-03 16:00)

A section of the Kaliwet Bailey bridge in Santo Domingo town in Ilocos Sur collapsed on Saturday after an overloaded 10-wheeler truck crossed the structure, the Department of Public Works and Highways reported.

- [Group seeks SC help in resolving BARMM poll issues](#) (2026-05-03 16:00)

A group from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao called on the Supreme Court to resolve issues related to the BARMM elections in September.

- [Palace declares Digos holiday](#) (2026-05-03 16:00)

Malacañang has declared May 8 a special non-working day in Digos City in Davao del Sur for the celebration of the Apobay Festival.

- [Mayon eruption affects 52 Albay villages](#) (2026-05-03 16:00)

At least 52 barangays in several towns in Albay were affected by thick ashfall, after Mayon Volcano erupted on Saturday, the Office of Civil Defense said.

- [Marikina shoes tapped for Miss Universe Philippines](#) (2026-05-03 16:00)

Locally made footwear from Marikina were worn by the candidates of Miss Universe Philippines 2026, putting the country's shoe capital back in the spotlight.

- [Tondo Church declared minor basilica on May 11](#) (2026-05-03 16:00)

Apostolic Nuncio Charles John Brown will preside over the eucharistic celebration for the declaration of the Archdiocesan Shrine and Parish of Santo Niño de Tondo as a minor basilica on May 11.

- [Dizon orders review of National Building Code](#) (2026-05-03 16:00)

Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon has ordered a long overdue review of the National Building Code, nearly five decades after it was enacted.

- [Qualified OFWs get preference rating in civil service exams](#) (2026-05-03 16:00)

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has approved a new preference rating system for qualified overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) taking the civil service examination, beginning with the Aug. 9 test schedule.

- [Cotabato illegal mine site closed](#) (2026-05-03 08:49)

The provincial government of Cotabato has cracked down on "guerrilla-style" open-pit miners in the mineral-rich Barangay Kanibong in Tulum town and is keen on prosecuting those behind the operation.

- [Women's peace coursework at MSU-Maguindanao in full swing](#) (2026-05-03 06:55)

Peace advocates and entities involved in women's empowerment programs want the 12-month academic coursework at Mindanao State University–Maguindanao replicated in other state-run schools in Region 12.

- [Army's 4th Infantry Division gets new commander](#) (2026-05-03 04:09)

Local executives in Region 10 have assured their support for the peacekeeping goals of the new commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, as they did with his now retired predecessor, whose post he assumed on Wednesday, April 29.

- [Drug dealer from Davao del Sur entrapped in Basilan](#) (2026-05-03 03:17)

Combined agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency–Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, police officers, and local officials entrapped a shabu dealer from Davao del Sur province in Lantawan City, Basilan, on Friday, May 1.

- [10th Infantry Division launches new camp facilities](#) (2026-05-03 02:53)

The public service efforts of the Army's 10th Infantry Division received a boost with the opening of new camp facilities and the acquisition of a bus to transport soldiers, supporting the reintegration of hundreds of former New People's Army guerrillas into mainstream society.

- [Mayon keeps Alert Level 3 amid ash fall](#) (2026-05-03 01:51)

Mayon Volcano remained at Alert Level 3 after spewing a cloud of ash and debris across Bicol, state seismologists from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.

- [P12 million smuggled cigarettes seized in Davao Oriental](#) (2026-05-02 16:00)

Smuggled cigarettes valued at P12 million were seized in a police operation in Governor Generoso town in Davao Oriental on Friday.

- [Elderly dies in Bukidnon mishap](#) (2026-05-02 16:00)

A 62-year-old man died after his motorcycle collided with an ambulance in Manolo Fortich town in Bukidnon on Thursday night.

- [Angat asked to extend irrigation allocation for Central Luzon farms](#) (2026-05-02 16:00)

Operators of Angat Dam have been asked to extend the allocation of irrigation water for rice farms in Bulacan and parts of Pampanga as there are still about 5,000 hectares of farmlands with standing crops that need to be irrigated.

- [Cop axed over slain wife, son' s cremation](#) (2026-05-02 16:00)

A police officer has been dismissed from the service for authorizing the immediate cremation of the bodies of his murdered estranged wife and son.

- [Raps filed vs Yansons for ' forcing ' workers to resign](#) (2026-05-02 16:00)

Three members of the Yanson family, owner and operator of the largest transport fleet in the Visayas and Mindanao, have been charged with three counts each of grave coercion for allegedly forcing 42 employees to resign.

- [Mayon slopes collapse due to lava flow](#) (2026-05-02 16:00)

Mayon Volcano in Albay erupted yesterday afternoon, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said.

- [Parañaque passes 'Right to Care' ordinance](#) (2026-05-02 16:00)

Parañaque has passed an ordinance requiring hospitals and medical institutions to recognize health care proxies, making it the third local government unit in Metro Manila to adopt the “Right to Care” policy.

- [Quezon City partners with TikTok, PCCI for MSME development](#) (2026-05-02 16:00)

The Quezon City government has partnered with short-form video platform TikTok and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry-QC to equip micro, small and medium enterprise with skills to navigate the country' s growing digital economy.

- [Police to receive P800 million body-worn cameras](#) (2026-05-02 16:00)

The Philippine National Police is set to receive this month P800 million worth of body-worn cameras to boost the PNP' s operational response under the Unified 911 emergency response system.

- [PNP vows justice for cops injured in metro rallies](#) (2026-05-02 16:00)

Stressing that violence has no place in a civilized society, Philippine National Police chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. vowed to hold accountable the people who assaulted seven PNP officers during the Labor Day protests in Manila on Friday.

- [On Naga stage, Vice Ganda pleads to Leni Robredo on election plans](#) (2026-05-02 05:10)

Comedian's onstage appeal draws cheers as he revived calls for the ex-vice president to run again.

- [Group awaits accreditation as list of BARMM poll bets set to be finalized](#) (2026-05-02 02:36)

The United Bangsamoro Justice Party (UBJP) has yet to obtain final accreditation from the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) for the first-ever Bangsamoro Parliamentary Elections on September 14.

- [School exec gunned down](#) (2026-05-01 16:00)

A school district supervisor was killed in an attack by two unidentified assailants in Alicia, Zamboanga Sibugay on Thursday night.

- [Rider dies in Bulacan vehicular mishap](#) (2026-05-01 16:00)

A rider died when his motorcycle collided with a trailer truck in Meycauayan, Bulacan on Thursday night.

- [Pangasinan dam project nearing completion](#) (2026-05-01 16:00)

The construction of the Paitan Dam project in this town is almost complete, strengthening irrigation capacity in southern areas in the province amid threats of El Niño.

- [2 tropical cyclones seen to enter PAR this month](#) (2026-05-01 16:00)

State meteorologists are expecting two tropical cyclones to enter the Philippine area of responsibility this month.

- [21 sectoral groups accredited for BARMM polls](#) (2026-05-01 16:00)

In the latest review of petitions for party registration and accreditation, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) has accredited 21 sectoral organizations to participate in the first parliamentary election in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

- [Bohol's antingaw ranks second in international mollusk contest](#) (2026-05-01 16:00)

Bohol's rock-eating shipworm antingaw or Lithoredo abatanica placed second in the 2026 International Mollusk of the Year competition, according to the University of the Philippines-Marine Science Institute.

- [3 die in Quezon fire](#) (2026-05-01 16:00)

Three people died in a fire that struck a residential area in Gumaca, Quezon yesterday morning.

- [CA settles Batanes' 37-year boundary dispute](#) (2026-05-01 16:00)

The Court of Appeals has settled a boundary dispute between the municipalities of Ivana and Uyugan in Batanes that had been ongoing for 37 years.

- [San Juan Medical Center a priority – Zamora](#) (2026-05-01 16:00)

San Juan Mayor Francis Zamora defended the San Juan Medical Center, citing increased funding and ongoing upgrades for the SJMC amid criticisms of its condition.

- [Angara: 2.4 million students to benefit from subsidies](#) (2026-05-01 16:00)

Some 2.4 million students will benefit from government subsidies under the expanded government assistance to students and teachers in private education, including the 1.47 million covered under the senior high school voucher program for school year 2026-2027.

- [Education official shot dead in Zamboanga Sibugay](#) (2026-05-01 10:17)

Gunmen shot dead a school district supervisor in an attack in Barangay Dawa-Dawa in Alicia, Zamboanga Sibugay on Thursday night, April 30.

Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer

- [INQUIRER.net journalist wins global award for health reporting](#) (2026-05-08 13:47)

MANILA, Philippines — An INQUIRER.net data journalist won the grand prize in the online category at the Merck Foundation Media Recognition Awards 2025 for her reporting on diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease affecting Filipinos. Cristina Eloisa Bacilig won first place for work highlighting the growing burden of noncommunicable diseases in the Philippines and translating complex

- [Solons slam Leviste: Privilege speech is for truth, not baseless claims](#) (2026-05-08 13:13)

MANILA, Philippines — More lawmakers holding key positions in the House of Representatives have called out Batangas Rep. Leandro Leviste over his unparliamentary actions during a plenary session, saying that House members are given the opportunity to deliver speeches so that they can speak the truth and not make baseless claims. In a statement on Friday,

- [Minor phreatic eruption recorded at Taal Volcano](#) (2026-05-08 12:46)

LUCENA CITY — Taal Volcano recorded a minor phreatic, or steam-driven, eruption early Friday morning, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs). In its latest bulletin, Phivolcs said the eruption at the volcano's main crater occurred at 4:46 a.m., although the agency did not specify how long the activity lasted. The event,

- [LTO chief catches 'reckless' taxi driver after evading enforcers in QC](#) (2026-05-08 12:44)

MANILA, Philippines – A driver of an electric taxi fleet was personally apprehended by Land Transportation Office (LTO) Chairperson Markus Lacanilao for evading traffic enforcers after allegedly driving recklessly in Quezon City, the agency said on Friday. According to the LTO, the incident occurred along Panay Avenue in Quezon City on Thursday. Citing reports, the

- [21 injured in two-vehicle collision in Isabela](#) (2026-05-08 12:22)

REINA MERCEDES, Isabela — Twenty-one people were injured, including the driver of a passenger jeepney, after it collided with a sports utility vehicle (SUV) along the national highway in Barangay Tallungan shortly after 2 p.m. on Thursday, police said. Police Major Danilo Malab, chief of the Reina Mercedes Police Station, identified the SUV driver as

- [P693,000 worth of ‘shabu’ seized from 2 suspects in Pampanga](#) (2026-05-08 12:12)

MABALACAT CITY, Pampanga — Police arrested two suspects who allegedly yielded about P693,600 worth of suspected “shabu” (crystal meth) during an operation in Magalang town on Friday morning. In a statement, the Pampanga Police Provincial Office said the suspects were apprehended after selling a sachet of shabu to an undercover officer. Authorities identified one of

- [DSWD readies relief goods in Calabarzon ahead of looming El Niño](#) (2026-05-08 12:04)

LUCENA CITY — The Department of Social Welfare and Development in Calabarzon has prepositioned thousands of relief supplies across the region to prepare for the potential impact of the El Niño phenomenon. READ: Asia faces ‘Super El Niño’ still reeling from Mideast conflict In a report issued Thursday, the agency said 224,051 family food packs

- [Zamora: San Juan hospital neglected for 18 years, we’ re fixing it now](#) (2026-05-08 12:03)

MANILA, Philippines — San Juan Mayor Francis Zamora has clarified that the San Juan Medical Center (SJMC) did not deteriorate during their term, noting that they have taken steps to rehabilitate the hospital so it can serve more people. In a statement on Friday, Zamora claimed that SJMC had been neglected for years before he became mayor

- [DOE cites Negros Occidental as leader in renewable energy transition](#) (2026-05-08 11:49)

BACOLOD CITY—Negros Occidental is emerging as one of the country’ s leading provinces in renewable energy development, with an estimated clean energy potential of 14,277.7 megawatts, a Department of Energy (DOE) official said on Thursday. READ: Negros Occidental eyes P1-billion savings with solar power shift Speaking at the opening of the Negros Occidental Renewable Energy Expo

- [Pedestrian dies, child hurt in Laguna motorcycle accident](#) (2026-05-08 11:35)

LUCENA CITY — A woman died while a four-year-old girl was injured after they were struck by a motorcycle while crossing a street in Calamba City on Thursday, police said. In a report released Friday, the Police Regional Office 4-A identified the victims only by their aliases “Madonna,” 37, and “Jaja,” 4. READ: Driver dead,

- [OIL PRICE WATCH as of May 8, 2026](#) (2026-05-08 11:10)

MANILA, Philippines – Motorists are hopeful that next week there will be another round of fuel price rollbacks after global oil prices plunged on easing tensions between the United States and

Iran. International oil markets fell sharply after US President Donald Trump said a possible deal with Iran was “very possible,” easing fears of a

- [Sara Duterte blames Marcos admin for rising debt, unemployment](#) (2026-05-08 10:59)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte has asserted that the Philippine government’s debt reached P18.49 trillion and the unemployment rate remained at 5 percent in March because the entire administration is not working, especially President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. “As expected, because the entire administration is not working, especially the President” Duterte, speaking in a

- [Global ube boom highlights problems for Filipino farmers](#) (2026-05-08 10:51)

(Last of two parts) First part: Purple yam, global demand: Inside America’s growing ube craze The growing international demand for ube has increased the visibility of Filipino cuisine overseas, but agricultural experts say the trend has exposed long-standing structural problems in the Philippines’ ube industry. While ube products continue appearing in cafes, grocery chains, bakeries

- [Padilla to De Lima: Don’t take impeachment debate personally](#) (2026-05-08 10:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Robinhood Padilla reminded former senator and now Mamamayang Liberal party-list Rep. Leila de Lima that she had also been a fierce opposition figure against former president Rodrigo Duterte, saying she disagreed with many of the former leader’s policies. Padilla made the statement in a Facebook post on Thursday night, days after de

- [Cops hunt motorcycle riders who fatally shot dog in Isabela](#) (2026-05-08 10:40)

RAMON, Isabela—Police are pursuing two motorcycle-riding men who allegedly shot a dog dead in Ramon on April 24, using closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage to trace the motorcycle’s plate number. Police Maj. Jay-ar Olya-on, Ramon Police chief, said one of the suspects shot the dog with a 9mm pistol along the Isabela-Alfonso Lista road in Purok

- [Negros Occidental eyes P1-billion savings with solar power shift](#) (2026-05-08 09:51)

BACOLOD CITY—The Negros Occidental provincial government is projected to save at least P1 billion over the next 25 years through its transition to solar energy, according to an official of renewable energy firm WeGen Energy Philippines Inc READ: Negros Occidental mayors urged to go solar Daniel del Rosario Jr., the company’s sales and service partner,

- [Convention center, airport upgrades seen to boost Negros Occ. economy](#) (2026-05-08 09:32)

BACOLOD CITY – Rep. Javier Miguel Benitez, of the third District of Negros Occidental, announced that the proposed P1-billion Negros Occidental Convention Center in Silay City is targeted for completion by late 2027 or early 2028, while funding has also been committed for

the modernization of the Bacolod-Silay International Airport. Benitez made the announcement during

- [Taal Volcano sulfur dioxide emissions sharply increase – Phivolcs](#) (2026-05-08 09:06)

LUCENA CITY — Taal Volcano recorded a sharp increase in sulfur dioxide emissions, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said Friday, May 8. In its latest 24-hour monitoring report, Phivolcs said the volcano emitted 653 metric tons of sulfur dioxide on Thursday — more than double the 308 metric tons recorded the previous day. READ: Taal

- [Legarda pushes bill to declare Waling-waling as national orchid of PH](#) (2026-05-08 08:42)

MANILA, Philippines – Senator Loren Legarda sponsored a measure to declare the Waling-waling (*Vanda sanderiana*) as the National Orchid of the Philippines, underscoring the urgent need for conservation. “This is not the first time that this representation has sought to elevate the Waling-waling to the level of a national symbol,” Legarda said. “As early as

- [DSWD chief: 4Ps did not cause Meralco bill shock](#) (2026-05-08 07:44)

MANILA, Philippines – Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Rex Gatchalian on Wednesday defended Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries currently facing public backlash over the high generation charge of the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco). “Una, fake news si Meralco. Hindi 4Ps ang rason kung bakit lumaki ang pag singil noong April. Yung bill

- [TS Hagupit may enter PAR Saturday evening or early Sunday morning](#) (2026-05-08 07:24)

MANILA, Philippines — The tropical storm Hagupit may enter the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) on Saturday evening or early Sunday morning, the state weather bureau reported on Friday. When it enters the PAR, it will be called by the local name “Caloy,” which will become the third tropical cyclone in the country for 2026,

- [Estafa, license revocation for ‘gas-and-run’ driver](#) (2026-05-08 05:52)

MANILA, Philippines — The driver in the third “gas-and-run” case reported in Quezon City surrendered on Wednesday night to the police and faces not only estafa charges but also the possibility of having his driving license revoked. Quezon City Police District (QCPD) spokesperson Maj. Jennifer Gannaban on Thursday confirmed in a text message to the

- [DepDev chief supports income tax relief proposal](#) (2026-05-08 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Economic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan backed on Thursday a tax relief proposal that would increase workers’ take-home pay by raising the threshold for income tax exemptions from P250,000 to P400,000 annually, as well as other compensation, like service charges. “I am in favor of reducing taxes, especially those that burden the poor

- [P60-B ‘excess funds’ returned to PhilHealth](#) (2026-05-08 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) confirmed that it had fully received the P60-billion “excess fund” whose earlier transfer to the national treasury was ruled as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. The disclosure came eight months after President Marcos ordered the return of the funds to the state health insurer. In a

- [Fortun on ‘Negros 19’ : ‘Hear the version of the dead’](#) (2026-05-08 05:38)

MANILA, Philippines — One of the country’s most recognized forensic pathologists, Raquel Fortun, on Thursday said she conducted an autopsy on five of the 19 people who were killed by government troops in Negros Occidental last month and that she did not find any indication that they were shot at close range. She said she

- [Court junks VP husband’s bid vs tax record subpoena](#) (2026-05-08 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City Regional Trial Court (RTC) has dismissed the petition filed by lawyer Manases “Mans” Carpio, husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, that sought to prevent the House of Representatives from obtaining the couple’s income tax records in connection with the impeachment complaints against her. Judge Madonna Echiverri of the Quezon

- [Sara Duterte an angry laptop-hurler? ‘Don’t know how to use one’](#) (2026-05-08 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — She “throwing” a laptop at someone in a fit of rage? She doesn’t even know how to use one. This was how Vice President Sara Duterte dismissed rumors spreading on social media about a gadget-hurling incident where lawyer Michael Poa, the spokesperson of her defense team in the House impeachment proceedings against

- [Garin sues Leviste, SPSB execs over idle power franchise](#) (2026-05-08 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The country’s energy chief pressed on with the government’s legal action against Batangas Rep. Leandro Leviste, alleging that his company Solar Para Sa Bayan (SPSB) failed to deliver electricity to remote and underserved areas despite securing a legislative franchise. Energy Secretary Sharon Garin filed a complaint against the 33-year-old Leviste and several

- [Matibag: NBI checking for other ‘victims’ of Mabanta](#) (2026-05-08 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation said on Thursday that it would look for other possible victims of alleged blackmailing by the Peanut Gallery Media Network (PGMN), whose founder was arrested for allegedly trying to extort money from former Speaker Martin Romualdez, threatening to release a supposed video of his alleged corruption. After

- [Aklan mayors, biz group oppose Boracay bridge](#) (2026-05-08 05:06)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — Mayors of Aklan province have expressed strong opposition to the impending construction of a bridge connecting Boracay Island to mainland Panay through Malay town, citing environmental, social and economic concerns. In a resolution that was

unanimously approved during its April 30 virtual meeting, the Aklan chapter of the League of Municipalities

- [Watch out for lahar, Albay folk warned](#) (2026-05-08 05:04)

LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY, Philippines — Government volcanologists on Thursday warned that huge volumes of volcanic debris generated by Mayon Volcano's continuing eruption could trigger renewed ashfall as well as dangerous lahar flows amid the expected onslaught of a tropical storm in the coming days. In its latest report, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology

- [Real-time agri info seen to avoid veggie glut](#) (2026-05-08 05:02)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — The energy crisis has paved the way for out-of-the-box initiatives in Cordillera farms to address festering problems like market oversupply, as months of oil price shocks and the anticipated onslaught of a long dry spell prompt farmers to make their investment count. Cordillera farmers will soon be provided real-time information about

- [Cops seize P5.73M worth of smuggled cigarettes in Pagadian City raid](#) (2026-05-08 02:01)

PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, Philippines — Authorities arrested a 38-year-old construction worker in a late-night buy-bust operation that led to the confiscation of smuggled cigarettes valued at P5.73 million. The intelligence-driven operation was carried out at around 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6, in Purok Talisay B, Barangay Kawit here. Personnel of the Zamboanga

- [P14.1M in shabu seized, 3 drug suspects arrested in Eastern Visayas ops](#) (2026-05-08 01:45)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — Three high-profile drug suspects were arrested, and more than P14.1 million worth of suspected shabu was seized in a series of anti-illegal drug operations conducted by the Police Regional Office 8 (PRO-8) in Eastern Visayas on May 4 and May 5, 2026, as part of the Philippine National Police's intensified

- [106,000 trike drivers in Calabarzon get P5,000 aid – DSWD](#) (2026-05-08 01:34)

LUCENA CITY, QUEZON, Philippines — A total of 106,063 tricycle drivers in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) region have received P5,000 each in financial assistance from the national government as of Tuesday, May 5, as part of an effort to cushion the impact of rising fuel prices. In a report, the Department of Social

- [DSWD launches 'Tara, Basa' for struggling readers in Calabarzon](#) (2026-05-08 01:10)

LUCENA CITY, QUEZON, Philippines — Selected college students have begun conducting tutorial sessions for 3,855 learners across the Calabarzon region under the Tara, Basa! Tutoring Program (TBTP), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Region IV-A said on Wednesday. In a report, the DSWD said the tutorial sessions started on May 4 for incoming

- [Health workers, advocates demand reform in PH healthcare system](#) (2026-05-08 01:04)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — Health workers and advocates marched here on Thursday, May 7, demanding reforms in the country's healthcare system, citing low wages, understaffed hospitals, and continued attacks against community health workers. The mobilization, held in time for National Health Workers' Day, started at Session Road and ended at Malcolm Square, where participants pressed

- [Drug suspect surrenders in Surigao City after bloody buy-bust ops](#) (2026-05-07 23:53)

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN DEL SUR, Philippines — One of two drug suspects who evaded arrest during a buy-bust operation in Barangay Cagniog, Surigao City, surrendered to authorities on Wednesday, May 6. Lt. Col. Mariano Lukban, Surigao City police director, identified the suspect as Ricardo Peligro Tiudianco, 45, a resident of Cagniog. Police, meanwhile, continued their

- [NBI receives sworn statements disputing Baligod's claims on PDAF scam](#) (2026-05-07 23:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Thursday confirmed that it has received sworn statements from state witnesses disputing claims made by lawyer Levi Baligod regarding the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) scam. According to the NBI, the sworn affidavits were formally transmitted by the counsel of Marina Sula and Mary Arlene

- [Elderly woman dies in Bacolod fire](#) (2026-05-07 23:46)

BACOLOD CITY, Philippines — An elderly woman died while her husband was injured in a fire that destroyed four houses and damaged two at Purok Maanyag 2, Barangay Alijis here at about 9:45 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6. The fatality was identified by authorities as Rosa Magbanua, 79, while her husband, Jose Magbanua, 62, who

- [PH Eagle sighted in Isabela forests](#) (2026-05-07 23:37)

CITY OF ILAGAN, ISABELA, Philippines — A Philippine Eagle was sighted on Thursday, May 7, while perched on a tree in a forest in Sitio Pato Park, Ayod village of Dinapigue town, Isabela. The forest in Dinapigue town forms part of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park (NSMNP). The presence of the country's national bird

- [BFP now responds beyond fire emergencies through unified 911 system](#) (2026-05-07 22:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) on Thursday said that it can now respond to emergencies beyond fires with the unified 911 system now supporting cellular technology. In a statement, BFP spokesperson Fire Superintendent Anthony Arroyo said the unified 911 system has allowed responders' smart devices to connect to the system that

- [No jackpot winners in May 7 PCSO lotto draws](#) (2026-05-07 21:57)

MANILA, Philippines — No better won the jackpots in the PCSO lotto draws on Thursday, May 7. According to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the SuperLotto 6/49 winning combination was 47-11-24-33-48-02 for a ₱25 million jackpot. No ticket matched all six numbers. READ: Two new millionaires emerge from PCSO lotto draw The Lotto 6/42 winning

- [22 areas forecast to hit ‘danger’ level heat indices on Friday, May 8](#) (2026-05-07 21:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Twenty-two areas are forecast to hit danger-level heat indices on Friday, May 8, said the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Heat index, which refers to the heat the human body feels when air temperature and humidity are combined, is automatically categorized as “danger” level once it ranges between 42°C

- [Matibag: Marked money for Mabanta arrest came from NBI secret fund](#) (2026-05-07 21:41)

MANILA, Philippines — National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Melvin Matibag has clarified that the marked money, part of the ₱75 million used in the arrest of social media personality and Peanut Gallery Media Network (PGMN) founder Franco Mabanta, came from the NBI’s confidential funds, not from former House Speaker Martin Romualdez. Matibag made the

- [NBI to appeal for law to regulate socmed, separate ‘fake’ journalists](#) (2026-05-07 20:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will appeal for Congress to pass a law that would regulate social media and separate real journalists from the “fakes” posing to be legit. NBI Director Mevin Matibag said this in an ambush interview on Thursday after social media personality Franco Mabanta, founder of online channel

- [Mollenido slay: Cop’s husband cleared in obstruction of justice rap](#) (2026-05-07 19:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Dismissed Police Master Sgt. John Mollenido was cleared of an obstruction of justice case in connection with the killing of his wife, Police Senior Master Sgt. Diane Mollenido, and his son, John Ysmael. “After a thorough evaluation of the evidence on record, the [Malolos] Office of the City Prosecutor found no prima

- [HEAT INDEX WATCH: 44°C logged in 4 areas on Thursday, May 7](#) (2026-05-07 18:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Heat indices recorded on Thursday, May 7, peaked at 44°C in Pangasinan, Ilocos Norte, Cagayan and Occidental Mindoro, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. Heat index refers to the heat the human body feels when air temperature and humidity are combined. Once it ranges between 42°C and 51°C,

- [Luistro trusts Senate to convene impeach court if Duterte case is sent](#) (2026-05-07 18:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro believes the Senate will convene an impeachment court once the articles of impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte are

approved, noting there is no reason for the chamber not to proceed with a trial. In an interview on Thursday, Luistro said the only way for the Senate to

- [Duterte impeachment: QC court junks Carpio bid vs House subpoena on ITRs](#) (2026-05-07 18:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City Regional Trial Court has dismissed the petition filed by Atty. Manases Carpio, husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, seeking to block the House of Representatives justice panel from issuing a subpoena for the couple's annual income tax returns as part of the impeachment proceedings against his wife. In a

- [Ridon: QC court ruling clears way for House impeachment vote vs Duterte](#) (2026-05-07 18:03)

MANILA, Philippines — House Committee on Public Accounts Chair Terry Ridon on Thursday welcomed the dismissal of lawyer Manases “Mans” Carpio's petition seeking to stop the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte, saying the ruling removes what he described as an unnecessary obstacle ahead of a crucial plenary vote on Monday. “It is only

- [Legit vape sellers call for tougher action vs illegal trade](#) (2026-05-07 17:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The country's vape industry on Thursday backed tougher enforcement against illegal vape traders, even as it urged lawmakers not to saddle legitimate businesses with penalties meant for black-market operators. At a Senate hearing on the Vape Law, Philippine E-Cigarette Industry Association (PECIA) president Joey Dulay said the problem is not the absence

- [Over 1,100 SHS graduates hired on the spot during Labor Day job fairs](#) (2026-05-07 17:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Reinforcing the promise of the K to 12 Program as a direct bridge to employment, at least 1,148 Senior High School (SHS) graduates were hired on the spot during Labor Day Job Fairs held nationwide. The milestone underscores the growing confidence of employers in the preparedness and employability of SHS graduates. Of

- [Port of Lucena's new passenger terminal opening in Q3 2026 – DOTr](#) (2026-05-07 17:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The new passenger terminal building of the Port of Lucena in Quezon will be opened in the third quarter of this year, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) said on Thursday. According to the DOTr, the facility will have a seating capacity of 1,000 passengers to boost tourism in Quezon. READ: DOTr, PPA

- [DOST's Solidum highest paid Cabinet exec in 2025 – COA](#) (2026-05-07 16:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Department of Science and Technology (DOST) chief Renato Solidum was the highest-paid Cabinet member in 2025, according to the Commission on Audit's (COA) annual Report on Salaries and Allowances (Rosa) for calendar year 2025, released on its website on Wednesday. Solidum earned a total pay of P6,660,249.89 last year. His income has

- [Purple yam, global demand: Inside America’ s growing ube craze](#) (2026-05-07 16:31)

(First of two parts) For many Filipinos, ube has long been an ordinary part of daily life and celebrations. It is commonly served in halo-halo during summer, spread as halaya on bread during the holidays, turned into ice cream and cakes for birthdays, and used in various local delicacies across the country. In some regions,

- [NBI: PGMN’ s CJ Hirro person of interest in Romualdez ‘extortion’ case](#) (2026-05-07 16:28)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is looking for Peanut Gallery Media Network (PGMN) anchor CJ Hirro as a person of interest in the “extortion” case against former House Speaker Martin Romualdez, according to NBI Director Melvin Matibag. This comes after the NBI arrested on Tuesday PGMN founder Franco Mabanta and four

- [Romualdez camp: PGMN not journalists, just extortionists](#) (2026-05-07 16:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez has blasted online channel Peanut Gallery Media Network (PGMN) for allegedly “twisting the narrative” following the arrest of its founder, saying the company was not engaged in journalism but in extortion. According to lawyer Elaine Atienza, Romualdez’ s spokesperson, PGMN claims that its right to

- [House OKs bill to turn Agusan school into a polytechnic institute](#) (2026-05-07 16:23)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur, Philippines — A bill seeking to convert the Agusan del Sur School of Arts and Trades (ASSAT) in Prosperidad town into a polytechnic institution has been approved on third and final reading at the House of Representatives. READ: House approves bill creating polytechnic institute in Albay Principally authored by Rep. Alfel Bascug

- [Albay town raises blue alert ahead of possible TS Hagupit rains](#) (2026-05-07 16:01)

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay — The local government of Camalig town in Albay on Thursday raised a blue alert and ordered heightened monitoring amid possible heavy rains from Tropical Storm Hagupit, which may enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility this weekend and be named Caloy. READ: Pagasa: TS Hagupit may intensify into high-end storm in next

- [Coliseo de Manila stands by junked raps vs CIDG over e-sabong bust](#) (2026-05-07 15:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The Coliseo de Manila has defended its dismissed administrative complaint before the National Police Commission (Napolcom) against the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) for alleged anomalies in an operation against a purported online cockfighting (e-sabong) ring. In a statement sent to reporters on Thursday, the coliseum’ s legal counsel, Carl Jon Mucho,

- [Sabotage at Labor Day rally? PNP says videos show who started violence](#) (2026-05-07 14:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Thursday rejected claims that police operatives infiltrated Labor Day protesters to sabotage their rally, saying “videos show who really started the violence.” PNP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Randulf Tuaño made the statement in response to Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) Chairperson Jerome Adonis’ allegation that “civilian police intel”

- [Matibag: Other gov’ t officials also approach NBI over ‘blackmailing’](#) (2026-05-07 14:26)

MANILA, Philippines — After the extortion complaint filed by former House Speaker Martin Romualdez, which led to the arrest of Peanut Gallery Media Network (PGMN) founder Franco Mabanta, other government officials have also approached the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) as possible victims of “blackmailing,” according to NBI Director Melvin Matibag. “No one directly said

- [215 lawmakers back 2026 Duterte impeachment, matching 2025 tally – Ridon](#) (2026-05-07 14:15)

MANILA, Philippines – At least 215 lawmakers have signaled support for Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment, Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon said on Thursday, matching last year’ s tally and underscoring momentum across party lines to support the complaint. He said the vote count emerged after consultations with lawmakers. He did not detail how the talks

- [House approves bill creating polytechnic institute in Albay](#) (2026-05-07 14:08)

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay — The House of Representatives on Tuesday approved on third and final reading House Bill No. 8581, which seeks to establish a polytechnic institute in Polangui, Albay. The proposed “Polangui Polytechnic Institute” was principally authored by Albay 3rd District Rep. Raymond Adrian E. Salceda. Salceda said the measure, once enacted, will benefit

- [Bohol eyes conversion of provincial roads into national roads](#) (2026-05-07 13:58)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — Around 29 provincial roads in Bohol are being pushed for conversion into national roads as the provincial government seeks stronger support from the national government for infrastructure development. Gov. Erico Aristotle Aumentado said the move was discussed during a meeting with Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Vince Dizon

- [Cyberlibel raps vs ex-Pangasinan solon, radio personality dismissed](#) (2026-05-07 13:42)

DAGUPAN CITY, Pangasinan – The City Prosecution Office here has dismissed the cyberlibel, slander, and other charges filed by a local vlogger against former Pangasinan 4th District Rep. Christopher de Venecia and radio personality Violy Valdez Ferrer. The resolution of the case, docketed as NPS 1-10-INV-251-00368, included charges of grave threats, perjury, falsification, obstruction of

- [Colmenares: Meralco ‘bill shock’ a form of ‘legalized robbery’](#) (2026-05-07 13:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares has condemned the “bill shock” experienced by millions of electricity consumers in April and May, as rates rose to a record-high P14.35 per kilowatt-hour. Colmenares, who described the situation as a form of “legalized robbery” against ordinary Filipinos, called on Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) to renegotiate

- [Curlee Discaya back in Senate detention after surgery](#) (2026-05-07 13:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Government contractor Pacifico “Curlee” Discaya was returned to the Senate detention facility on Thursday after undergoing surgery. In a message to reporters, Senate Secretary Mark Mendoza said Discaya arrived at the Senate to continue his recovery. “Nakabalik na kaninang umaga si Mr. Discaya sa Senate, he is OK and was cleared by

- [Legarda joins son’ s call to probe gov’ t aid distribution in Batangas](#) (2026-05-07 12:43)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Loren Legarda has joined her lawmaker-son’ s call for a congressional probe into the implementation and delivery of government cash aid and subsidy programs, citing in particular the alleged unfair distribution in certain barangays in their province in Batangas. Her proposed inquiry was contained in Senate Resolution No. 381, which she filed on Monday,

- [2 nabbed over threats vs motorist in Bulacan](#) (2026-05-07 12:21)

A man wields a gun while two of his cohorts supposedly entered the home of a motorist to supposedly threaten him with a gun after an alleged sideswiping incident in Norzagaray, Bulacan last Sunday, May 3, 2026. (Screengrab from video courtesy Bulacan Provincial Police Office) MANILA, Philippines — Two men were arrested for allegedly trespassing

- [Pagasa: TS Hagupit may intensify into high-end storm in next 48 hours](#) (2026-05-07 12:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The Tropical Storm (TS) Hagupit may further intensify over the next 48 hours and peak as a “high-end tropical storm,” according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) on Thursday. In its 11 a.m. tropical cyclone bulletin, Pagasa said the center of Hagupit was estimated at 1,895 kilometers east

- [BSP governor is highest paid government exec](#) (2026-05-07 12:08)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor along with other BSP officials led the list of highest paid government executives, according to the Commission on Audit’ s (COA) annual Report on Salaries and Allowances (Rosa) for calendar year 2025 released on its website on Wednesday. BSP Governor Eli Remolona Jr. topped the list after earning

- [6 seized luxury cars remain unsold after no bidders joined BOC auction](#) (2026-05-07 11:30)

MANILA, Philippines – Six seized luxury vehicles put up for auction on Thursday remained unsold after no bidders registered for the event, according to the Bureau of Customs (BOC). The BOC held a public viewing of the vehicles at the Port of Manila (POM) grounds from April 29 to 30 and May 4 to 5.

- [Batangas solons hit Leviste’ s ‘irresponsible, baseless’ claims vs Rectos](#) (2026-05-07 11:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawmakers from the five other districts of Batangas have condemned Batangas 1st District Rep. Leandro Legarda Leviste for his “baseless, malicious, and irresponsible” allegations made against Executive Secretary Ralph Recto and his wife, Governor Vilma Santos Recto. Copies of House Resolution (HR) No. 994 which was filed before the House of Representatives on

- [Early House tally shows 137 votes enough for Sara Duterte impeachment](#) (2026-05-07 11:17)

MANILA, Philippines – Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment appears all but certain after early tallies at the House of Representatives showed enough party support to meet the threshold needed to elevate the charges to the Senate ahead of next week’ s formal vote. About 47 lawmakers from the Party-list Coalition Foundation, Inc. (PCFI) are supporting the charges,

- [Mayon continues ash emission, triggers pyroclastic density current anew](#) (2026-05-07 10:43)

MANILA, Philippines – Mayon Volcano in Albay continued emitting ash and volcanic materials on Thursday, triggering pyroclastic density current (PDC), locally known as “uson” anew, state volcanologists said. According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), footage captured a collapse-fed PDC descending through the Mi-isi Gully on the volcano’ s southwestern slopes at around

- [Hot, humid weather to persist across Visayas until May 11 — Pagasa](#) (2026-05-07 10:42)

ILOILO CITY — Warm and humid weather conditions are expected to persist across much of the Visayas in the next five days, with temperatures in several provinces forecast to reach up to 34°C. This is according to the latest regional weather outlook issued by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). READ: Dangerous

- [Sara Duterte denies throwing laptop at legal counsel Michael Poa](#) (2026-05-07 10:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte on Tuesday dismissed as “trash” rumors that she threw a laptop at lawyer Michael Poa, spokesperson for her defense team in her impeachment case, saying the allegation was part of supposed misinformation efforts meant to distort the narrative against her. In a May 6 interview with the Filipino

- [Sara Duterte: I am not known to be ‘vindictive’](#) (2026-05-07 09:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte denied accusations that she is vindictive, saying lawmakers should focus on evidence rather than politics amid discussions surrounding impeachment complaints against her. In a May 6 interview with the Filipino community in The Hague, Netherlands, Duterte was asked about claims that some congressmen may vote to impeach her

- [4 hurt in Zamboanga del Sur road crash](#) (2026-05-07 09:50)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Four individuals, including three teenagers, were seriously injured when a motorcycle collided with a pickup truck along the national highway in Barangay Bag-ong Kahayag, Lakewood town, Zamboanga del Sur, early Thursday. READ: 2 dead, 1 hurt in highway collision in Zamboanga del Sur Police said the accident occurred at

- [HEAT INDEX WATCH: 4 Calabarzon areas brace for dangerous levels](#) (2026-05-07 09:34)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — Four areas in the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon) region are expected to experience heat index levels under the “extreme caution” and “danger” categories on Wednesday and Thursday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). READ: Dangerous heat index forecast in 6 areas in Luzon,

- [Driver in third Quezon City gas-and-run case surrenders](#) (2026-05-07 08:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The driver of a grayish-blue Toyota Vios that allegedly sped away without paying for P1,500 worth of fuel at a gas station in Quezon City surrendered to the police on Wednesday night. This was confirmed by Quezon City Police District (QCPD) spokesperson Maj. Jennifer Gannaban to the Inquirer in a text message

- [OIL PRICE WATCH as of May 7, 2026](#) (2026-05-07 08:21)

MANILA, Philippines – Hopes for another rollback in local fuel prices rose Thursday after global oil prices tumbled amid easing tensions between the United States and Iran. World oil markets dropped sharply after US President Donald Trump said a possible deal with Iran was “very possible,” raising optimism that the conflict in the Middle East

- [LPA brings rain to Visayas, Mindanao; tropical storm moves closer to PAR](#) (2026-05-07 07:27)

MANILA, Philippines — A low-pressure area (LPA) continues to bring rains to the Visayas and Mindanao on Thursday, while a Tropical Storm with international name Hagupit moves closer to the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR), the state weather bureau said. According to the latest forecast of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa),

- [‘Kasambahay’ in Region 9 to get P500 to P1,000 monthly pay hike](#) (2026-05-07 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Nearly 19,000 domestic workers or “kasambahay” in Zamboanga Peninsula will see their monthly minimum wage go up by P500 or P1,000 starting on May 20, following the issuance of a new wage order, the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) said on Wednesday. In a statement, Dole said the Zamboanga Peninsula Regional

- [No service cuts for unpaid power bills until July – ERC](#) (2026-05-07 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) has ordered power distribution utilities, including Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), to suspend the disconnection of services among customers who fail to settle their electricity bills from May to July as oil prices continue to go up because of the Middle East crisis. In an advisory, the ERC

- [No ‘overall brains’ in flood scam – Lacson](#) (2026-05-07 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson on Wednesday said there is no single “overall mastermind” in the flood control scam, as evidence gathered by the blue ribbon committee, which investigated the controversy, pointed to irregularities operated by several personalities from specific areas and agencies. “I don’t think there’s an overall mastermind because

- [Unemployment holds steady at 5% in March despite energy crisis](#) (2026-05-07 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Unemployment remained subdued in March, largely unchanged despite expectations of a broader deterioration amid mounting pressures from the war-driven oil crisis, official data revealed on Wednesday. Preliminary data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed that unemployment fell slightly to 5 percent in March from 5.1 percent in February. This translates to

- [Lawmakers backing VP impeach raps know the risks – Puno](#) (2026-05-07 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The head of the National Unity Party (NUP) said the majority of its 55 members in the House of Representatives are expected to endorse the articles of impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte despite the possible political backlash they will reap in the 2028 elections. Deputy Speaker Ronaldo Puno said some of

- [Palace says Marcos, Mabanta ‘not friends’ ; but ties show](#) (2026-05-07 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang sought to disassociate President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. from social media operator Franco Mabanta, who was arrested on Tuesday over an alleged attempt to extort P350 million from former Speaker Martin Romualdez, a cousin of the President. The President and Mabanta “are not friends,” Palace press officer Claire Castro said at a

- [Socmed personality nabbed for extort try on ex-Speaker](#) (2026-05-07 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — A founder of a social media news outlet was arrested on Tuesday night along with four associates over an alleged attempt to extort P350 million from former Speaker Martin Romualdez. Franco Mabanta, a self-styled political strategist who founded the Peanut

Gallery Media Network (PGMN), allegedly threatened the Leyte congressman and cousin of

- [Batangueña tops PMA graduating class](#) (2026-05-07 05:06)

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — Cadet First Class Christine Kay Librada, a native of Lipa City in Batangas, adds her name to the expanding list of women who broke the glass ceiling by topping this year's 207-member graduating class at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), the country's premier military school. Librada's "Talang Dangal"

- [Monitors seek high-level gov't, MILF meet for peace](#) (2026-05-07 05:04)

KORONADAL CITY, BARMM, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. needs to engage regularly with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to ensure that all objectives of the landmark Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) are achieved, leading to the signing of the exit agreement between the parties, hopefully within the term of the current administration,

- [Police seize marijuana worth P1.6M in Pangasinan town](#) (2026-05-07 03:35)

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN, Philippines — A pre-dawn routine checkpoint operation by Binmaley municipal police personnel on Wednesday led to the confiscation of 475 grams of suspected illegal drugs worth more than P1.6 million and the arrest of one female suspect, while her male companion remains the subject of a hot pursuit operation. Police report showed that

- [BARMM police condemns sniper attack against cops in Lanao del Sur](#) (2026-05-07 03:23)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — The Police Regional Office of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (PRO-BAR) strongly denounced the armed attack against law enforcement operatives during the service of a warrant of arrest in Lanao del Sur. Brig. Gen. Christopher Abecia, newly installed regional police director, also vowed to bring justice to the fallen police officer

- [Agri company files cyberlibel, oral defamation vs two farmers' groups](#) (2026-05-07 03:17)

MANILA, Philippines — An agricultural company on Wednesday filed cyberlibel and oral defamation complaints against two farmers' groups over alleged defamatory claims regarding its corporate status. Planters Products, Inc. (PPI) lodged the complaints before the Makati Prosecutors' Office, naming Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) chair Leonardo Montemayor and Magsasaka Party-list chair Lejun Dela Cruz as

- [Group welcomes ERC order suspending electric disconnections](#) (2026-05-07 03:13)

LUCENA CITY, QUEZON, Philippines — The Power for People Coalition (P4P) on Tuesday, May 5, welcomed the decision of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to suspend electricity service disconnections nationwide amid rising living costs linked to ongoing tensions in the Middle East. "This is a welcome move from the ERC—one that should have been implemented

- [Taal Volcano sulfur dioxide emissions drop, quakes continue](#) (2026-05-07 02:59)

LUCENA CITY, QUEZON, Philippines — Taal Volcano in Batangas province emitted lower levels of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) but continued to show signs of unrest, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported on Wednesday, May 6. In its bulletin, Phivolcs said sulfur dioxide emissions from the main crater dropped to 308 metric tons over

- [70 sea turtle hatchlings released in Zamboanga del Sur waters](#) (2026-05-07 02:30)

PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, Philippines — Seventy Olive Ridley sea turtle hatchlings found their way back to the sea after a swift report and coordinated action by local environmental frontliners in Barangay Alindahaw, Tukuran town, Zamboanga del Sur. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 9 reported on Tuesday, May 5, that

- [Magnitude 5.6 quake jolts Davao Oriental](#) (2026-05-07 02:24)

MANILA, Philippines — A magnitude 5.6 earthquake jolted Davao Oriental late Wednesday evening, said the Philippine Institute of Seismology and Volcanology (Phivolcs). Phivolcs said the earthquake was recorded at exactly 11:35 p.m. with its epicenter located 17 kilometers northeast of Caraga, Davao Oriental. The earthquake was tectonic in origin and had a depth of focus

- [Balangay Festival 2026 kicks off in Butuan City](#) (2026-05-07 02:22)

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN DEL SUR, Philippines — Butuan City Mayor Lawrence Fortun opened the 40th Balangay Festival 2026 on Tuesday, May 5, marking the start of the city's annual celebration of its history, culture and identity. This year's celebration, however, is being held in a modest manner as the city recognizes the current global situation

- [Ground tanker, 5 trucks gutted in Quirino fire](#) (2026-05-07 01:42)

CABARROGUIS, QUIRINO, Philippines — A nine-hour blaze gutted a gasoline trader's compound and razed five dump trucks and one ground tanker in Dipintin, Maddela, Quirino on Monday. Senior Fire Officer 4 Joas Bulayang of the Maddela fire station reported on Tuesday that the fire started at 2 p.m. and was declared to have been put

- [2 'high-value' suspects busted in Lucena; P10-M shabu, marijuana seized](#) (2026-05-07 00:08)

LUCENA CITY, QUEZON, Philippines — Law enforcers arrested two alleged high-value drug traffickers and seized more than P10 million worth of illegal drugs and an unlicensed firearm in a buy-bust operation here on Tuesday afternoon, May 5. Lt. Col. Ryan Hernandez, city police chief, said anti-illegal drug operatives, together with personnel from the Quezon Maritime

- [1Sambayan: Duterte impeach raps a 'moral and constitutional imperative'](#) (2026-05-06 23:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Political coalition 1Sambayan on Wednesday stressed that the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte is a “moral and constitutional imperative” not political harassment. 1Sambayan made the pronouncement after expressing “full support” over the impeachment proceedings. “This is not a political harassment or strategy – it is a moral and constitutional imperative

- [Camarines Sur acquires amphibious vehicle to boost disaster response](#) (2026-05-06 23:39)

LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY, Philippines — The provincial government of Camarines Sur has acquired an amphibious vehicle to strengthen its disaster response capability. Governor Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr., in a phone interview with the Inquirer on Wednesday, said the all-terrain vehicle will improve emergency response during floods and typhoons. “The acquisition and use of the vehicle

- [Oriental Mindoro jeepney drivers receive gov’ t cash aid](#) (2026-05-06 23:29)

CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO, Philippines — A total of 631 jeepney drivers plying different routes in the province received P5,000 in cash aid distributed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in coordination with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to cushion the impact of the oil price increase. According to

- [First leg of QC Bird Race 2026 showcases urban biodiversity at La Mesa](#) (2026-05-06 23:05)

Manila Water Foundation (MWF), the Local Government of Quezon City and the Wild Bird Photographers of the Philippines (WBPP) successfully hosted the first leg of the inaugural Quezon City Bird Race 2026 at the La Mesa Ecopark. The event, which integrates bird watching and bird photography, was attended by Filipino and international participants who are

- [Eastern Samar logs minor damage after magnitude 6 earthquake](#) (2026-05-06 22:45)

TACLOBAN CITY — The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) of Eastern Samar has reported widespread minor structural damage across several towns following a magnitude 6 earthquake that struck off San Julian on May 4, based on a situation report released on Tuesday, May 5. The tectonic earthquake prompted immediate inspections of government

- [Man to face raps for ‘assaulting’ ex-partner at QC boutique store](#) (2026-05-06 22:44)

MANILA, Philippines — A man will be facing criminal charges for allegedly physically assaulting his former partner inside a Quezon City boutique store, the police said on Wednesday. This came after the victim, a 34-year-old woman, formally filed a complaint before the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) Project 6 station, according to the agency in

- [Wanted man nabbed for rape in Iloilo town](#) (2026-05-06 22:34)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — Police arrested Western Visayas’ top 10 most wanted person for rape with homicide during an operation in Barangay La Fortuna, Barotac Viejo, Iloilo, on Tuesday morning, May 5. The suspect, identified only by his alias “Boyboy,” is a 24-year-old laborer and resident of Barotac Viejo. Authorities said the suspect was arrested

- [8 wildlife returned to Zamboanga Sibugay forest](#) (2026-05-06 22:29)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — A reticulated python slithered back into the undergrowth, a serpent eagle soared above the treetops, and native birds reclaimed the canopy as eight rehabilitated wildlife were released into their natural habitat in Sitio Sacaon, Barangay Guinoman, Diplahan town in Zamboanga Sibugay province on Wednesday, May 6. The release was

- [Iloilo City truck drivers nabbed for selling meth](#) (2026-05-06 22:26)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — Two truck drivers were arrested in a buy-bust operation here that led to the seizure of about P476,000 worth of suspected shabu, police said. The operation was conducted at around 11:55 p.m. on Wednesday, May 5, in Zone 3, Barangay Tacas, Jaro district. Police identified the suspects only by their aliases

- [MegaLotto 6/45 bettor wins ₱15-M jackpot in May 6 draw](#) (2026-05-06 21:57)

MANILA, Philippines—A lone ticket holder won the MegaLotto 6/45 jackpot in the Wednesday, May 6, draw, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. The winning MegaLotto 6/45 combination was 01-03-24-18-11-10, with a jackpot of ₱15 million. No player won the GrandLotto 6/55 jackpot of P85.77 million. The draw came up with the 05-40-27-24-55-22 combination. Minor

- [4.5M struggling readers improve literacy skills in SY 2025-2026 – DepEd](#) (2026-05-06 21:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) on Wednesday said around 4.5 million struggling readers improved their literacy skills by the end of school year 2025-2026. DepEd said this figure is based on the results of this school year’ s Comprehensive Rapid Literacy Assessment (CRLA), Rapid Math Assessment (RMA), and the Philippine Informal Reading Inventory

- [Over 3,500 applicants want to join Office of the Ombudsman](#) (2026-05-06 21:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Over 3,500 individuals have applied for Office of the Ombudsman positions as the antigrift body found itself in the thick of the investigation and prosecution of personalities in the multibillion flood control corruption scandal. The applicants are vying for 114 permanent positions opened last month for a posting in its Quezon City

- [Romualdez spotted in House after land use bill approval](#) (2026-05-06 21:23)

MANILA, Philippines — Leyte Rep. amd former speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez was seen inside the House of Representatives’ plenary hall engaging with fellow lawmakers regarding

the chamber's legislative agenda, after the proposed National Land Use Act was approved on third reading. Romualdez's office on Wednesday shared photos of the former speaker talking with House members, after

- [2 Filipinos arrested at Naia with P56.6-M shabu — BOC](#) (2026-05-06 20:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Two Filipino passengers were arrested on Wednesday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 1 for carrying suspected shabu worth P56.6 million, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) said. **READ: BOC uncovers P136.9M worth of misdeclared agricultural, illegal goods** According to the BOC, Customs authorities seized approximately 8,324 grams of shabu concealed

- [Dangerous heat index forecast in 6 areas in Luzon, Visayas on Thursday](#) (2026-05-06 20:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Six areas are forecast to experience danger-level heat indices on Thursday, May 7, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). A danger-level heat index ranges from 42°C to 51°C. Indices under this level carry increased risks of heat cramps and heat exhaustion, which could lead to heat stroke,

- [Lakas-CMD in House down to 69, but 95% voting for impeachment — Adiong](#) (2026-05-06 20:19)

MANILA, Philippines — Ruling party Lakas-CMD may have lost a chunk of its members in the House of Representatives, but an official of the party said on Wednesday that 95 percent will vote in favor of the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte. In an ambush interview, Lakas-CMD spokesperson and Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia

- [WATCH: 'Written by God' – VP Duterte on possible impeachment](#) (2026-05-06 19:22)

MANILA, Philippines — “Everything that happens in the life of a person is written by God,” Vice President Sara Duterte says of the impeachment proceedings against her during her visit to his father, former President Rodrigo Duterte, at the International Criminal Court Detention Center in The Hague, Netherlands. /atm

- [45°C heat index logged in Borongan, E. Samar on Wednesday, May 6](#) (2026-05-06 18:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Heat indices recorded across the country peaked at 45°C in Borongan, Eastern Samar on Wednesday, May 6, said the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Heat index refers to the heat the human body feels when air temperature and humidity are combined. Pagasa automatically tags the index as “danger” level

- [Senate OKs reso commending BINI as 1st Filipino act in Coachella](#) (2026-05-06 18:41)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate on Wednesday recognized and commended the girl group BINI for being the first Filipino act to perform at Coachella. Unanimously adopted was Senate

Resolution No. 370, which commends and congratulates the group for making its historic achievement in the international stage. “Sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon, isang Filipino act angnagtanghal sa

- [Not ‘Mary Grace?’ Sandigan justice asks in jest as Piattos boxes became topic](#) (2026-05-06 18:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The matter on the alleged delivery of boxes containing P299 million to the office of former Public Works Assistant District Engineer Brice Hernandez was tackled once more at the Sandiganbayan during his Wednesday’ s graft trial. Former Sen. Ramon “Bong” Revilla was also named co-accused in this case. The subject, this time, is

- [Lacson: Cabral’ s handwritten note shows P500M ‘allocables’ for Marcoleta](#) (2026-05-06 18:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Rodante Marcoleta supposedly received P500 million in “allocables,” according to a note by the late Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Undersecretary Maria Catalina Cabral, Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson revealed on Wednesday. Lacson, the chairman of the Senate blue ribbon committee, said a day after he unveiled portions

- [Revilla camp hoping for best on bail bid](#) (2026-05-06 18:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of former senator Bong Revilla said they are praying and hoping for the best as his bail petition is now up for resolution before the Sandiganbayan Third Division. Third Division chairperson Karl Miranda previously said the court could release its resolution on Revilla’ s bail on May 6, Wednesday. “We hope

- [DepEd delivers, reports literacy and numeracy gains nationwide](#) (2026-05-06 18:12)

MANILA, Philippines – The Department of Education (DepEd) reported a significant upward trend in learning recovery across the basic education system, marked by a substantial reduction in the number of struggling learners nationwide. Based on the results of the Comprehensive Rapid Literacy Assessment (CRLA), Rapid Math Assessment (RMA) and the Philippine Informal Reading Inventory (Phil-IRI)

- [Rep. Puno: 60% of NUP solons to back Sara Duterte impeachment](#) (2026-05-06 18:03)

MANILA, Philippines – Deputy Speaker and National Unity Party Chairman Rep. Ronaldo Puno of Antipolo said Wednesday that roughly 60% of NUP members, the second largest political party in Congress, is expected to vote in favor of transmitting the impeachment case of Vice President Sara Z. Duterte to the Senate. Speaking to reporters, Puno said

- [Secret funds, unexplained wealth: Duterte impeach articles cut to 4 grounds](#) (2026-05-06 18:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The consolidated Articles of Impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte have been trimmed to just four grounds, Committee Report (CR) No. 261 which contains House Resolution (HR) No. 989 showed. Prior to this, there were seven grounds in the third complaint and six grounds in the fourth complaint. According to CR No. 261,

- [Mary Jane Veloso lawyer eyeing motion to resolve habeas corpus bid](#) (2026-05-06 17:52)

MANILA, Philippines – One of Mary Jane Veloso’s lawyers on Wednesday said he is looking to file a motion with the Supreme Court to resolve the habeas corpus petition she filed nearly six months ago for her release from detention. Edre Olalia, president of National Union of Peoples’ Lawyers (NUPL) lamented that the bid for

- [Sen. JV Ejercito bats for stronger Coast Guard to secure PH waters](#) (2026-05-06 17:49)

MANILA, Philippines – Senator JV Ejercito on Wednesday co-sponsored Senate Bill No. 2116 or the Revised Philippine Coast Guard Law, reaffirming his long-standing support for uniformed personnel and maritime frontliners amid growing challenges in the country’s territorial waters. A longtime ally of the Philippine Coast Guard, Ejercito said the proposed measure seeks to further strengthen

- [LIST: Water interruptions in NCR, Greater Manila from May 7 to 13](#) (2026-05-06 17:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Several areas in the National Capital Region and Greater Manila are set to experience water interruptions due to maintenance activities starting May 7. In a recent advisory, Maynilad Water Services, Inc. announced that customers in parts of Cavite, Las Piñas City, Parañaque City will experience water interruption from May 7 to May

- [Marcos orders continuous aid for Mayon-affected residents in Albay](#) (2026-05-06 17:43)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday directed government agencies to monitor and provide assistance to the communities affected by the heavy ashfall in Albay province brought by the continuous unrest of Mayon Volcano. The president led a situation briefing with relevant government agencies in Malacañang to assess conditions on the ground. Attending the

- [Navotas landfill fire may be fully extinguished in 5 days — officials](#) (2026-05-06 16:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Almost a month since a massive fire hit the Navotas landfill, authorities on Wednesday said that almost 80% of the fire had been contained so far, with projections that it will totally be extinguished within four to five days. In a meeting of the Metro Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council,

- [2 House leaders see enough votes to impeach Sara Duterte](#) (2026-05-06 16:23)

MANILA, Philippines — Two members of the House of Representatives from different political parties said it is likely that 180 lawmakers will vote for the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte. In an ambush interview on Wednesday, Assistant Majority Leader and Lanao del Sur

Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong was asked if he thinks the House can

- [Marcos hands off on Recto-Leviste feud, Palace says](#) (2026-05-06 16:20)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang has distanced President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. from the public exchange of barbs between Executive Secretary Ralph Recto and Batangas Rep. Leandro Leviste. Speaking at a press briefing in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, on Wednesday, Palace press officer Claire Castro said the president would not meddle and urged the two officials to

- [Marcos, Franco Mabanta ‘not friends’ ; Palace points to his Duterte ties](#) (2026-05-06 15:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang appeared to distance President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. from his previous engagements with social media operator Franco Mabanta, who was arrested by operatives of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for alleged extortion. In a press briefing in Lapu-Lapu City in Cebu province on Wednesday, Palace press officer Claire Castro said the president

- [Domestic workers in Zamboanga Peninsula to get wage hikes on May 20](#) (2026-05-06 15:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Domestic workers or “kasambahay” in Zamboanga Peninsula are set to receive a monthly minimum wage increase of P500 to P1,000 on May 20 following the issuance of a new wage order, the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) said on Wednesday. In a statement, Dole said the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity

- [Puno: House leadership change, local politics factor in party movements](#) (2026-05-06 15:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Changes in the House of Representatives lawmakers’ party memberships can be attributed to the leadership movements last September 2025, and local politics amid the looming 2028 elections, Deputy Speaker Ronaldo Puno said on Wednesday. Puno, chairperson of the NUP, confirmed that several members of the ruling party Lakas-CMD moved to their group, bolstering

- [Flood control scam likely has multiple masterminds – Lacson](#) (2026-05-06 14:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson on Wednesday said there may be a “mastermind” in each region in charge of the flood control anomalies. Lacson made the remark after Sen. Jinggoy Estrada on Tuesday asked whether Lacson had identified the “mastermind” behind the alleged flood control scam. He, however, declined to answer

- [Tacloban logs 45°C heat index; DOH warns of heat stroke risks](#) (2026-05-06 14:19)

TACLOBAN CITY — The city of Tacloban recorded a heat index of 45°C on Wednesday, the highest in the country for the day, according to observations from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), prompting health authorities to

issue a public advisory on heat-related illnesses. The advisory from the state weather bureau was released at

- [Pangilinan eyed as ‘impeachment manager’ in possible trial vs Duterte](#) (2026-05-06 14:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan is being considered as an impeachment manager in the possible trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson said on Wednesday. As a lawyer, Pangilinan could not only answer questions of law, but could also help direct the proceedings and maintain order during the trial, Lacson

- [Only 38% of Filipinos expect better life; lowest since 2020 – SWS](#) (2026-05-06 14:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Fewer Filipinos expect their lives to improve over the next 12 months, with a new survey by Social Weather Stations (SWS) showing personal optimism dropping to its next lowest level since 2020. The nationwide survey, conducted from March 24 to 31 through face-to-face interviews with 1,500 adults, showed 38 percent of adult

- [SC: Paternity proof basis for financial support under VAWC law](#) (2026-05-06 14:13)

MANILA, Philippines — Proof of paternity is a primary basis for demanding financial support from a man accused of economic abuse, the Supreme Court’s Third Division has ruled. In its Nov. 3, 2025, decision, made public only on Wednesday, the court resolved a petition for review on certiorari filed by a man charged with violating

- [CHR renews call to end red-tagging, citing ‘real and well-founded risk’](#) (2026-05-06 14:09)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) renewed its call to end red-tagging, stressing that it is never a “harmless label” and that “it creates a real and well-founded risk.” The CHR said the call was drawn from the National Inquiry on the Current Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Philippines with

- [P110-million aid set for Mayon-hit workers in Albay](#) (2026-05-06 14:07)

LEGAZPI CITY, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has set aside more than P110 million in emergency employment assistance for over 20,000 workers affected by ashfall from Mayon Volcano in Albay. The assistance will be provided under the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged Workers (TUPAD) program, covering beneficiaries in ashfall-hit municipalities across

- [Sara Duterte flags ‘triple whammy’, claims gov’t has no more funds](#) (2026-05-06 13:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte on Wednesday warned that the Philippines is experiencing a “triple whammy” due to rising fuel prices, inflation, and foreign exchange

rates, as she pointed to the mounting economic pressures on Filipinos amid global and domestic challenges. While visiting her father, former President Rodrigo Duterte, who is currently under

- [PNP chief confident Perry Mariano slay suspects will be caught soon](#) (2026-05-06 13:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. on Wednesday said he was confident that the suspects in the killings of billiards patron Ceferino “Perry” Mariano, 75, and his driver would be caught soon. “We are intensifying our nationwide manhunt for all suspects, including the identified individual and the possible

- [Civil service exam topnotcher from Bangsamoro gets 98.6% score](#) (2026-05-06 13:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The topnotcher of the civil service exam’s professional level this year hails from the Bangsamoro region, according to the Civil Service Commission (CSC). Jannah Arumpac Masbud got a 98.6 percent score in the Career Service Examination-Pen and Paper Test (CSE-PPE) held on March 8, with results released by CSC on Tuesday. The

- [NUP solons backing impeach bid despite pressure show firmness – Puno](#) (2026-05-06 13:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The decision of several National Unity Party (NUP) members to still support the impeachment bid against Vice President Sara Duterte even in the face of warnings from sectors who oppose it only shows their steadfast stand, Deputy Speaker Ronaldo Puno said. Puno, who chairs NUP, said this in an online press briefing on

- [Police identify plate number of car in new Quezon City gas-and-run case](#) (2026-05-06 13:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City Police District (QCPD) has identified the plate number of the vehicle that was allegedly used to reload P1,500 worth of fuel at a gas station in Barangay Bahay Toro and which fled without the motorist paying. “Through extensive CCTV (closed-circuit television) backtracking and coordination with nearby establishments and barangays...

- [Asean at a glance: Meet the bloc’s 11 member states](#) (2026-05-06 12:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Southeast Asian leaders are meeting in Cebu City on May 6-8 for the 48th Asean Summit, with talks expected to focus on energy security, food security and the safety of Asean nationals amid heightened global tensions. The gathering also puts the spotlight on the bloc’s 11 member states and how their diverse

- [NUP’s majority initially reluctant to back Duterte’s impeachment](#) (2026-05-06 12:33)

MANILA, Philippines — House Deputy Speaker Ronaldo Puno has admitted that the majority of their group, the National Unity Party (NUP), was reluctant at first to support the impeachment bid against Vice President Sara Duterte. But he recounted that several party members have changed their minds and will now vote to move forward with this matter.

- [Mayon ashfall covers more than 8,500 hectares—PhilSA](#) (2026-05-06 12:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) has released a map showing areas covered by ash deposits from a reported pyroclastic density current at Mayon Volcano on Saturday, May 2. Based on its analysis, PhilSA said at least 8,544 hectares — about half the size of Quezon City — were covered by ashfall from

- [Peace talks with Reds not in Filipinos’ interest – Oban](#) (2026-05-06 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines – National Security Adviser (NSA) Eduardo Oban Jr. threw his support behind Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr.’s rejection of any peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People’s Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF). “Secretary Teodoro is correct in saying that to resume a national-level peace negotiations with a clearly spent, isolated, and

- [PNP: 63% trust rating ‘reflects efforts to maintain peace and order’](#) (2026-05-06 11:16)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Wednesday said a survey result showing a majority of Filipinos trusted and were satisfied with the law enforcement agency “reflected its efforts in peace and order.” The latest survey from the poll firm Octa Research showed that the PNP received a 63-percent trust rating and a

- [Sara Duterte: ‘Unfair’ to include family in impeachment proceedings](#) (2026-05-06 10:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte said it is “unfair” to involve her family in impeachment proceedings against her, emphasizing that they have a right to privacy as ordinary individuals and private citizens. The vice president made the remarks in an interview with members of the Filipino community on May 5, as she visited

- [Female cadet from Batangas tops graduating PMA Class of 2026](#) (2026-05-06 10:52)

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City — Batangas-born Cadet First Class Christine Kay Librada topped this year’s graduating Philippine Military Academy Talang Dangal Class of 2026 and will be commissioned as a junior military officer by President Marcos Jr., on May 16, along with her batchmates. READ: 207 PMA cadets of Talang Dangal graduating on May

- [Majority of Filipinos trust PNP, satisfied with its performance – survey](#) (2026-05-06 10:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Majority of Filipinos trust the Philippine National Police (PNP) and are satisfied with its performance, according to the latest Tugon ng Masa survey conducted by Octa Research. The non-commissioned survey conducted nationwide from March 19 to 25, through face-to-face interviews with 1,200 respondents aged 18 and above found that “majority of adult

- [PNP on ‘full operational readiness’ as Asean Summit begins in Cebu](#) (2026-05-06 10:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) is now on “full operational readiness” as the 48th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit begins in Cebu

on Wednesday, May 6. “At present, we have no specific or credible threats directed at the Asean Summit, but we are not lowering our guard,” PNP chief Gen.

- [207 PMA cadets of Talang Dangal graduating on May 16](#) (2026-05-06 09:37)

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City — A total of 207 members of the Philippine Military Academy Talang Dangal Class of 2026 will be commissioned as junior officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines on May 16 by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. READ: PMA graduating cadets spread goodwill in exposure trip to Pag-Asa Island The

- [OIL PRICE WATCH as of May 6, 2026](#) (2026-05-06 09:28)

MANILA, Philippines – Renewed increases in fuel prices this week are expected to deepen inflationary pressures in the Philippines, as economists warn that volatile oil markets continue to drive up the cost of basic goods and services. On Tuesday, inflation surged to a more than three-year high of 7.2 percent in April, exceeding both market

- [NBI nabs PGMN founder Franco Mabanta for alleged extortion vs Romualdez](#) (2026-05-06 08:24)

MANILA, Philippines – The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has arrested social media personality and Peanut Gallery Media Network (PGMN) founder Franco Mabanta for alleged extortion of former Speaker Martin Romualdez. NBI Director Melvin Matibag confirmed this to the INQUIRER in a Viber message on Wednesday. Mabanta pioneered the PGMN that shows political commentaries on

- [LPA to drench most of Visayas, Mindanao; TD may enter PAR this weekend](#) (2026-05-06 07:35)

MANILA, Philippines – A low-pressure area (LPA) inside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) is expected to bring rain showers to most parts of Visayas and Mindanao, while a tropical depression (TD) outside PAR may enter the country’s monitoring area this weekend, the state weather bureau said Wednesday. In its latest bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric,

- [Just like first time? House seen to get 200+ votes to impeach VP](#) (2026-05-06 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives can match or come close to the 215 signatories it gathered when it impeached Vice President Sara Duterte for the first time last year. According to sources in the chamber, a large number of lawmakers have already signified their intent to support the impeachment report prepared by the

- [Lacson report on flood mess seeks further probe of peers](#) (2026-05-06 05:15)

MANILA, Philippines — As promised, Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson on Tuesday revealed the Senate blue ribbon committee’s partial findings of its inquiry into the controversial flood control mess and recommended that several lawmakers undergo preliminary investigation for possible criminal prosecution. While Lacson, the panel chair, did

not name these lawmakers in his privilege

- [LP president still hoping Leni Robredo would ‘change her mind’](#) (2026-05-06 05:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Might Leni still be persuaded to run? The Liberal Party (LP) hopes so. Party president Erin Tañada said on Tuesday that former Vice President Leni Robredo will hopefully reconsider and run for president in 2028 instead of seeking a local post, after a Pulse Asia survey showed she was closing in on

- [LTFRB summons 9 ride-hailing firms for exceeding cap on listed drivers](#) (2026-05-06 05:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said on Tuesday that it has summoned nine ride-hailing companies that offer motorcycle taxi services for allegedly hiring more riders than the number authorized by the agency. In a statement, the LTFRB said it has issued show-cause orders to nine motorcycle taxi platform providers

- [Witness: Over 10 cash deliveries to DPWH Bulacan since 2021](#) (2026-05-06 05:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The liaison officer of a construction company linked to millions of pesos worth of government infrastructure projects that were either nonexistent or substandard told the Sandiganbayan on Tuesday that since 2021, she had delivered boxes containing cash to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Bulacan office “more than 10 times.”

- [DA to buy 32,000 female pigs to hasten hog sector’s recovery from ASF](#) (2026-05-06 04:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) is rolling out a P1.6-billion program to rebuild the country’s swine population and accelerate the sector’s recovery from African Swine Fever (ASF). It is procuring around 32,000 gilts (female pigs) as part of a broader plan to restore the national swine population to the pre-ASF level of

- [Vlogger linked to President Marcos’ fake medical test posts bail](#) (2026-05-06 04:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Vlogger Jeffrey Lucas Celiz or “Ka Eric Celiz” surrendered to the Pasig Regional Trial Court’s (RTC) Branch 119 on Tuesday and posted bail of P36,000 for his temporary freedom in connection with the “unlawful publication” case filed against him. He and former broadcaster Jay Sonza are accused of spreading a fake medical

- [8 Albay LGUs under calamity state amid Mayon unrest](#) (2026-05-06 04:40)

LEGAZPI CITY—The provincial government of Albay has placed several areas under a state of calamity as unrest at Mayon Volcano continues to impact surrounding communities. A resolution approved by the provincial board on Tuesday covers Tabaco City, Legazpi City, and Ligao City, as well as the towns of Camalig, Malilipot, Sto. Domingo, Daraga, and Guinobatan.

- [Rehab of Mindanao hydros seen to boost power supply](#) (2026-05-06 04:35)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Renewable energy and consumer advocates have welcomed the prospect of rehabilitating the state-owned Agus and Pulangi hydropower generating facilities in Mindanao. According to BenCyrus Ellorin, project director of Consumers for Renewable Energy Action in Mindanao (CREAM), the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), which now owns the hydro assets, has

- [Eastern Samar execs report no major damage from strong earthquake](#) (2026-05-06 04:30)

TACLOBAN CITY—The magnitude 6.0 earthquake that struck Eastern Samar on Monday afternoon caused minor structural damage but no reported fatalities, even as aftershocks continued to be felt in the province the following day, authorities said. The tremor, which occurred at 2:09 p.m., was traced to the coastal town of San Julian, a municipality with more

- [Area covered by ashfall in Albay ‘around half the size’ of QC — PhilSA](#) (2026-05-06 00:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The area covered by ashfall from Mayon Volcano in Albay has reached around half the size of Quezon City, the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) said Tuesday. PhilSA said it determined the area covered by ash by comparing satellite pictures taken before and after the event. READ: Mayon debris poses threat to Albay

- [CIDG: Man nabbed for selling ‘abortion pills’ in Quezon City](#) (2026-05-05 23:18)

MANILA, Philippines — A male individual was arrested for allegedly selling medication supposedly used to induce abortions in Quezon City, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) said on Tuesday. The suspect was entrapped along 18th Avenue in Barangay San Roque in the Cubao area last Thursday, according to the CIDG in a statement. It

- [2 riders to face raps for hurting bus driver, conductor in QC road rage](#) (2026-05-05 23:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Two motorcycle riders will face criminal complaints for allegedly hurting a bus driver and his conductor in a supposed “road rage” incident in Quezon City, the police said on Tuesday. In a statement, the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) identified the implicated riders as John Mark Longgaquit, 23; and John Lyndon Barrosa,

- [PNP assures uninterrupted service after magnitude 6.0 Samar earthquake](#) (2026-05-05 23:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) assured the public that its service remained uninterrupted in the Eastern Visayas region after it was struck by a magnitude 6.0 earthquake. “I have directed PRO 8 (Police Regional Office Eastern Visayas) to assess if there is major damage to our police facilities,” PNP chief Gen. Jose

- [DILG tells LGUs: Don’t impede fuel deliveries](#) (2026-05-05 23:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) urged local government units (LGUs) not to impede fuel deliveries in their respective areas of

responsibility. In a statement on Tuesday, the DILG cited Executive Order No. 110 issued by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. declaring a state of national energy emergency. “Amid ongoing

- [Manila Water ranks among top 10 companies in ATRAM SDG Fund](#) (2026-05-05 23:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila Water recently made it to the Top 10 companies by the ATRAM Philippine Sustainable Development and Growth Fund. It came after an assessment of Philippine companies under the fund’s sustainability-driven investment framework. Managed by ATR Asset Management Group (ATRAM), the Philippine Sustainable Development and Growth Fund uses an outcome based investment

- [The Manila Times’ Dante Arevalo Ang dies at 83](#) (2026-05-05 22:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Chairman emeritus and owner of The Manila Times broadsheet, Dante Arevalo Ang Sr., has died at the age of 83. The Manila Times announced Ang’s passing on Tuesday night. He was supposed to turn 84 on June 27. “It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of The Manila Times

- [TNVS driver accuses 4 HPG cops of extorting P35,000 to release car](#) (2026-05-05 22:20)

MANILA, Philippines — A transport network vehicle service (TNVS) driver has filed a complaint before the National Police Commission (Napolcom) against four Highway Patrol Group (HPG) personnel, alleging the police officers extorted P35,000 from him to release his impounded car. The implicated cops included a police executive master sergeant, a police senior master sergeant, a

- [Angara cites teachers’ vital role as DepEd launches remediation program](#) (2026-05-05 22:02)

As the Department of Education (DepEd) officially launches the 2026 Summer Remediation Programs (SRP) nationwide, Education Secretary Sonny Angara highlighted the vital role of teachers and tutors in helping struggling learners achieve grade-level proficiency. Running from May 6 to June 2, the initiative comes as DepEd works to sustain gains in learning recovery and address

- [May 5 lotto: 12 jackpot winners get ₱126.91M](#) (2026-05-05 21:55)

MANILA, Philippines—Twelve jackpot winners won Tuesday’s major lotto draws, with 10 winning tickets hitting the Ultra Lotto 6/58 jackpot, PCSO said. According to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the Ultra Lotto 6/58 winning combination was 01-58-25-43-26-16 for a jackpot of ₱76.31 million, shared by 10 winners. The Super Lotto 6/49 combination was 44-03-08-31-06-49 for a

- [Solon says Carpio camp must explain P2-B bank account ‘glitch’ in Senate](#) (2026-05-05 21:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The claim of the camp of second gentleman Manases Carpio about an alleged “glitch” on his bank records should be presented during the trial of Senate impeachment court against her wife, Vice President Sara Duterte, a solon said on Tuesday. On Monday, Atty. Peter Paul Danao, citing information they obtained in social

- [De Lima pushes back as Leviste claims widespread vote-buying in House](#) (2026-05-05 21:42)

MANILA, Philippines — It appears that Batangas Rep. Leandro Legarda Leviste met his match, as Mamamayang Liberal party-list Rep. Leila de Lima did not allow a simple deletion of Leviste’s claims that all lawmakers do vote-buying operations during election season. During the House of Representatives’ plenary session on Tuesday, Leviste delivered a privilege speech where

- [PCSO provides patient transport vehicles to Albay amid Mayon unrest](#) (2026-05-05 21:41)

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) has deployed additional Patient Transport Vehicles (PTVs) to Albay and Catanduanes to support ongoing emergency response efforts amid the continued unrest of Mayon Volcano. The unit delivered to Albay comes as communities deal with the effects of ashfall and volcanic activity. A separate turnover for Catanduanes is scheduled as

- [Dy: Land use bill a long-overdue blueprint for sustainable growth](#) (2026-05-05 21:33)

A long-overdue blueprint for sustainable growth and a decisive step toward securing the country’s land resources. This was how House Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III described the National Land Use Act (NLUA), which the House of Representatives approved on third and final reading on Tuesday. Voting 224–3 with zero abstentions, the chamber passed House Bill

- [Dy: Expanded 4Ps bill ensures continued aid for poor Filipinos](#) (2026-05-05 21:23)

Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III on Tuesday said the government remains committed to lifting poor families out of poverty as the House of Representatives approved on third and final reading a measure strengthening and expanding the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). In a 224–3 vote with zero abstentions, the chamber approved House Bill No. 8647,

- [Recto denies ghost projects, hits back at Leviste allegations](#) (2026-05-05 21:09)

MANILA, Philippines — Executive Secretary Ralph Recto on Tuesday denied any involvement in so-called “ghost” public works projects, pushing back against the accusations made by Batangas Rep. Leandro Leviste in his privilege speech at the House of Representatives plenary. In a strongly worded statement, Recto said claims tying him to anomalous infrastructure and flood control projects

- [Articles of impeachment vs Sara Duterte reach House plenary](#) (2026-05-05 20:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The committee report containing the articles of impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte has been brought to the House of Representatives’ plenary, after

the chamber took up additional business. During the House’ s session on Tuesday night, Assistant Majority Leader and Bulacan Rep. Agatha Paula Cruz moved to take up additional reference of business,

- [HEAT INDEX WATCH: 7 areas to reach ‘danger’ level on Wednesday, May 6](#) (2026-05-05 20:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Seven areas across the country are forecast to reach danger-level heat indices on Wednesday, May 6, said the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Heat index, which refers to the heat the human body feels when air temperature and humidity are combined, is automatically categorized as “danger” level once it

- [House OKs 4Ps amendments on 3rd reading](#) (2026-05-05 20:13)

MANILA, Philippines – The House of Representatives on Tuesday approved on final reading a bill strengthening the government’ s flagship poverty reduction program by expanding aid to include grants for pregnant women and early childhood support. Lawmakers voted 224-3, with no abstentions, to pass House Bill No. 8647, which seeks to strengthen the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino

- [Mayon debris poses threat to Albay town residents](#) (2026-05-05 19:39)

LEGAZPI CITY — A large pile of volcanic debris in Barangay Miisi, a village at the foot of Mayon Volcano, continues to pose a threat to residents following the ashfall on Saturday, May 2. Daraga Mayor Victor Perete, in a phone interview with the Inquirer, said at least five villages may be placed at risk

- [Recto: Leviste offered P1B to make Vilma Santos quit Batangas gov race](#) (2026-05-05 19:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Executive Secretary Ralph Recto has finally broken his silence and engaged Batangas Rep. Leandro Leviste in a full-on word war. In a strongly worded statement on Tuesday, Recto accused the neophyte lawmaker of allegedly attempting to bribe him with up to P1 billion to influence electoral contests and to grab hectares of sugar

- [Leviste gets schooled by lawmakers for spewing ‘hearsay’](#) (2026-05-05 19:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Batangas Rep. Leandro Legarda Leviste got his chance to speak before the House of Representatives plenary regarding his allegations against several government officials, but he was called out by colleagues for making accusations based on “hearsay.” During the session on Tuesday, Leviste accused Executive Secretary Ralph Recto and members of his family—wife Batangas

- [DOTr warns public vs scam messages impersonating its head](#) (2026-05-05 19:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Transportation (DOTr) on Tuesday warned the public against false private messages impersonating Transportation Sec. Giovanni Lopez to solicit

money. Based on the DOTr' s advisory, the fake messages are being delivered through onlinemessaging applications such as WhatsApp. "Please be advised that the Secretary, along with allDOTr officials and

- [House OKs land use act on 3rd reading](#) (2026-05-05 19:09)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives on Tuesday passed on final reading a bill establishing a national land use policy, setting a long-term framework for managing the country' s land and natural resources. With 224 lawmakers in favor of House Bill No. 8466 and three against, the lower chamber approved the proposal creating a central

- [Albay declares state of calamity in areas affected by Mayon ashfall](#) (2026-05-05 18:44)

LEGAZPI CITY — The provincial government of Albay has placed several areas under a state of calamity as unrest at Mayon Volcano continues to affect nearby communities. A resolution approved by the provincial board on Tuesday covers the cities of Tabaco, Legazpi, and Ligao, as well as the towns of Camalig, Malilipot, Sto. Domingo, Daraga,

- [9 ride-hailing firms summoned for allegedly onboarding too many riders](#) (2026-05-05 18:25)

MANILA, Philippines—The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on Tuesday said it has summoned nine ride-hailing companies that offer motorcycle taxi services. The firms are being made to explain why they reportedly hire a number of riders that is beyond the limit imposed by the agency. In a statement, the LTFRB said it has

- [Marcos cuts rice prices as April inflation hits 3-year high of 7.2%](#) (2026-05-05 18:23)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. directed Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. "to exhaust all possible measures to reduce rice prices" as one way to taper inflation, which has reached a three-year high of 7.2 percent. "According to Secretary Tiu Laurel, the country does not have a shortage of rice supply. The supply is

- [BOC uncovers P136.9M worth of misdeclared agricultural, illegal goods](#) (2026-05-05 18:23)

MANILA, Philippines — Misdeclared agricultural and illicit goods worth approximately P136.9 million have been uncovered by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) at the Port of Manila, the agency said on Tuesday. According to the BOC, the 25 containers were initially declared as plastic racks. It also said that the shipments were consigned to a construction

- [Lacson' s report lists several solons in 'menu' of possible charges](#) (2026-05-05 18:20)

MANILA, Philippines — As promised, Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson on Tuesday reported to the Senate floor the Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC) "Chairman' s Progress Report," which contains the findings of its draft partial report on the flood control scandal. It includes the preliminary investigation of three incumbent senators allegedly involved and the "menu" of

- [Estrada, Villanueva ‘not bothered’ by plunder raps Senate Blue Ribbon seeks](#) (2026-05-05 18:18)

MANILA, Philippines — Both Sens. Jinggoy Estrada and Joel Villanueva are “not bothered” by the investigation of criminal charges recommended against them in the Chairman’s Report of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee. The two remarked on Tuesday after Blue Ribbon panel chairperson Panfilo “Ping” Lacson presented its recommendations to hold a preliminary or fact-finding investigation,

- [HEAT INDEX WATCH: Temperature peaks at 44°C in Tacloban on May 5](#) (2026-05-05 18:07)

MANILA, Philippines — The highest heat index recorded on Tuesday was 44°C in Tacloban, Leyte, with four other areas also reaching “danger” level indices, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. Heat index refers to the heat the human body feels when air temperature and humidity are combined. READ: Here’s how to

- [Luistro: May 11 target for impeachment vote meant to comply with SC ruling](#) (2026-05-05 18:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The proposal to hold a vote on the articles of impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte by May 11 is hinged on the Supreme Court (SC) ruling that seeks to give due process to respondents, Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said on Tuesday. Luistro, in an online interview, reminded the public that when SC

- [Measures in place to address rising food prices – DA](#) (2026-05-05 17:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Tuesday said it is already implementing augmented measures to contain the rise in food prices amid the oil crisis caused by the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. The DA made the pronouncement after food inflation climbed to 6.1 percent in April, which is more than

- [Village watchman, welder nabbed with almost P1M in shabu in Iloilo](#) (2026-05-05 17:08)

ILOILO CITY – A barangay watchman and a welder were arrested after authorities seized almost P1 million worth of suspected shabu during an anti-illegal drug operation in Barangay Tabugon, in Dingle, Iloilo, late Monday afternoon. READ: Tricycle driver nabbed with P1.2-million ‘shabu’ in Iloilo sting The joint buy-bust operation, conducted around 5 p.m., led to

- [Party changes start in House: Some Lakas members leave for NUP, PFP](#) (2026-05-05 17:05)

MANILA, Philippines — There appears to be a shake-up in the membership of political parties in the House of Representatives, with different sources saying — and admitting — that lawmakers have left once-ruling party Lakas-CMD for either the National Unity Party (NUP) and the Partido Federal ng Pilipinas (PFP). In an online interview on Tuesday with

- [Top 2 regional most wanted for murder arrested in Alaminos City](#) (2026-05-05 16:52)

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan – A suspect wanted for three counts of murder and ranked as the No. 2 most wanted person at the regional level was arrested on Monday in Alaminos City, authorities said. READ: NCR’ s 6th most wanted nabbed over Pasay kidnapping case The Pangasinan Provincial Police identified the suspect as a 40-year-old single male

- [Boxes of cash delivered to DPWH Bulacan ‘more than 10 times’ — witness](#) (2026-05-05 16:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The liaison officer of a contracting company on Tuesday said she allegedly delivered boxes containing cash to the office of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in Bulacan “more than 10 times” since 2021. Monica Louis Ocampo-Santos, liaison officer of SYMS Construction, made the revelation when she took the witness stand of

- [LTO, SSS top Arta’ s list of ‘most complained’ agencies in Q1](#) (2026-05-05 16:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) and the Social Security System (SSS) were the subject of the most number of complaints in the first quarter of the year, according to the Anti-Red Tape Authority (Arta). An Arta report released on Tuesday showed that the LTO categorized under national government agencies, received 152 complaints

- [Lacson: Partial flood control report gains 7 of 9 required signatures](#) (2026-05-05 16:41)

MANILA, Philippines — The partial Senate blue ribbon committee report on the alleged anomalous flood control projects has yet to be sponsored in plenary as only seven of nine senators have signed so far, Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo “Ping” Lacson said on Tuesday. In his privilege speech, Lacson, who heads the blue ribbon panel,

- [Monitoring group: 12-year peace accord hasn’ t made BARMM safe place](#) (2026-05-05 16:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The Third Party Monitoring Team (TPMT) of the Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro has assessed that the parties involved in the accord have not fully caught up with the pace of its implementation. This comes 12 years after the signing of the agreement. The TPMT made this observation during the launching of its

- [NUP backs Marcos, pushes conscience vote in Sara Duterte impeachment](#) (2026-05-05 16:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Unity Party (NUP) will support President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’ s administration regardless of what happens in the impeachment process against Vice President Sara Duterte, a party leader said on Tuesday. In a statement, NUP chairperson and House of Representatives Deputy Speaker Ronaldo Puno said the party will encourage members to vote

- [House may send Duterte impeachment to Senate next week – Ridon](#) (2026-05-05 16:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives may transmit the Articles of Impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte to the Senate next week, with nearly 200 lawmakers backing the complaint, Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon said Tuesday. He said “major political parties” are included in the initial vote count, which already surpasses the threshold needed

- [Chief Justice Gesmundo: AI not a replacement for judicial reasoning](#) (2026-05-05 16:22)

MANILA, Philippines — “AI (artificial intelligence) is treated not as a replacement for judicial reasoning but as an assistive tool to improve efficiency, case management, and access to legal information,” Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo said Tuesday. He made the statement while addressing legal leaders across Southeast Asia at the Asean Bar Leaders Summit in Mandaluyong

- [Batangas pols Leviste, Recto trade barbs on, off social media](#) (2026-05-05 16:17)

MANILA, Philippines — It seems the spat between Rep. Leandro Legarda Leviste and Executive Secretary Ralph Recto will not end soon, as both politicians from Batangas continue to feud on and off social media. Leviste on Tuesday posted on his Facebook page several photos of Recto with CWS party-list Rep. Edwin Gardiola — first in an alleged dinner

- [Palace refutes Imee Marcos’ cabbage importation tale, calls it ‘fake news’](#) (2026-05-05 16:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang has denied Senator Imee Marcos’ story that the government is importing cabbage, thereby reportedly compromising the livelihoods of millions of local farmers, especially in the Cordilleras. Citing information from Agriculture Secretary Francisco Laurel Tiu Jr., Palace press officer Claire Castro said the government does not augment its local cabbage supply from foreign markets.

- [MPD filing raps vs KMU head over violence at Labor Day rally](#) (2026-05-05 15:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The Manila Police District (MPD) is filing a case against Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) Chairperson Jerome Adonis over violent incidents during the group’ s Labor Day rally in Manila. A video shared by the MPD during a press briefing in Camp Crame on Tuesday singled out Adonis among the protesters burning an effigy

- [DBM releases P43.18 billion for sustained gov’ t aid programs](#) (2026-05-05 15:48)

MANILA, Philippines —The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has released P43.18 billion in funding to ensure sustained support for the country’ s most vulnerable sectors on orders of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. At a briefing on Tuesday, Palace press officer Claire Castro said the funds were disbursed to ensure the continuous and immediate delivery of

- [P6.69-million crop damage logged in Albay due to Mayon unrest](#) (2026-05-05 15:35)

LEGAZPI CITY — Damage to crops from Mayon Volcano’ s unrest has reached P6.69 million, with ashfall affecting several farmers in Albay, authorities said Tuesday. READ: Mayon Volcano ashfall hits over 30,000 families A total of 41.54 hectares of farmland planted to rice and high-value crops were damaged, according to the Provincial Agriculture Office’ s assessment report

- [Palace: Sara Duterte’ s 2028 polls ‘prayer’ baseless, mere intrigue](#) (2026-05-05 15:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday described Vice President Sara Duterte’ s remarks about “honest, orderly, and peaceful” 2028 elections as baseless and mere intrigue. This came after Duterte, in an interview in The Hague, Netherlands, said, “we can only pray that there will be presidential elections” that meet those standards. READ: Sara Duterte unfazed by

- [No toll yet on Cavitet C5 Link Segment 3B on May 5 – reclamation authority](#) (2026-05-05 15:18)

MANILA, Philippines — The toll collection for Segment 3B of the C5 Link Expressway will not push through on Tuesday (May 5), the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) said. The expressway is part of the Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway Project or Cavitet. The toll collection was originally set to begin on May 5 before it was deferred.

- [Over 500 Pangasinan boys benefit from free circumcision drive](#) (2026-05-05 15:13)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan – Over 500 boys from Pangasinan’ s fourth district received free circumcision through a program sponsored by the Office of Fourth District Rep. Gina de Venecia. According to a report from De Venecia’ s office, the “Operation Tuli” initiative, held in the last week of April, benefited 170 boys each from San Fabian and San

- [PH has plenty of sun—so why isn’ t solar booming yet?](#) (2026-05-05 15:01)

MANILA, Philippines—Calls to investigate so-called “guerrilla” solar installers have renewed attention on how the Philippines manages access to energy, particularly as more households turn to alternative sources amid high electricity costs. Media networks reported May 3 that some lawmakers proposed looking into unregistered or informal solar installers over safety and regulatory compliance concerns. The proposal

- [PNP: 1 of 2 suspects in Perry Mariano slay identified](#) (2026-05-05 15:01)

MANILA, Philippines — One of the two suspects in the killing of billiards patron Caferino “Perry” Mariano, 75, and his driver has been identified, the Philippine National Police (PNP) announced Tuesday. “Based on our profiling, they have previous cases and warrants of arrest,” PNP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Randulf Tuaño told reporters. “They are operating outside

- [Vlogger surrenders, posts bail in fake Marcos medical certificate case](#) (2026-05-05 14:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Vlogger Jeffrey Lucas Celiz or “Ka Eric Celiz” surrendered before the Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 119 in Pasay City on Tuesday and posted the required P36,000 bail for an “unlawful publication” case in connection with his alleged dissemination of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s fake medical record. READ: NBI files raps vs

- [Missing Marinduque man found dead in Oriental Mindoro](#) (2026-05-05 14:17)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — A 48-year-old man who went missing while swimming off the coast of Gasan, Marinduque, was found dead on Monday, authorities confirmed. Armando Sapunto, a resident of Barangay Pangi (Little Pangi), was last seen around 5 p.m. on April 30 along the shoreline of Gasan town. He was reportedly wearing a

- [Hontiveros wants VAT exemption for low electricity consumers](#) (2026-05-05 14:07)

MANILA, Philippines — A bill seeking to exempt households with low electricity consumption from value-added tax (VAT) was filed in the Senate on Tuesday. Senate Bill No. 2093, otherwise known as the “Kuryente Relief Act,” was authored by Sen. Risa Hontiveros amid the increase in electric bills. The bill, according to Hontiveros, hopes to extend

- [Land transport safety month: VP Sara calls for road discipline](#) (2026-05-05 13:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte in a video message on Tuesday called on motorists and riders to practice discipline on the road, as the nation marks Land Transportation Safety Month May is celebrated as Land Transportation Safety Month in the country, declared via Presidential Proclamation No. 115-A, to promote responsible road use, educate

- [Marcos has not been talking with sister Imee for nearly 3 years – Palace](#) (2026-05-05 13:38)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Sen. Imee Marcos have not spoken in almost three years, and the latter is also no longer attending family gatherings and events, according to Palace Press Officer Claire Castro. Castro said the information came from the president himself after he was asked to react to Sen. Marcos’

- [Kalinga aid bill gets backing, but Makabayan says it’s a band-aid reply](#) (2026-05-05 13:19)

MANILA, Philippines — While the proposed Kalinga Bill filed by the House leadership got backing from the country’s economic managers, lawmakers from the Makabayan bloc believe this is just a temporary measure that will not fully address rising inflation rates. A statement from the Office of House Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III on Tuesday showed that

- [Sara Duterte unfazed by critics claiming she will be impeached](#) (2026-05-05 13:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte remains unfazed by public opinion that she would be impeached, but said it would be different if the same level of certainty came from lawmakers. READ: Sara Duterte visits The Hague, says ex-president in good health Duterte talked about the impeachment bid against her when she faced the

- [Baguio solon: No withdrawal of signature from VP impeachment report](#) (2026-05-05 12:55)

BAGUIO CITY — Rep. Mauricio Domogan has dismissed as “fake news” social media claims that he withdrew his signature from a House Justice Committee report related to the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte. READ: Leyte solon denies withdrawal of support for VP Duterte impeachment Domogan clarified that the committee had, in fact, approved the

- [Cases vs erring cops rise in 1st quarter of 2026](#) (2026-05-05 12:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Administrative cases against police officers who violated law enforcement regulations increased in the first quarter of 2026, according to the Philippine National Police Internal Affairs Service (PNP IAS). A total of 1,048 police officers were administratively charged from January to March 2026, compared to 770 during the same period in 2025, the

- [No ashfall reported as Mayon Volcano emits anew pyroclastic flow](#) (2026-05-05 12:37)

LEGAZPI CITY — No ashfall was reported after Mayon Volcano generated another pyroclastic density current (PDC) on Tuesday morning, an official of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said. READ: Ashfall from Mayon displaces villagers, kills livestock Volcanologist Paul Karson Alanis of Phivolcs-Legazpi told the Inquirer that the lava flow collapse-fed PDC occurred along

- [New gas-and-run case takes place in Quezon City](#) (2026-05-05 12:19)

MANILA, Philippines — Another “gas-and-run” case was recorded by the police in Quezon City after an unidentified male individual, aboard a blue sedan, had his car loaded with P1,500 worth of fuel at a gas station there but drove away without paying. The new instance took place around 3:16 a.m. last Sunday at a gas

- [Leyte solon denies withdrawal of support for VP Duterte impeachment](#) (2026-05-05 12:15)

TACLOBAN CITY — The camp of Leyte 3rd District Rep. Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon has denied claims that she withdrew support for the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte, clarifying that her absence from the final document was due to her being on leave. Speaking through a close aide, the lawmaker explained that Veloso was unable

- [Bulacan LGU takes over water utility amid crisis](#) (2026-05-05 12:04)

CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, Bulacan — The city government on Tuesday assumed control and management of PrimeWater Infrastructure Corp. and the San Jose del Monte Water District to address the ongoing water crisis affecting more than 250,000 residents. Mayor Florida Robes, together with her husband, Lone District Rep. Arthur Robes, and City Administrator

- [Mindoro solon: No signature withdrawal on VP impeachment case](#) (2026-05-05 11:54)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — First District Rep. Arnan Panaligan denied claims that he is among the 15 members of the House of Representatives who allegedly withdrew their

signatures from the Articles of Impeachment filed against Vice President Sara Duterte.

“Thereport that 15 members of the House withdrew their signatures in the articles of

- [Congress mulls simpler Sona set up amid crisis](#) (2026-05-05 11:47)

MANILA, Philippines – The two chambers of Congress are considering a simple State of the Nation Address (Sona) as it starts its discussions on preparing the yearly event, Senate Secretary Mark Llandro “Dong” Mendoza said on Tuesday. After a meeting with House Secretary General Cheloy Garafil at the Senate, Mendoza told the media that this

- [Senate bill seeks P5,000 cash aid for job-hunting fresh college grads](#) (2026-05-05 11:22)

MANILA, Philippines – A bill that will provide fresh graduates of tertiary institutions with P5,000 cash assistance to help ease their job-hunting costs has been filed and is expected to be tackled in the Senate. The proposed measure, Senate Bill No. 1961 or the “Fresh Graduates P5,000 One-Time Cash Grant Act of 2026,” has been referred

- [El Niño history shows pattern of short-term fixes](#) (2026-05-05 11:13)

The Department of Agriculture’s (DA) response to the looming Super El Niño includes shifting to less water-intensive crops, adjusting planting calendars, accelerating solar-powered irrigation, and coordinating with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA). These measures reflect short-term tactical approaches rather than a comprehensive and systemic strategy for the short, medium and long term. Crop diversification into

- [2 dead, 1 hurt in highway collision in Zamboanga del Sur](#) (2026-05-05 11:06)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — Two people were killed, and another was injured after a wing van truck collided with a motorcycle along the national highway in Purok Crossing, Barangay Poblacion, Kumalarang, Zamboanga del Sur early Tuesday morning. Police said the accident happened at 5:43 a.m. when a Fuso aluminum wing van truck, driven

- [Nationwide search for outstanding Filipino \(Tofil Awards\) launched](#) (2026-05-05 10:00)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan — The JCI Senate Philippines has launched the nationwide search for the Outstanding Filipino (TOFIL) Awards, which recognize men and women aged 41 and above whose exemplary achievements are deemed worthy of emulation. The award aims to highlight individuals, particularly from the grassroots level, whose contributions to society often go unrecognized. READ: 2025

- [PNP: Stay out of Mayon danger zone or face penalties](#) (2026-05-05 09:59)

MANILA, Philippines – The Philippine National Police (PNP) warned the public against entering the six-kilometer permanent danger zone (PDZ) around Mayon Volcano due to its continued unrest, saying violators may face penalties. In a statement on Tuesday, PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said the law enforcement agency has intensified visibility and patrol operations

- [OIL PRICE WATCH as of May 5, 2026](#) (2026-05-05 09:31)

MANILA, Philippines – The brief pump price relief seen during the past three weeks ended today as another round of fuel price hikes greeted motorists. Oil companies hiked diesel prices by P2.60 per liter and gasoline by P2.20 per liter. Kerosene prices will go the opposite direction, with a rollback of P3.53 per liter. READ:

- [Sandiganbayan trial on malversation case of Revilla, co-accused begins](#) (2026-05-05 09:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan trial in the malversation case of former Sen. Bong Revilla and his co-accused began on Tuesday. Witnesses were already called to testify last month, but only for the bail hearing, when the defense had to prove that the evidence against the accused is not strong enough to justify their continued detention.

- [10,000 Calasiao residents get free goods in community market](#) (2026-05-05 09:30)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan — About 10,000 residents received free meat, vegetables, fish, rice, and other groceries on Monday at a community market organized by the local government. READ: Community pantries return for PUV drivers amid oil crisis Instead of the usual market day, a community market was set up at the town plaza as part of

- [Navy seizes P18.8-M worth of tobacco in 2 smuggling busts in Zamboanga](#) (2026-05-05 09:17)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur— The Philippine Navy’ s Western Mindanao Naval Command (WMNC) has foiled two separate maritime smuggling attempts within a week, seizing illicit tobacco products and vessels with a combined estimated value of P18.8 million. On April 26, naval forces intercepted M/B Dayang Janna off the waters of Zamboanga, uncovering 50 master cases

- [House can muster over 200 votes to impeach Duterte – insiders](#) (2026-05-05 09:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Sources privy to conversations within the House of Representatives believe the chamber can come close to or match the 215 signatures that backed the first impeachment bid against Vice President Sara Duterte in 2025. One of those who believes the 215 figure is attainable is Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon, who

- [WATCH: Kanlaon emits ash plumes reaching up to 800 meters](#) (2026-05-05 08:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Kanlaon Volcano in Negros Island emitted grayish ash plumes reaching up to 800 meters above the summit crater early Tuesday, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs). The ash emission events were recorded at 5:32 a.m. and 6:01 a.m., with plumes drifting west, based on monitoring by the Kanlaon

- [LOOK: Collapse of Mayon lava flow triggers fast-moving hot gas, debris](#) (2026-05-05 08:16)

MANILA, Philippines — A lava flow collapse at Mayon Volcano in Albay generated a pyroclastic density current (PDC) on Tuesday morning, state volcanologists said. A PDC is a rapid, ground-hugging surge of intensely hot gas, ash, and volcanic debris that rushes down a volcano's slopes during an eruption. According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and

- [Bishop-elect of Tagbilaran withdraws from ordination](#) (2026-05-05 08:07)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol— Bishop-elect Fr. Gerardo Fortich Saco Jr. has announced that he will no longer proceed with his episcopal ordination scheduled on May 26 this year, citing a “change of heart” after prayer and discernment. In an official statement on Tuesday, Saco said his decision came after “much prayer and careful discernment,” adding that

- [Pagasa sees 2 LPAs east of Mindanao; one may enter PAR Tuesday](#) (2026-05-05 07:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Two low pressure areas (LPAs) being monitored east of northeastern Mindanao could enter the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) in the coming days, with one expected to cross into the boundary as early as Tuesday and the other developing into a tropical depression, the state weather bureau said. According to the Philippine

- [List of House lawmakers supporting VP questioned](#) (2026-05-05 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — A lawmaker on Monday flagged a list circulating on social media of lawmakers who have supposedly withdrawn their support for the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte, as a panel of the House of Representatives building the impeachment case unanimously voted on Monday to bring it to the plenary. The circulation of

- [VP spouse camp to media: Citing AMLC report violates law](#) (2026-05-05 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of lawyer Manases “Mans” Carpio, husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, on Monday warned the media against publishing the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) report containing his bank records, saying it is prohibited under the law. Other lawyers, however, said journalists enjoy “full constitutional protection” in doing so as it falls

- [Mayon Volcano ashfall hits over 30,000 families](#) (2026-05-05 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Mayon Volcano's ashfall have so far affected 30,522 families or 102,406 people across 87 barangays in Bicol region as of Monday morning, according to Office of Civil Defense (OCD) deputy spokesperson Diego Mariano. Of those who were affected, 5,440 were staying in evacuation centers, Mariano told reporters in a text message, citing

- [Toll waived until June 5 for newly opened section of Calax](#) (2026-05-05 05:35)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday led the opening of the 7.88-kilometer Cavite-Laguna Expressway Subsection 3 (Calax SS3), which motorists can use toll-free for a month. The 2x2 toll road lane connects Silang (Aguinaldo) Interchange in Silang to Governor's Drive Interchange in General Trias, Cavite, and is expected to make travel between

- [Cavite to host first PGH site outside Metro](#) (2026-05-05 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — A new Philippine General Hospital (PGH) will soon rise in Cavite province—making it the second PGH facility and the first-ever outside of Metro Manila—to accommodate more patients in south Luzon. Citing information from Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla, President Marcos on Monday said the groundbreaking for the new PGH center in the City

- [Hontiveros: Cut systems loss VAT in power bills](#) (2026-05-05 05:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Risa Hontiveros on Monday filed a bill that seeks to remove the value-added tax (VAT) on systems loss charges currently being passed on to the monthly electricity bills of consumers. The proposed measure, Senate Bill No. 2076, aims to amend the National Internal Revenue Code to exclude systems loss charges from

- [Two rice varieties pitched to farmers ahead of El Niño](#) (2026-05-05 05:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) has urged farmers to consider planting early-maturing and drought-tolerant rice varieties to prepare for the potential impact of El Niño in the coming months. According to PhilRice, which is under the Department of Agriculture, these varieties can help rice farmers manage water limitations and reduce risks

- [Jay Sonza out on bail; arraignment deferred](#) (2026-05-05 04:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Former broadcaster Jay Sonza was released on Monday after he posted bail of P10,000 in connection with the case filed against him for allegedly spreading fake medical information about President Marcos. Sonza arrived at the Pasig City Regional Trial Court's Branch 118 around 8:30 a.m. for his scheduled arraignment, but this was

- [Dela Rosa's opinion sought on 'no work, no pay' policy](#) (2026-05-05 04:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate ethics committee wants Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa to comment on a proposal to amend Senate rules to include the “no work, no pay” policy for absentee lawmakers. “I am asking Senator Dela Rosa ... to formally comment on the complaint against him,” Sen. JV Ejercito, chair of the committee,

- [Magnitude 6 quake strikes Eastern Samar](#) (2026-05-05 04:40)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — A magnitude 6 earthquake that struck off San Julian, Eastern Samar, on Monday afternoon left damage in several areas across Eastern Visayas and injured at least one child, according to initial reports from local authorities. In Dolores town, the Municipal Information Office said the quake caused visible damage in several

- [Old irrigation canals aid Bulacan farmers](#) (2026-05-05 04:35)

CITY OF MALOLOS—Rice plants of a group of farmers in this city have been spared from the worst effects of the dry spell, particularly toward the end of the dry season cropping from

January to April, due to the continued use of old local irrigation canals. Melencio Domingo, chair of the Santor Farmer Irrigators Association

- [Cop slain, 4 others wounded in Lanao del Sur ambush](#) (2026-05-05 04:30)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — A member of the Philippine National Police–Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) was killed, and four others were wounded after a police team was ambushed while serving a warrant of arrest in Barangay Katogonan, Buadiposo-Buntong, Lanao del Sur, on Monday morning. Capt. Steffi Salanguit, spokesperson for the Police Regional Office–Bangsamoro Autonomous Region

- [Legarda brings Schools of Living Traditions exhibit at the Senate](#) (2026-05-05 00:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Loren Legarda, chair of the Senate committee on culture and the arts, today opened the Schools of Living Traditions (SLTs) exhibit, “Buhay na Dunong: Bukal ng Pamana,” at the Senate building in Pasay City. Running from May 4 to 7, 2026, the exhibit forms part of the National Heritage Month celebration

- [Current, ex-transport execs face graft rap over LTO ‘computer fees’](#) (2026-05-04 22:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Former and incumbent officials of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and Land Transportation Office (LTO) are the subject of the graft complaint filed in the Office of the Ombudsman. A newly formed coalition group dubbed “Coalition 169” filed the complaint over alleged “unnecessary duplication” of IT systems, which led to additional “computer

- [No jackpot winners in May 4 Grand, Mega Lotto draws](#) (2026-05-04 21:44)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the jackpot in the Grand Lotto 6/55 and Mega Lotto 6/45 draws on Monday, May 4, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. The Grand Lotto 6/55 winning combination was 33-13-47-46-17-25, with the jackpot at ₱81.49 million. PCSO said there was no jackpot winner. The Mega Lotto 6/45 winning combination was

- [HEAT INDEX WATCH: 15 PH areas forecast to reach danger level on May 5](#) (2026-05-04 21:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Danger-level heat indices are forecast in 15 areas across the country on Tuesday, May 5, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. Danger-level heat indices range from 42°C to 51°C and carry increased risks of heat cramps and heat exhaustion, which may lead to heat stroke, according to Pagasa.

- [HEAT INDEX WATCH: ‘Danger’ level logged in 20 areas on May 4](#) (2026-05-04 19:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Twenty areas across the country recorded “danger” level heat indices on Monday, May 4, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. Heat index refers to the heat the human body feels when air

temperature and humidity are combined. READ: Here's how to protect yourself from high heatindex, according

- [SC orders Sotto to comment on indirect contempt petition](#) (2026-05-04 19:44)

MANILA, Philippines – The Supreme Court (SC) has directed Senate President Vicente “Tito” Sotto III to explain why he should not be cited for indirect contempt following a series of critical public remarks regarding its ruling on the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte. In a resolution made public Monday, the SC gave Sotto 10

- [LIST: House panel members who approved Duterte impeachment articles](#) (2026-05-04 19:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives' committee on justice on Monday unanimously approved the committee report containing the articles of impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte, with all 55 lawmakers present voting in favor of the motion. Sources within the House, who asked not to be named, provided reporters with a list of the

- [BPI says no detail disclosure after Carpio cites clarification on glitch](#) (2026-05-04 19:18)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) on Monday clarified that it maintains a strict policy against disclosing client information and transaction details unless mandated by legal processes. BPI issued the statement after the camp of Atty. Manases Carpio, husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, said that based on reports, the bank

- [House working hard, spreading fake news won't help – Speaker Dy](#) (2026-05-04 19:00)

MANILA, Philippines — House of Representatives Speaker Faustino Dy III has urged individuals with ill intentions to stop starting and sharing fake news as it would not help solving the countries' problems. During the resumption of Congress' session on Monday, Dy assured the public that the House is working hard, and has been focused on providing

- [Eastern Samar earthquake injures child](#) (2026-05-04 18:58)

TACLOBAN CITY — A child was injured after a magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck off San Julian, Eastern Samar at 2:09 p.m. on Monday, May 4, local authorities said. The child from Dolores town was reportedly struck by a falling religious statue during strong shaking in Barangay Hilabaan. The victim, whose age was not immediately known,

- [OIL PRICE WATCH as of May 4, 2026](#) (2026-05-04 18:47)

MANILA, Philippines – Local oil prices are expected to increase again starting May 5, with diesel likely to hike between P0.40 and P0.70 per liter and gasoline by about P1.30 to P1.70 per liter. The projected adjustments follow movements in global oil markets during the past trading week. The anticipated hike comes after several weeks

- [Angara prioritizes safety of school communities amid Mayon unrest](#) (2026-05-04 18:42)

MANILA, Philippines – Education Secretary Sonny Angara is prioritizing the safety of school communities in Albay as Mayon Volcano remains under Alert Level 3 due to intensified magmatic unrest. To ensure the protection of learners and personnel, the Department of Education (DepEd) has prepositioned at least 850 all-weather kits and N95 masks for immediate distribution

- [Agri damage due to Mayon unrest pegged at P6.64-M, so far](#) (2026-05-04 18:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The agriculture sector in Albay has so far absorbed some P6.64 million in losses due to the eruptive activity of Mayon Volcano and the resulting ashfall, the Department of Agriculture (DA) announced on Wednesday. READ: Mayon ashfall affects over 91,200 people — Guinobatan mayor Based on the latest bulletin from the DA,

- [Cavite Rep. Barzaga unfazed by possible House ouster](#) (2026-05-04 17:52)

MANILA, Philippines – Cavite Rep. Francisco “Kiko” Barzaga on Monday said he isn’t concerned about being expelled from the House of Representatives and that he has other opportunities to pursue if that happens. “Even if I lose my job in Congress, I’m pretty sure I’ll be fine since I have plenty of other opportunities,”

- [Sotto: Impeach court automatically convenes once Duterte case received](#) (2026-05-04 17:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Vicente “Tito” Sotto III said on Monday that the impeachment court will convene as soon as the Senate receives the Articles of Impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte “no matter what others say.” He made the statement after Sen. Robinhood Padilla said it is the minority’s “job to oppose” everything

- [Dy thanks lawmakers for tackling Duterte impeachment during break](#) (2026-05-04 17:37)

MANILA, Philippines — House Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III thanked lawmakers and congressional panels for working through the chamber’s break, including the justice panel for tackling the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte. READ: House justice panel OKs articles of impeachment vs Sara Duterte In his speech during the resumption of session on Monday,

- [PNP-SAF member killed, 4 other cops wounded in Lanao del Sur ambush](#) (2026-05-04 17:13)

COTABATO CITY— A member of the Philippine National Police–Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) was killed while four others were wounded after they were ambushed while serving a warrant of arrest in Barangay Catogonan, Buadipuso Buntong, Lanao del Sur Monday morning. Capt. Steffi Salanguit, spokesperson of the Police Regional Office–Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (PRO-BAR), said operatives were about

- [Senate ethics panel awaiting Dela Rosa' s comment on 'no work, no pay' \(2026-05-04 17:04\)](#)

MANILA, Philippines – The Senate ethics panel has asked Sen. Bato dela Rosa to comment on the possibility of including a ‘no work, no pay’ rule in the Senate, Sen. JV Ejercito said on Monday. “There is a proposal to amend the rules of the Senate already on absenteeism. The committee already acted on it

- [LTFRB summons 6 bus operators over fare discount lapse \(2026-05-04 17:02\)](#)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on Monday said it has summoned six more bus operators for failure to provide fare discounts under service contracting program. According to the LTFRB, the show cause orders (SCOs) against the six operators are based on reports that bus conductors of passenger buses have

- [Old church, houses in San Julian damaged by Eastern Samar earthquake \(2026-05-04 16:59\)](#)

TACLOBAN CITY — Several houses and a centuries-old church reportedly sustained damage after a magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck San Julian, Eastern Samar, on Monday. READ: Damage reported across Eastern Visayas after magnitude 6.0 quake Based on information relayed to the Inquirer by Barangay 2, Poblacion councilor Hilarion Gracias Nacario, several homes in the area were

- [Damage reported across Eastern Visayas after magnitude 6.0 earthquake \(2026-05-04 16:47\)](#)

TACLOBAN CITY — Damage was reported in several parts of Eastern Visayas after a magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck off San Julian, Eastern Samar, on Monday. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology has downgraded the magnitude of the quake from 6.1 to 6.0. READ: Eastern Samar suspends work, classes after magnitude 6.1 quake In San

- [VP Duterte submits proof vs Madriaga' s claim of close ties in affidavit \(2026-05-04 16:45\)](#)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte' s camp on Monday submitted proof to debunk the claims of self-confessed bagman Ramil Madriaga that he had a close relationship with her. Paolo Panelo, the vice president' s legal counsel, said this was contained in the 47-page reply-affidavit filed before the Taguig City Prosecutor' s Office. Duterte' s camp responded to

- [Erice in skipping VP impeachment: Not a fan of Sara Duterte, Marcos \(2026-05-04 16:35\)](#)

MANILA, Philippines — Despite his decision to abstain from and criticize the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte, Caloocan Rep. Edgar Erice clarified that he is neither supportive of Duterte nor the Marcos administration. On Monday, Erice was asked if he is not worried that his decision not to take a stand might be seen

- [Senate approves freedom of info bill, basic education voucher](#) (2026-05-04 16:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate on Monday approved on third and final reading the proposed People's Freedom of Information Act and Basic Education Voucher Program Act. Senate Bill No. 1432, or the People's Freedom of Information Act, seeks to provide the public with easier access to official government records, documents, and research data. READ: Sotto

- [Senate minority airs views on possible Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-05-04 16:24)

MANILA, Philippines – With Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment case nearing a vote in the House of Representatives, some minority Senators on Monday gave mixed responses to its preparations. In separate interviews, some minority senators told the media of their expectations or efforts for a possible impeachment trial. Sen. Robinhood Padilla, who has long expressed opposition

- [Sara Duterte impeachment: It's for politics; I won't participate — Erice](#) (2026-05-04 16:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Caloocan Rep. Edgar Erice said he would not participate in the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte at the plenary, as it was merely used for politics, and the House of Representatives does not have the moral ascendancy to seek accountability. In an ambush interview on Monday, Erice said lawmakers appear

- [Data privacy violation complaint filed vs 5 or more over Matibag video](#) (2026-05-04 15:38)

MANILA, Philippines — A complaint for alleged data privacy violation was filed against five or more individuals for disseminating a video showing National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Melvin Matibag arguing with his friend, Mel Sabio. In the viral video, Matibag was heard having a heated phone conversation with Sabio over an online post that

- [Telco extends connectivity aid to Mayon unrest-affected areas](#) (2026-05-04 15:37)

LEGAZPI CITY — Telecommunications firm Globe Telecom has begun offering communications support and payment relief to residents in parts of Albay province affected by the ongoing unrest of Mayon Volcano. READ: OCD: Over 102,000 people affected by eruption of Mayon Volcano In a press statement on Monday, the company said residents in Camalig, Guinobatan, Jovellar,

- [Eastern Samar suspends work, classes after magnitude 6.1 earthquake](#) (2026-05-04 15:25)

TACLOBAN CITY — Eastern Samar Gov. Ralph Vincent Evardone on Monday ordered the suspension of work in all government offices and classes at all levels across the province following the magnitude 6.1 earthquake that struck off San Julian. READ: Magnitude 6.1 earthquake jolts Eastern Samar town The directive was issued to ensure the safety of

- [WATCH: House panel OKs Articles of Impeachment vs Sara Duterte](#) (2026-05-04 15:19)

MANILA, Philippines – Here’s a recap of Monday’s hearing of the House justice committee, approving the committee report and Articles of Impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte. With the panel’s approval, the report will be transmitted to the House Committee on Rules for inclusion in the plenary agenda. Once taken up on the floor, the

- [Lanao del Sur cops wounded in ambush while serving arrest warrant](#) (2026-05-04 15:13)

COTABATO CITY — At least five police officers were wounded after they were reportedly fired upon while serving a warrant of arrest against a man wanted for murder in Buadipuso Buntong, Lanao del Sur, on Monday. Capt. Steffi Salanguit, spokesperson for the Police Regional Office–Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (PRO-BAR), said the team led by Capt. Nur

- [Magnitude 6.1 earthquake jolts Eastern Samar town](#) (2026-05-04 14:33)

MANILA, Philippines — A magnitude 6.1 earthquake jolted a town in Eastern Samar on Monday afternoon, state seismologists said. According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), the tremor, which was tectonic in origin, occurred at 2:09 p.m. Its epicenter was located 9 kilometers northwest of San Julian, Eastern Samar, with a depth

- [Sara Duterte not compelled, but should attend impeachment trial—Sotto](#) (2026-05-04 14:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte is not compelled to face trial in the Senate should the impeachment bid against her succeed in the House of Representatives, Senate President Vicente “Tito” Sotto III said on Monday. Duterte was a no-show in the House of Representatives committee on justice’s impeachment proceedings despite repeated invitations for

- [UP Visayas, Iloilo City ink deal to preserve Calle Real heritage](#) (2026-05-04 14:14)

ILOILO CITY — The University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV) and the Iloilo City government formalized a partnership on Monday to preserve and promote the historic buildings along Calle Real through a newly signed memorandum of agreement (MOA). The MOA covers “Project 3: Heritage as Public Policy: Preserving and Promoting Iloilo Calle Real Buildings,” which

- [Carpio camp to media: Citing AMLC report against the law](#) (2026-05-04 14:12)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of Atty. Manases “Mans” Carpio, husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, on Monday warned the media against publishing the Anti Money Laundering Council (AMLC) report containing his bank records, saying it is prohibited under the law, but several lawyers believe it is part of “protected speech” with journalists enjoying “full constitutional protection.”

- [Senate bill seeks removal of systems loss VAT in electricity bills](#) (2026-05-04 13:59)

MANILA, Philippines – A bill removing the value-added tax (VAT) on systems loss charges of electric utilities was filed in the Senate on Monday. Authored by Sen. Risa Hontiveros, Senate

Bill No. 2076, or the “VAT Exemption on Systems Loss Act for Residential Household Consumers,” aims to amend the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of

- [Luistro on Duterte impeachment: House panel shows no one is above law](#) (2026-05-04 13:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives’ justice committee tackled the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte to fulfill its constitutional duty and show the next generation that no one is above the law, Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said Monday. In her opening speech during the committee hearing, justice panel chair Luistro said they

- [Dagupan barangay gives free fuel, food aid to residents](#) (2026-05-04 13:08)

DAGUPAN CITY — A day before another fuel price hike, more than 70 tricycle drivers in Barangay Lasip Chico here on Monday received P200 worth of gasoline—equivalent to over two liters each—from the barangay council. Barangay chair Aldex Meneses said the initiative aimed to ease the burden of rising fuel costs on local drivers. Qualified

- [Lightning sparks fire, razes 4 homes in Bukidnon](#) (2026-05-04 12:59)

MARAMAG, Bukidnon — Three houses were destroyed, and another was damaged after a fire, believed to have been triggered by a lightning strike, broke out during a rainy, gusty Sunday afternoon in this town. Fire Officer Rommel Macabasag of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) said witnesses reported hearing a loud burst before the blaze

- [3 mineral ore shipments intercepted in Zamboanga del Sur](#) (2026-05-04 12:47)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur— Authorities intercepted three vehicles carrying suspected illegally sourced mineral ore in Dumingag town early Monday, with an estimated total value of P533,750. The first operation at around 4:30 a.m. along the national highway in Barangay Lower Landing yielded 25 sacks of copper ore weighing about 1,250 kilos. The second and

- [Jay Sonza released after posting bail – NBI chief Matibag](#) (2026-05-04 12:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Former broadcaster Jay Sonza has been temporarily released after posting a P10,000 bail on Monday over his “unlawful publication” case for allegedly spreading a fake medical record of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Melvin Matibag confirmed this in a press conference on Monday. READ: Jay Sonza seeks

- [Calapan City under ‘danger’ heat index at 44°C](#) (2026-05-04 12:37)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Authorities warned residents to take extra precautions after the heat index here reached a dangerous level of 44 degrees Celsius late Monday morning. READ: HEAT INDEX WATCH: 13 PH areas forecast to hit danger level on May 4 Data from the monitoring station at the Calapan City Public Market recorded

- [PNP sees 13% drop in crime since launch of Safer Cities program](#) (2026-05-04 12:24)

MANILA, Philippines – The Philippine National Police (PNP) recorded a 13 percent drop in crime rates following the implementation of the Safer Cities initiative on April 6, 2026, compared with the previous three months. PNP chief General Jose Melencio Nartatez reported the figure to the media on Monday. “If we compare it to the period

- [Groundbreaking of new PGH in Carmona set in May – Marcos](#) (2026-05-04 12:19)

GENERAL TRIAS CITY, Cavite — The groundbreaking for the new Philippine General Hospital (PGH) in Carmona, Cavite – the first-ever PGH outside of Metro Manila – is set this May, according to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Marcos announced this during the “Bawat Barangay Makikinabang” event in General Trias City, Cavite on Monday, citing information from Interior

- [Senate ethics panel acts on all complaints](#) (2026-05-04 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate committee on ethics and privileges, chaired by Senator JV Ejercito, acted Monday on all nine complaints pending before the panel. The committee dismissed four complaints it deemed frivolous, including those that failed to comply with basic requirements on form and substance, and deferred action on three others. “Four complaints were

- [Sotto wants continuation of Senate probe into 2025 ‘killer budget’](#) (2026-05-04 11:53)

MANILA, Philippines – Senate President Vicente “Tito” Sotto III on Monday backed the continuation of the Senate’s probe into the anomalous flood control projects, saying that many issues have yet to be uncovered in what he called the 2025 “killer budget.” “There are still many issues that need to be brought up—not only in Luzon

- [Zamboanga del Norte coffin ‘theft’ stirs concern over poverty](#) (2026-05-04 11:49)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur— A viral social media post has drawn mixed reactions after reports emerged that a coffin was allegedly stolen from a funeral home in Tampilisan town, Zamboanga del Norte. Kenneath Babas Cubol, owner and manager of the funeral service, said in a post that the incident left them stunned, noting that

- [House justice panel OKs Articles of Impeachment vs Sara Duterte](#) (2026-05-04 11:28)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives’ committee on justice has approved its committee report on the two impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte, with the panel recommending her removal from office after finding probable cause. During the committee on justice’s hearing on Monday, Deputy Speaker David Suarez moved to approve the amended report, which

- [Long queues form for cheap NFA rice in Cotabato](#) (2026-05-04 11:26)

KIDAPAWAN CITY, Cotabato— Residents from nearby Makilala town in Cotabato province gathered before dawn outside the National Food Authority (NFA) office in Cotabato on Monday to secure priority numbers for the sale of subsidized rice. They braved the cool weather as they lined up outside the NFA-Cotabato office in Kidapawan City ahead of its 8

- [Ridon: ‘List’ of solons withdrawing impeachment support bears fake name](#) (2026-05-04 11:23)

MANILA, Philippines — The list of lawmakers who have supposedly withdrawn their support from the impeachment move against Vice President Sara Duterte — which is being shared on social media — is being questioned by Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon, as it contains a fake name. In a statement on Monday, Ridon said that if

- [Marcos leads opening of Calax extension in Cavite, Laguna](#) (2026-05-04 10:26)

GENERAL TRIAS CITY, Cavite – President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday inaugurated the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (Calax) Subsection 3, which is expected to cut travel time between Biñan City, Laguna, and General Trias, Cavite, from one hour to 26 minutes. The 4.5-kilometer section extends the Governor’s Drive Interchange in General Trias, Cavite, helping ease traffic congestion

- [House panel convenes to decide on Sara Duterte impeachment case](#) (2026-05-04 10:23)

MANILA, Philippines — A House of Representatives committee convened on Monday to decide whether to advance impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte, who is accused of graft, constitutional violations, betrayal of public trust, and other high crimes. The House committee on justice is expected to vote on its report and the accompanying articles of

- [Camp of Mans Carpio calls P6.7-billion bank transaction claim ‘a lie’](#) (2026-05-04 10:21)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of Atty. Manases Carpio, husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, on Monday said the claim that they hold a total of P6.7 billion in their bank accounts is a “lie.” However, Atty. Peter Paul Danao, Carpio’s legal counsel, said the actual figure could not be disclosed since Carpio is a private

- [Metro Manila air still carries lead traces years after fuel phaseout](#) (2026-05-04 10:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Traces of toxic lead remain in Metro Manila’s air more than two decades after the Philippines phased out leaded gasoline, according to a new study by researchers from the Ateneo de Manila University Department of Physics and the Manila Observatory. Published in the February 2026 issue of Atmospheric Environment, the study analyzed

- [Heat, isolated rains to continue across Visayas — Pagasa](#) (2026-05-04 10:19)

ILOILO CITY — Warm temperatures, isolated rain showers, and generally light to moderate winds are expected to prevail across much of the Visayas until May 8, according to the latest

five-day regional outlook issued by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) Visayas unit. Released at 9 a.m. on Monday, the forecast covering

- [WATCH: House panel set to adopt Sara Duterte impeachment | May 4](#) (2026-05-04 10:09)

This report is part of Inquirer's special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. The House Justice committee convenes on Monday, May 4, to review and approve the committee report on the articles of impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte. READ: Panel finds 'probable cause' to impeach Sara

- [Fiesta celebrations in Guinobatan, Albay deferred over Mayon unrest](#) (2026-05-04 10:00)

LIGAO CITY — The local government of Guinobatan has ordered the postponement of all barangay activities, particularly fiesta-related events, due to the ongoing unrest of Mayon Volcano. READ: Mayon ashfall affects over 91,200 people — Guinobatan mayor In an advisory on Sunday, Mayor Ann Gemma Ongjoco said holding such events is "inappropriate" amid the emergency,

- [Marcos: Gov't minimized Mayon ashfall impact, roads to reopen soon](#) (2026-05-04 09:59)

GENERAL TRIAS CITY, Cavite — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday said government response efforts have helped minimize the effects of ashfall from Mayon Volcano. Citing his conversation with Albay Governor Noel Rosal, Marcos said all needs of the province were immediately addressed following the volcano's activity, releasing thick ashfall, last Saturday. READ: Ashfall from

- [OCD: Over 102,000 people affected by eruption of Mayon Volcano](#) (2026-05-04 09:52)

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 102,406 people across 87 barangays in the Bicol Region have so far been affected by the ongoing eruptive activity of Mayon Volcano as of Monday morning, according to Office of Civil Defense (OCD) deputy spokesperson Diego Mariano. Of the 102,406 affected individuals, 5,440 are currently inside evacuation centers, while

- [Sotto backs issuance of show-cause order vs Dela Rosa](#) (2026-05-04 09:34)

MANILA, Philippines—Senate President Vicente "Tito" Sotto III believes Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa should respond to the ethics complaint filed against him for his absence, and explain why they should not "give in" to the case. Sotto made the remark as the Senate ethics committee being headed by Sen. JV Ejercito is set to

- [Napolcom sacks cop for alleged rape of unconscious woman inside motel](#) (2026-05-04 09:12)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Police Commission (Napolcom) dismissed from service a patrolman over reports that he raped a woman while she was unconscious at a motel in Manila.

In a statement on Monday, Napolcom said the patrolman was administratively liable for gravem misconduct and conduct unbecoming of a police officer following the purported incident.

- [Jay Sonza seeks to dismiss charges filed at Pasay court](#) (2026-05-04 09:08)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of former broadcaster Jay Sonza is seeking the dismissal of unlawful publication charges before the Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 118 in Pasay City, over allegations that he spread false medical information about President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Sonza arrived at the RTC office around 8:30 a.m. for his scheduled arraignment

- [HEAT INDEX WATCH: Pagasa flags extreme heat in Cavite, Quezon town](#) (2026-05-04 08:58)

LUCENA CITY — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) has again warned the public of dangerous heat levels in Cavite City on Monday and Tuesday (May 4 and 5). In its 5 p.m. bulletin on Sunday, May 3, Pagasa said the heat index at Sangley Point in Cavite City is expected to

- [Taal Volcano unrest intensifies with surge in quakes](#) (2026-05-04 08:54)

LUCENA CITY — Taal Volcano showed renewed unrest after a rise in volcanic earthquakes over the past 24 hours, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology reported (Phivolcs) on Monday, May 4. In its morning bulletin, Phivolcs recorded 20 volcanic earthquakes—significantly higher than the nine events logged over the previous three days.
READ: Taal Volcano

- [ITCZ seen outside PAR, may develop into LPA – Pagasa](#) (2026-05-04 07:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ), which could lead to the formation of a low-pressure area (LPA), has been observed outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), the state weather bureau reported on Monday. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the ITCZ is the line where winds from

- [‘Records, not opinions’ : VP impeach raps set for plenary](#) (2026-05-04 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The House committee on justice, which found that the complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte have probable cause, is expected today to “formally adopt” its report containing the articles of impeachment and send the charges to the plenary for debate by the 318-member chamber. “This committee has completed its constitutional duty to

- [Soldiers wounded in Negros clashes honored](#) (2026-05-04 05:45)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — The Philippine Army has cited two soldiers who were wounded in separate encounters with alleged communist rebels in Negros Occidental, including the April 19 clashes in Toboso town that killed 19 individuals, including two University of the Philippines (UP) students, a community journalist, and two Filipino American activists. Army chief Lt.

- [NUJP: Red-tagging, abuse of libel laws still prevalent](#) (2026-05-04 05:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) called out the government for failing to protect media workers from Red-tagging and state-sponsored harassment as the country marked World Press Freedom Day on Sunday. The Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFOMS), in response, committed to address Red-tagging, especially of independent journalists,

- [Ashfall from Mayon displaces villagers, kills livestock](#) (2026-05-04 04:45)

LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY, Philippines — Thick ash and smoke from pyroclastic density currents (PDC) from Mayon Volcano darkened skies across parts of Albay on Saturday, forcing residents to flee and leaving animals dead along its slopes. In Barangay Salugan, Camalig, 18-year-old Kyla Millares and her family were among dozens who rushed out of their homes

- [‘Sea of Clouds’ ecopark opens in Borongan City](#) (2026-05-04 04:40)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — A new ecotourism destination officially opened to the public on May 1 with the launch of the Hebacong “Sea of Clouds” Nature Park in Borongan City, Eastern Samar, marking a key milestone in the city’s effort to combine environmental protection with sustainable tourism growth. Located in Barangay Hebacong, the park

- [DSWD readies relief goods amid Mayon eruption](#) (2026-05-04 04:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Sunday said over 300,000 food items and basic needs have already been prepositioned for residents of Bicol region amid Mayon Volcano’s continuous eruptive activity. According to a DSWD advisory, 301,311 family food packs have so far been prepositioned for Albay residents affected by

- [7 Mindoro parishes shift to clean energy](#) (2026-05-04 04:35)

CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO, Philippines — The Diocese of Calapan has awarded renewable energy projects to seven parishes in Oriental Mindoro, marking a major step toward the island’s shift to clean and sustainable power. The agreements, covering a total of 200 kilowatt-peak capacity, were signed on April 30 during the Renew Mindoro Investments Summit at

- [Baguio urged to review unvalidated ‘211’ land titles still being sold](#) (2026-05-04 04:30)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — The city government should assert control over about 200 hectares (ha) of land covered by old or unvalidated titles that remain active in official records and continue to be sold despite long-standing legal questions, according to a report presented to the city council. In a privilege speech on April 27, former

- [Speaker Dy rallies House to sustain momentum on Leduc priorities](#) (2026-05-03 22:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III called on members of the House of Representatives to sustain focus, discipline, and urgency as session resumes this week, saying the chamber must build on its gains after passing or advancing 18 of the 52 Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council priority measures before the Holy Week break. Dy

- [No winner for P75M Ultra Lotto jackpot on May 3](#) (2026-05-03 21:45)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the jackpots in the Ultra Lotto 6/58 and Super Lotto 6/49 draws on Sunday, May 3, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. The winning combination for Ultra Lotto 6/58 was 32-53-51-15-36-17. The jackpot was ₱75 million, but no ticket matched all six numbers. READ: Lotto Results Today – May 3,

- [Cop shot while serving arrest warrant in Quirino](#) (2026-05-03 20:16)

CABARROGUIS, Quirino — A police officer was shot by a man while he and his colleagues were serving an arrest warrant against the suspect in Disimungal, Nagtipunan, Quirino, on Saturday night, May 2, police said Sunday. Injured was Patrolman Jimboy Erang, who was hit by an improvised pellet gun. Erang was given first aid at

- [Pangasinan fish farms operators grapple with heat, fuel costs](#) (2026-05-03 19:41)

BINMALEY, Pangasinan — Fishpond operators in Pangasinan are struggling with extreme heat and rising production costs driven by high fuel and feed prices, a fisheries group leader said. Christopher Sibayan of the Samahan ng Magbabangus sa Pangasinan said sustained temperatures above 40°C, peaking at 46°C, have triggered “gataw” in milkfish, forcing fish to surface and

- [Marcos orders agencies to help communities affected by Mayon ashfall](#) (2026-05-03 19:32)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has ordered government agencies to immediately assist communities affected by ashfall from Mayon Volcano, particularly in Guinobatan and Camalig in Albay province. Response operations are now in full swing to protect public health, ensure safety, and keep roads and essential services accessible in affected areas, the Presidential Communications

- [PTFOMS vows action vs red-tagging, abuse of libel](#) (2026-05-03 18:58)

MANILA, Philippines — The Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFOMS) on Sunday committed to addressing the red-tagging of journalists and the misuse of libel and cyber libel laws as the country observed World Press Freedom Day. “We acknowledge the concerns raised regarding ‘red-tagging’ and the alleged targeting of independent media outlets,” PTFOMS Executive Director

- [HEAT INDEX WATCH: Temperatures peak at 44°C in 2 PH areas on May 3](#) (2026-05-03 18:51)

MANILA, Philippines — The highest recorded heat index on Sunday was 44°C in Dagupan City, Pangasinan, and Aparri, Cagayan, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. Heat index refers to how hot it feels to the human body when air temperature and humidity are combined. READ: Here's how to protect yourself from

- [HEAT INDEX WATCH: 13 PH areas forecast to hit danger level on May 4](#) (2026-05-03 18:45)

MANILA, Philippines — At least 13 areas are expected to reach “danger” level heat indices on Monday, May 4, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. Heat index is the heat felt by the human body when air temperature and humidity are combined. Once it ranges from 42°C to 51°C, Pagasa automatically

- [PNP vows justice for cops hurt in Labor Day protest](#) (2026-05-03 18:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) vowed to pursue maximum legal action against individuals who physically attacked law enforcers during the Labor Day demonstrations in Manila on May 1. PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said investigators are gathering evidence, including from closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage, body camera recordings, and videos on

- [Mayon ashfall affects over 91,200 people — Guinobatan mayor](#) (2026-05-03 17:31)

LEGAZPI CITY — Guinobatan Mayor Ann Gemma Ongjoco said ashfall from Mayon Volcano has affected 26,654 families or 91,225 individuals across Albay, as clearing operations continue and livestock deaths are reported in Camalig town. Ongjoco said 41 barangays were blanketed by ash, disrupting daily activities. Only three barangays were spared, though no evacuation was ordered.

- [Warm weather with isolated rains to persist across Visayas — Pagasa](#) (2026-05-03 16:58)

ILOILO CITY — Warm and humid conditions will continue across the Visayas in the coming days, with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms likely in the afternoon or evening, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). In its five-day regional weather outlook released on May 3, Pagasa's Visayas Regional Services Division said temperatures

- [P1.4M worth of illegal fertilizers, pesticides seized in Isabela](#) (2026-05-03 16:45)

CITY OF ILAGAN, Isabela — Authorities seized P1.42 million worth of unregistered fertilizers and pesticides during a raid on a compound in Barangay Santa Isabel Norte on May 1, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG)-Isabela reported on Sunday. Police Col. Rodrigo Soriano, CIDG Regional Field Unit 2 chief, identified the arrested suspect as a

- [PNP ramps up Mayon disaster response, Albay security](#) (2026-05-03 16:17)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Sunday said it has ramped up its security and disaster response operations in Albay following ashfall from Mayon Volcano, which forced evacuations in several barangays. According to PNP chief PGen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr., personnel in Police Regional Office 5 (PRO-5) have been mobilized to secure

- [NUJP on World Press Freedom Day: Red-tagging, attacks on media persist](#) (2026-05-03 15:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) called out the government for failing to protect media workers from red-tagging and harassment as the country marked World Press Freedom Day on Sunday. “The climate of impunity remains, and so, no amount of safety measures would be enough to protect ourselves from

- [Pimentel to senators: Follow conscience on Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-05-03 15:29)

MANILA, Philippines—Former Senate President Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III advised his former colleagues, who will act as senator-judges in the possible impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, to follow their conscience. “At the end of the day, when it comes to making the decision, that cannot be taught. That would depend on the senators’ conscience,”

- [House likely to back Sara Duterte impeachment – analysts](#) (2026-05-03 15:21)

MANILA, Philippines – The House of Representatives will likely back the articles of impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte, as the evidence presented during the proceedings has strengthened the case, even as she has emerged as a leading presidential contender, political analysts said. However, political analysts said it remains to be seen whether the House

- [Caap bans flights near Mayon Volcano](#) (2026-05-03 14:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (Caap) on Sunday barred aircraft from flying directly over Mayon Volcano amid its eruptive activity. According to the Notice to Airmen released by Caap, no aircraft are allowed to operate from the surface up to 11,000 feet above the summit of Mayon Volcano, particularly within

- [Sara Duterte impeachment raps to go to House floor on May 4 — Luistro](#) (2026-05-03 14:15)

MANILA, Philippines – Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro on Sunday said the House justice committee she heads will adopt its report finding probable cause to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte and send the charges to the floor on Monday for debate. “This committee has completed its constitutional duty to determine probable cause based on the evidence

- [3 thieves busted in La Union](#) (2026-05-03 14:03)

DAGUPAN CITY — The police arrested three suspected Metro Manila-based thieves during an operation in San Juan, La Union on Saturday. Authorities identified the suspects as a 24-year-old man and two women aged 31 and 36, all residents of Metro Manila. They were apprehended

during a routine security check, which also led to the recovery

- [OIL PRICE WATCH as of May 3, 2026](#) (2026-05-03 13:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Another round of fuel price hikes may hit consumers this week with the Department of Energy (DOE) signaling a possible increase in pump prices. Industry estimates suggest diesel prices could rise by around P0.20 to P0.40 per liter, while gasoline may also post an increase, reversing recent weeks of price cuts. Motorists

- [Court allows Jay Sonza to post bail for cyberlibel case](#) (2026-05-03 13:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Pasay Regional Trial Court (RTC) has rectified the charges against former broadcaster Jay Sonza and has allowed him to post a P10,000 bail following his recent arrest for cyberlibel by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). READ: Jay Sonza arrested over cyberlibel case – NBI chief To recall, Pasay City RTC

- [DSWD readies over 300,000 food packs in Bicol amid latest Mayon unrest](#) (2026-05-03 12:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Sunday said over 300,000 food packs and basic needs have already been pre-positioned for residents of the Bicol region affected by Mayon Volcano’ s continuous eruptive activity. According to a DSWD advisory, 301,311 family food packs have so far been pre-prepositioned as of 6

- [Over 1,000 Albay town residents evacuated due to heavy Mayon ashfall](#) (2026-05-03 12:37)

LEGAZPI CITY — More than 1,000 residents of Camalig, Albay, were evacuated due to heavy ashfall caused by a pyroclastic density current from Mayon Volcano on Saturday. Camalig Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office head Edlyn Noble said 399 families were affected by thick ashfall in the villages of Quirangay, Anoling, Salugan, and Cabagnan. Noble

- [Makabayan hits Teodoro for ruling out peace talks with Reds](#) (2026-05-03 10:30)

MANILA, Philippines – The Makabayan bloc on Sunday criticized Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro, Jr. for opposing peace talks with Communist rebels, saying his stance undermines government commitments to pursue negotiations in one of the world’ s longest-running insurgencies. “Teodoro’ s refusal to even consider talks ‘without precondition’ signals that the Marcos administration is choosing perpetual war, not

- [DPWH earmarks P368-M for Cabanatuan City – CLLEX road link](#) (2026-05-03 10:20)

CABANATUAN CITY — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has allocated an initial P368 million for the concreting of a 5.6-kilometer road linking the Central Luzon Link Expressway (CLLEX) to this city and several nearby municipalities. Publios Works and Highways Secretary Vince Dizon, who inspected the project on Friday alongside Nueva Ecija 3rd

- [Detour bridge in Ilocos Sur collapses due to overloaded truck](#) (2026-05-03 10:01)

MANILA, Philippines — A detour bridge in Santo Domingo, Ilocos Sur, collapsed after an overloaded 10-wheeler truck attempted to cross it, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said. The DPWH, in a statement, said the truck, weighing some 20 tons, made its way to the Kaliwet Bailey Bridge in Barangay Nalasin which had

- [House nearing approval of land use plan bill, 4Ps amendments](#) (2026-05-03 09:52)

MANILA, Philippines – Two priority bills are set for final approval by the House of Representatives when session resumes this week, as congressional leaders seek to sustain momentum for President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.’s legislative agenda. In a statement, House Majority Leader and Ilocos Norte Rep. Ferdinand Alexander “Sandro” Marcos said a bill instituting a

- [Talisay, Batangas heat index hits 41°C ; extreme caution advised](#) (2026-05-03 09:35)

LUCENA CITY — Authorities in Talisay, Batangas on Sunday advised residents to take extra precautions after the town’s heat index reached the extreme caution level at 41°C. The Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC) said that the advisory is based on the monitoring of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

- [SC: Rodrigo Duterte wrongfully fired exec who probed his wealth](#) (2026-05-03 05:41)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has ruled that former President Rodrigo Duterte wrongfully dismissed the former Overall Deputy Ombudsman Arthur Carandang eight years ago after he told the Inquirer and ABS-CBN network he had documents which may indicate that the then president and his family had ill-gotten or unexplained wealth. The Jan. 29 decision

- [WHAT WENT BEFORE: Duterte tells Carandang: ‘Just pray’](#) (2026-05-03 05:41)

MANILA, Philippines — In 2017, Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales delegated Overall Deputy Ombudsman Arthur Carandang to handle cases involving President Rodrigo Duterte’s family. Morales inhibited herself from acting on any case filed against Duterte and his family because her nephew, lawyer Manases Carpio, is married to Duterte’s daughter, then-Davao City Mayor and now-Vice President Sara

- [Quiboloy rally leader gets jail term for blocking PNP manhunt](#) (2026-05-03 05:39)

MANILA, Philippines — A Quezon City court has sentenced a member of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) to four months in jail for instigating the setup of a road blockade in Davao City in an attempt to stall the police manhunt for the sect’s leader Apollo Quiboloy in August 2024. Judge Juvenal Bella of

- [Defense chief Teodoro rules out renewed talks with rebels](#) (2026-05-03 05:37)

LAOAG CITY, Ilocos Norte — Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. on Saturday rejected fresh calls for the government to revive peace negotiations with communist rebels, saying they

continued to commit acts of terrorism in peaceful villages in the countryside. “No, I object to any peace talks with the NPA (New People’s Army),” Teodoro told reporters

- [Ping Lacson readies report on flood control probe](#) (2026-05-03 05:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson on Saturday said that he is set to deliver a progress report as chairperson of the Senate blue ribbon panel on flood control investigations through a privilege speech on Monday or Tuesday next week. This came after the partial report of the panel on flood control

- [Tito Sotto warns vs delays in impeachment trial](#) (2026-05-03 05:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Vicente Sotto III on Saturday warned he would not brook any delaying tactics should the House of Representatives impeach Vice President Sara Duterte as expected. The Senate president said impeachment rules have already been tested in the past, including the impeachment trial of former Chief Justice Renato Corona, and any

- [DOT pushes studied development of 2 new ‘jewel beaches’](#) (2026-05-03 05:31)

TACLOBAN CITY — Two more beaches joined the ranks of the world’s best after Lagen Island in El Nido, Palawan, was named among the top in 2013, according to the Department of Tourism (DOT). The new “jewel beaches” are Entalula Beach in El Nido, Palawan, named among the best for three years running, and Kalanggaman

- [Customs to auction off 6 more luxury vehicles](#) (2026-05-03 05:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs (BOC) will conduct another public auction for six luxury vehicles on May 7. In a social media post on Saturday, the BOC-Port of Manila said the public auction through sealed bidding would be held at 10 a.m. at the conference room of its Prefab Building in Port Area.

- [Palace okays Sara Duterte trip to South Korea, Europe](#) (2026-05-03 05:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang has issued a travel authority allowing Vice President Sara Duterte to embark on overseas travels May 2 to May 15. Palace press officer Claire Castro confirmed the approval of Duterte’s request to travel to several European and Asian destinations. Her original itinerary included visits to the Netherlands, South Korea, Belgium, Germany

- [‘MacGuffin Untold’ : The Art of the In-Between](#) (2026-05-03 05:25)

MANILA, Philippines — In cinema, a MacGuffin is a plot device—an object or a goal—that exists solely to set the story in motion. It is often a detail irrelevant in itself, yet essential to the journey. For the artist, the “MacGuffin” is the quiet, daily ritual: the discarded sketches, the shifting light in a studio,

- [Agusan del Sur builds its way to Palarong Pambansa stage](#) (2026-05-03 05:17)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — On May 24 this year, some 18,000 athletes and sports officials from across the country will march through the grounds of the Datu Lipus Makapandong DO Plaza Sports Complex in Prosperidad, the capital of Agusan del Sur, for the opening of the weeklong Palarong Pambansa. The occasion will mark

- [This week's milestones: May 3-9](#) (2026-05-03 05:15)

May 3, 1572 Oton in the province of Iloilo was established as a pueblo and became the third Augustinian mission in the country (after Manila and Cebu) during the chapter assembly of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus in the Philippine Islands. It became a large pueblo that included the present-day towns

- [DENR: Green sea turtle nesting in Panglao signals healthy ecosystem](#) (2026-05-02 23:49)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — A green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) has successfully nested along the shores of Panglao Island in Bohol, underscoring the ecological importance of the province's coastal habitats, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Central Visayas said. In an advisory, DENR confirmed that the nesting occurred at around 7:26 p.m. on

- [Bulacan jeepney drivers get rice, cash subsidy](#) (2026-05-02 23:44)

CITY OF MALOLOS, Bulacan — Around 10,000 transport sector workers received rice subsidy and cash diesel assistance from the provincial government of Bulacan and from the monthly salary of its high ranking officials. Gov. Daniel Fernando and Vice Gov. Alexis Castro, with Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) chief Rowena Tiongson, distributed five kilos

- [LOOK: Dagupan rocks with 3-km bangus street party](#) (2026-05-02 23:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Dagupan City marked its annual 'Bangus' Festival on Thursday, April 30, with a three-kilometer long street party dubbed as "Kalutan ed Dalan" along De Venecia Highway. There, residents and visitors grill 'bangus' or milkfish, the city's top aquaculture product. The street party is the main crowd drawer of the traditional Bangus Festival.

- [Group decries exclusion of minimum wage earners in 'ayuda' rollout](#) (2026-05-02 23:18)

BACOLOD CITY — The General Alliance of Workers Association (Gawa) issued a formal letter of protest on Friday, May 1, condemning the national government for excluding private minimum wage earners from emergency cash assistance, or "ayuda," despite the ongoing economic crisis. Gawa Secretary General Wennie Sancho, signed the protest letter on behalf of the private

- [LOOK: Lasip Chico in Dagupan highlights lechon industry in annual feast](#) (2026-05-02 23:04)

DAGUPAN CITY — Villagers of Barangay Lasip Chico in Dagupan City celebrated its annual feast highlighting its lechon industry through the 4th “Lechonan ed Barangay” on Saturday, May 2. Some 22 pigs were roasted simultaneously starting at 6 a.m. The roasted pigs were offered for free taste and sold for P800 per kilo. According to

- [NUJP condemns cybercrime, data privacy raps vs CDO broadcaster](#) (2026-05-02 22:21)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — A local broadcaster here is facing complaints for alleged violations of the Cybercrime Prevention Act and the Data Privacy Act after her station published screenshots of a private message thread with a city official regarding the delayed release of student scholarship allowances. The local chapter of the National Union of

- [Coast Guard warns mariners of Balikatan missile drill in Tacloban waters](#) (2026-05-02 22:17)

TACLOBAN CITY — The Coast Guard District Eastern Visayas (CGDEV) has issued a navigational advisory warning mariners of a missile-related activity in the waters off San Pedro Bay from May 5 to 7, as part of the ongoing Philippines–United States Balikatan Exercises. In its advisory issued on April 28, CGDEV said the activity will involve

- [Scattered rains, daytime heat to persist across Visayas — Pagasa](#) (2026-05-02 22:11)

ILOILO CITY — Intermittent rain showers and continued daytime heat are expected to persist across parts of the Visayas over the next five days, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. In its May 2 to 6 outlook, Pagasa’s Visayas office forecast partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers and

- [Roasted pigs take center stage in Dagupan village festival](#) (2026-05-02 22:07)

DAGUPAN CITY, Pangasinan – The rich aroma of roasted pigs drifted through a vacant lot along Old De Venecia Highway on Saturday morning as Lasip Chico village here staged its “Lechonan ed Barangay,” a celebration of an industry the community has nurtured for decades. Rows of pigs slowly turned over glowing charcoal pits from 6:30

- [Puerto Princesa woman wounded in shooting over domestic dispute](#) (2026-05-02 22:04)

Puerto Princesa City — A 40-year-old woman was wounded in a shooting incident that stemmed from a family altercation in Barangay Sta. Lourdes here on Saturday morning, May 2. Initial report from the Puerto Princesa City Police Office (PPCPO) stated that the incident stemmed from a domestic dispute between the victim and her husband. The

- [Villar pushes bills to ease job-hunting costs](#) (2026-05-02 21:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Mark Villar on Labor Day called for the passage of two bills seeking to reduce job-hunting costs and address job-skills mismatch among Filipino workers. Villar cited Senate Bill No. 1272, or the proposed Kabalikatan sa Hanapbuhay Act, and Senate Bill No. 1295, which seeks to create a tripartite council composed of

- [May 2 Lotto 6/42 bettor wins ₱35.47M jackpot](#) (2026-05-02 21:44)

MANILA, Philippines—A bettor won the Lotto 6/42 jackpot in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office draw on Saturday, May 2. According to PCSO, the winning Lotto 6/42 combination was 22-34-42-19-03-25, with a jackpot of ₱35.47 million. One ticket holder won the prize. No winner was declared for the Grand Lotto 6/55 jackpot. The winning combination was

- [LOOK: Heavy ashfall from Mayon Volcano blankets towns in Albay](#) (2026-05-02 20:50)

DARAGA, ALBAY — Heavy ashfall blanketed several towns in Albay’s third district on Saturday following a strombolian eruption and continuous pyroclastic density currents (PDCs) from Mayon Volcano, local officials said. At least 17 barangays in Guinobatan town were severely affected, with some areas experiencing near-zero visibility, Guinobatan Mayor Gemma Ann Ongjoco told Inquirer. “The ashfall

- [Solons: SC ruling vindicates ex-Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Carandang](#) (2026-05-02 20:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Some lawmakers on Saturday said the Supreme Court ruling declaring unconstitutional the removal of former Overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Carandang vindicated the former official. They also said the resolution renewed attention on past investigations involving the Duterte family’s financial transactions. Akbayan Party-list Representative Chel Diokno said the ruling affirmed that “even the

- [‘People’ s Court’ to monitor Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-05-02 20:21)

MANILA, Philippines — A civil society-led “People’s Court” will be formed to monitor the possible Senate impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte following a House committee’s finding of probable cause to impeach her. The House Committee on Justice voted unanimously that evidence in two complaints alleging Duterte misused public funds and made a death

- [HEAT INDEX WATCH: 5 areas may experience temp up to 43°C on May 3](#) (2026-05-02 19:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Fourteen (14) areas are forecast to experience “danger level” heat indices, with five areas expected to peak at 43°C on Sunday, May 3, the state weather bureau said. Under the classification of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Association (Pagasa), a heat index of 42°C to 51°C falls under the “danger”

- [Mayon Volcano emits pyroclastic density current along Mi-isi gully](#) (2026-05-02 18:26)

MANILA, Philippines — A pyroclastic density current (PDC), locally known as “uson,” was observed at Mayon Volcano on Saturday, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs). Phivolcs, in an initial advisory, said an ongoing PDC was seen moving along the Mi-isi gully on the volcano’s south-southwestern slopes. Pyroclastic density currents are fast-moving

- [Sotto warns against delays in a possible Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-05-02 18:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Vicente Sotto III on Saturday warned against possible delaying tactics should the impeachment complaint against Vice President Sara Duterte reach the Senate. He also sees no need to amend the chamber's existing impeachment rules. Sotto, in a radio interview, said that the existing framework had already been tested in past

- [Palace confirms approval of Duterte's new list of foreign trips for May](#) (2026-05-02 16:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Saturday confirmed reports that the Office of the President (OP) approved Vice President Sara Duterte's rescheduled trips from May 2 to May 15. "Confirmed," Palace Press Officer Claire Castro told reporters in a Viber message when asked about the reported approval of Duterte's travel authority. The confirmation came after Duterte

- [Curious driver foils alleged cigarette smuggling in Pangasinan](#) (2026-05-02 16:29)

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan — A tricycle driver's suspicion led to the surrender of alleged smuggled cigarettes to authorities on Friday, May 1. Police said the 42-year-old driver from Nueva Ecija was hired by an unidentified individual to deliver two boxes to Rosales, Pangasinan for P2,000. While en route, he became curious and partially opened the packages.

- [Lacson to make privilege speech to update public on flood control probe](#) (2026-05-02 15:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson on Saturday said that he is set to deliver a progress report as a chairperson of the Senate blue ribbon panel on flood control investigations. He will report to the people through a privilege speech on Monday or Tuesday next week. This move comes even if the

- [SC voids Duterte's dismissal of ex-Dep. Ombudsman Melchor Carandang](#) (2026-05-02 14:36)

MANILA, Philippines—The Supreme Court has declared void former President Rodrigo Duterte's dismissal of Overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Arthur Carandang, stating that the former president lacked the disciplinary authority to do so. In a decision promulgated Jan. 29, 2026, but recently posted on its website, the Supreme Court's Third Division said the chief executive has no

- [Kanlaon Volcano emits 700-meter ash plume anew – Phivolcs](#) (2026-05-02 14:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Fresh ash emission was observed from Kanlaon Volcano in Negros Island on Saturday afternoon, May 2, state volcanologists said. In its advisory, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) recorded plumes that rose 700 meters above the summit crater before drifting west-southwest. Based on its latest 24-hour monitoring, Phivolcs said on

- [TRB to begin imposing toll at Cavitex C5 Link-Segment B on Tuesday \(May 5\)](#) (2026-05-02 13:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) has announced that toll will now be collected from the newly-opened Cavitex C5 Link-Segment B starting Tuesday, May 5. This came after toll fees were waived at the new toll road for the entire month of April, as announced by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The six-lane, two-kilometer

- [Court convicts KOJC member over Quiboloy arrest blockade](#) (2026-05-02 13:43)

MANILA, Philippines — A Quezon City court has convicted a Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) member for violating the Public Assembly Act over a highway blockade staged during the 2024 police operations against televangelist Apollo Quiboloy. The Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 39, Quezon City found Eduardo Corda guilty of violating Section 13(a) of Batas Pambansa

- [Ridon: Sara Duterte expected to be impeached within 2 weeks](#) (2026-05-02 12:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon on Saturday said that Vice President Sara Duterte is expected to be impeached by the House of Representatives within the next two weeks as he expressed confidence of the House justice panel that the minimum number of votes to impeach her will be secured. Ridon said

- [Teodoro rejects calls to resume peace talks with NPA](#) (2026-05-02 11:33)

LAOAG CITY, Ilocos Norte — Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. on Saturday said there would be no resumption of peace talks with communist rebels, rejecting calls from former negotiators following a deadly military operation in Negros Occidental. “No. I object to any peace talks with the NPA (New People’s Army),” Teodoro told reporters on the

- [Suspect yields P4.59-M ‘shabu’ in Lucena City](#) (2026-05-02 11:13)

LUCENA CITY — Anti-narcotics operatives arrested an alleged high-value drug suspect and seized “shabu” (crystal meth) worth up to P4.59 million in a buy-bust operation in this city on Friday night, May 1. Lt. Col. Ryan Hernandez, Lucena City police chief, said operatives from the city drug enforcement unit, with personnel from the Quezon Maritime

- [Napolcom sacks slain cop’s husband for grave misconduct, obstruction](#) (2026-05-02 11:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Police Commission (Napolcom) has dismissed from service Police Senior Master Sergeant John Mollenido, the estranged husband of slain policewoman Diane Mollenido, over grave misconduct, and obstruction of justice. In a statement on Saturday, Napolcom said that the decision of the en banc found Mollenido administratively liable for “grave misconduct, neglect

- [Bohol’s ‘antingaw’ places 2nd in International Mollusc of the Year 2026](#) (2026-05-02 10:37)

TAGBILARAN CITY — A rare mollusc discovered in Bohol has captured international attention after placing second in the 2026 International Mollusc of the Year (IMOY) competition, highlighting the Philippines' unique marine biodiversity. The species, *Lithoredo abatanica*, locally known as “antingaw,” garnered 5,097 votes to secure the first runner-up spot behind the Mediterranean Vampire Snail (*Cumia*)

- [Cavite City, Infanta brace for dangerous heat index this weekend](#) (2026-05-02 10:23)

LUCENA CITY — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) has warned of dangerous heat levels in Cavite City and Infanta, Quezon, on May 2 and 3. Based on its 5 p.m. bulletin Friday (May 1), Sangley Point in Cavite City is expected to reach a heat index of 43°C on Saturday and

- [Cop linked to farmer's shooting surrenders in Pangasinan](#) (2026-05-02 09:41)

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan — A police officer suspected in the shooting of a 25-year-old farmer in this capital town on Thursday, April 30, has surrendered to authorities. The suspect turned himself in at the San Carlos City Police Station, where he is assigned, at around noon on Friday. He also surrendered his issued firearm, along with

- [Passenger dies after falling overboard in Batangas waters](#) (2026-05-02 08:52)

LUCENA CITY — A passenger died after reportedly falling overboard from a vessel in the waters off the Verde Island Passage in Batangas City on Friday, May 1, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said. The PCG Batangas station said its Isla Verde substation received a report that the man had fallen into the sea and

- [MMDA sets alternate routes for QC road works in May](#) (2026-05-02 08:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has advised motorists to take alternate routes as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) will conduct road reblocking and repairs in certain areas in Quezon City from May 1 to May 31. READ: DPWH nears completion of Edsa phase 1 rehab The MMDA said

- [Cloudy skies over Luzon, rains for Visayas and Mindanao on Saturday](#) (2026-05-02 07:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Parts of the Visayas and Mindanao will experience rains while a huge part of Luzon will see partly cloudy to cloudy skies on Saturday due to easterlies, the state weather bureau said. In the 5 a.m. weather forecast of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration, weather specialist Loredin de la

- [DepEd eyes 2.4M learners in private school subsidies](#) (2026-05-02 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) is targeting to subsidize the schooling of more than 2.4 million students under the Expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (E-Gastpe). Nearly 990,000 junior high school students will be covered by the Educational Service Contracting (ESC) program, while around

1.47 million senior high

- [Lawyer: VP Sara Duterte’ s impeachment defense ‘addled’](#) (2026-05-02 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Famed litigation lawyer Lorna Kapunan sought the psychological and psychiatric evaluation of Vice President Sara Duterte because of her remarks on the “strong evidence” presented during the impeachment proceedings at the House of Representatives.

“We should look at the psychological and psychiatric evaluation of a public official. Let’ s not even say vice

- [Jay Sonza arrested over cyberlibel case](#) (2026-05-02 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation on Thursday evening arrested former broadcaster Jay Sonza over charges that he spread fake medical information questioning President Marcos’ fitness to fulfill his official duties. NBI Director Melvin Matibag confirmed to the Inquirer that Sonza was arrested on the strength of a warrant issued by the Pasay

- [PhilHealth highlights ‘Yakap’ for workers on Labor Day](#) (2026-05-02 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Various branches of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) across the country highlighted on Labor Day its Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (Yakap), which aims to assist government and private employees with their health needs. Under the program, enlisted workers may avail of medical consultations, laboratory services, certain medicines, and diagnostic tests from

- [Police eye business rivalry in billiards patron’ s slay](#) (2026-05-02 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Police are looking into a business rivalry as a possible motive in the murder of sportsman and businessman Ceferino “Perry” Mariano, who was gunned down with his driver along a busy street in Quezon City on Tuesday. At a briefing at Camp Crame on Friday, Brig. Gen. Randulf Tuaño, spokesperson for the

- [PH part-time jobs surged 35% in Q1 – Jobstreet](#) (2026-05-02 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine job market is increasingly leaning toward part-time and flexible work arrangements, with postings for such roles surging in the first quarter amid the “normalization” of hybrid and remote setups, according to online employment platform Jobstreet by SEEK. In its latest report, Jobstreet said part-time job postings rose 35 percent year-on-year,

- [Marcos asks labor to just ‘keep going’ as wage hike clamor grows](#) (2026-05-02 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday stopped short of offering a clear commitment to the labor sector despite intensifying demands for a nationwide wage hike, which has been made more urgent by the Middle East crisis. The President, in his Labor Day statement, called workers the “backbone” of the country, but the

- [Negros clash spurs call to revive talks with Reds](#) (2026-05-02 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Former government peace negotiators called for a resumption of peace talks with communist rebels following the killing of 19 people in a recent military operation in Negros Occidental, saying the two sides once came close to reaching an interim peace agreement to end the nearly six-decades-old insurgency. “The nineteen (19) deaths in

- [Provinces mark Labor Day with protests](#) (2026-05-02 05:06)

OLONGAPO CITY, Philippines — Workers and community groups staged Labor Day protests across the country on Friday, Labor Day, with separate rallies raising concerns over rising prices, alleged corruption and broader socio-economic issues. Outside the Subic Bay Freeport gate, around 60 protesters joined a one-hour program, where speakers linked local economic hardships to national policies,

- [Fruit bat colonies found in Apayao biodiversity expedition](#) (2026-05-02 05:04)

TUGUEGARAO CITY, CAGAYAN, Philippines — Colonies of the endemic giant golden-crowned flying fox (*Acerodon jubatus*) and the large flying fox (*Pteropus vampyrus*) were documented during a 10-day biodiversity monitoring mission in the forests of Apayao from April 20 to April 30, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said. Dorothy Cayaba, officer in charge

- [BARMM posts record-high P5.1B in investments in 4 months](#) (2026-05-02 05:02)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — The flow of investments into the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) continues to surge, surpassing the record set in 2025 and exceeding this year’s target. Mohamad Omar Pasigan, chair of the Bangsamoro Board of Investments (BBOI), said total approved investments reached P5.1 billion as of April 30. “This

- [13 Central Luzon cops with admin cases dismissed in last 4 months](#) (2026-05-02 00:46)

MABALACAT CITY, PAMPANGA, Philippines — Thirteen police officers in different parts of Central Luzon were dismissed from the service between January and April this year after facing administrative charges, the Police Regional Office 3 (PRO3) disclosed on Friday, May 1. In a statement, the PRO3 said the dismissed individuals were among the 72 police officers

- [Truck catches fire in Malaybalay City amid extreme heat](#) (2026-05-02 00:38)

MALAYBALAY CITY, BUKIDNON, Philippines — Residents of Barangay San Jose here were alarmed after thick black smoke billowed from a commercial area on Friday morning, May 1, prompting people to rush to the scene of a fire. According to the Malaybalay City Fire Station, the incident occurred in Purok 2, where a closed-type truck parked

- [More than 3,000 jobs offered in Labor Day fair in Cagayan Valley](#) (2026-05-02 00:28)

TUGUEGARAO CITY, CAGAYAN, Philippines — For thousands of jobseekers, May 1 was spent applying for jobs instead of resting as they queued in long lines at Labor Day job fairs at two private malls in this city and in Santiago City, Isabela. Department of Labor and Employment Regional Director Elpidio Jesus Atal Jr. lauded jobseekers

- [Drug suspect nabbed, yields P13.6M worth of meth in Zamboanga City raid](#) (2026-05-01 23:36)

PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, Philippines — Personnel of Police Regional Office 9 (PRO 9) have intensified the campaign against illegal drugs following the arrest of a high-value individual and confiscation of some two kilograms of suspected shabu worth P13.6 million in Barangay Ayala, Zamboanga City, on Thursday morning, April 30. Joint operatives from the

- [Zambales town marks ‘Buwan ng Panitikan’ with National Artist Ricky Lee](#) (2026-05-01 23:16)

SAN ANTONIO, ZAMBALES, Philippines — Writers, students, and cultural advocates gathered on Thursday, April 30, at the San Antonio Youth Center to mark the culmination of the country’s Buwan ng Pambansang Panitikan, with National Artist Ricky Lee as guest of honor. Lee, a National Artist for Film and Broadcast Arts, headlined the main session “Mga

- [Danger-level heat index lingers in parts of Visayas; some areas hit 45°C](#) (2026-05-01 23:05)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — Several areas in the Visayas continue to experience dangerous heat index levels, with some locations reaching as high as 45°C, even as slightly lower—but still risky—conditions are expected over the weekend, according to the latest data from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). As of May 1, Dumangas

- [Iloilo City intensifies long-term support for 4Ps families](#) (2026-05-01 22:50)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — The Iloilo City government is shifting its focus from temporary relief to long-term self-sufficiency by expanding its support systems for beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), particularly for youth who have aged out of the national government’s subsidy program. In a meeting with 4Ps parent leaders held on Friday,

- [No jackpot winners for Ultra, Mega Lotto on May 1](#) (2026-05-01 21:49)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the jackpots for Ultra Lotto 6/58 and MegaLotto 6/45 in the Friday, May 1, 2026 draw, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). Ultra Lotto 6/58 produced the combination 53-37-16-45-05-29 for a jackpot worth ₱75 million. No ticket holder matched all six numbers. READ: Ultra Lotto, Super Lotto jackpots unwon

- [2 solons confident majority of their parties to back Duterte impeachment](#) (2026-05-01 21:37)

MANILA, Philippines — At least two lawmakers believe that the majority of the members of their respective parties will support the impeachment bid against Vice President Sara Duterte after seeing the body of evidence presented during hearings. In separate interviews on Friday, Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon and Deputy Speaker Janette Garin both said that

- [Legarda renews call to protect workers as fuel, food prices soar](#) (2026-05-01 20:52)

Senator Loren Legarda on Labor Day renewed her call for urgent government action to ease the burden on Filipino workers facing the daily impact of rising fuel and food prices. She emphasized that the struggle of laborers today goes beyond wages; it is about survival and dignity amid economic hardship. Filipino workers across sectors bear

- [LRT-2 to open passenger cooling rooms in all stations starting May 4](#) (2026-05-01 20:10)

MANILA, Philippines — A passenger cooling room will be set up at every Light Rail Transit 2 (LRT-2) station starting May 4, amid the continued hot and humid weather across the country. READ: HEAT INDEX WATCH: 13 areas forecast to reach ‘danger’ level on Saturday In a Facebook post on Friday, the Light Rail Transit

- [Chua: Duterte tax record scrutiny to bolster ill-gotten wealth allegation](#) (2026-05-01 19:41)

The examination of the income tax returns (ITRs) of Vice President Sara Duterte will strengthen the allegation that she has amassed ill-gotten wealth, Manila Rep. Joel Chua said Friday. Chua, who chairs the House committee on good government and public accountability, said the committee on justice intends to compare the ITRs of Duterte and her

- [Garin: No payoffs, coercion in Sara Duterte impeachment](#) (2026-05-01 19:20)

Deputy Speaker Janette Garin of Iloilo on Friday said there were no payoffs or coercion in the move by the House committee on justice to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte, saying the unanimous vote of its 53 members was driven by evidence against Duterte. The Iloilo lawmaker issued the statement in response to a report

- [Duterte impeachment: AMLC report, threat video grounds for conviction—Kapunan](#) (2026-05-01 19:08)

The two most compelling grounds that could lead to Vice President Sara Duterte’s conviction in the impeachment trial are the Anti-Money Laundering Council’s (AMLC) report on the P6.77 billion in flagged transactions in her and her husband’s bank accounts, and the grave threats she publicly made against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos,

- [Cops in bungled arrest ops in Zamboanga to face admin raps](#) (2026-05-01 19:05)

PAGADIAN CITY — The Special Investigation Task Group (SITG) ALFAD has recommended the filing of administrative cases against police personnel involved in the bungled arrest operation last April 23 in Barangay Sinunuc, Zamboanga City that led to the death of three civilians and the wounding of another. The cases will be filed on top of

- [HEAT INDEX WATCH: 13 areas forecast to reach ‘danger’ level on Saturday](#) (2026-05-01 18:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Thirteen areas in the country are expected to reach the “danger” level threshold on Saturday, May 2, according to the state weather bureau. The heat index, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) defined, measures the level of a person’s discomfort due to the effects of the temperature

- [LTFRB suspends ops of jeepney in viral Cebu road crash](#) (2026-05-01 18:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has suspended for 30 days the operation of a jeepney in Cebu City after allegedly being involved in a road crash on Friday, May 1, which injured at least 18 passengers. In a statement, the LTFRB mentioned that based on the CCTV, one passenger

- [Police, protesters trade barbs over violence at Labor Day rally](#) (2026-05-01 18:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The police and protesters clashed over how at least seven police officers were injured and why authorities attempted to extinguish an effigy that had been burned at a Labor Day rally in Manila. The protesters were marching towards the United States Embassy to call for an end to their war on Iran,

- [Duterte bloc dared: Fight impeachment at House plenary](#) (2026-05-01 18:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawmakers supportive of Vice President Sara Duterte may have missed their chance to dispute the impeachment complaints against her at the House of Representatives’ committee on justice, but they will have another opportunity when the committee report reaches the plenary for consideration. In an interview on Friday, Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry

- [Cebu steps up effort to cushion effects of El Niño](#) (2026-05-01 17:19)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — Anticipating the potential return of El Niño, the provincial government of Cebu is stepping up efforts to secure water supply and cushion communities from the impact of prolonged dry conditions. Governor Pamela Baricuatro said the province is pursuing a comprehensive strategy that combines emergency response measures with long-term infrastructure development to

- [KMU to Marcos: Nation’s backbone Filipino workers are ‘skin and bones’](#) (2026-05-01 16:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) on Labor Day slammed President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s remark that Filipino workers are the backbone of the nation, saying there is nothing really left to them but “skin and bones.” This scathing statement came in response to Marcos’ message for the 124th Labor Day anniversary on Friday, where

- [How AI-powered investment scams target Filipinos](#) (2026-05-01 16:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Fake news, real losses. A promise of extra income led a senior citizen to lose P11,000 after encountering what appeared to be a legitimate online article bearing the name and branding of INQUIRER.net. The fake article, which the 77-year-old woman saw on Facebook in mid-February, claimed that a small investment of around

- [Wage hike call, anti-NPA rally mark Labor Day in Bacolod](#) (2026-05-01 16:24)

BACOLOD CITY — A small group gathered Friday morning in front of the Bacolod City Government replica at the Bacolod City Public Plaza, condemning what they described as atrocities committed by the New People's Army (NPA) in Negros Occidental, including the killing of 48 civilians. The group branded the Communist Party of the Philippines–New People's

- [Chua: Question is on solons who'll vote against impeaching Duterte](#) (2026-05-01 16:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Instead of accusing lawmakers who found probable cause to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte of being coerced or bribed, the real questions must be asked of those who will disagree with her impeachment, Manila Rep. Joel Chua said on Friday. Chua, in an online interview, reiterated that members of the House of Representatives' committee

- [Baguio Labor Day protest demands wage increase, scrapping of oil tax law](#) (2026-05-01 16:22)

BAGUIO CITY — Progressive groups marched along Session Road and converged at Igorot Park on Labor Day, calling for a regional minimum wage increase and concrete government action to ease the impact of rising prices. Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) Cordillera spokesperson Mike Cabangon said the situation reflects a widening gap between the rich and the

- [Agusan electric co-op: Lifeline clients subsidy at 1 centavo/kWh only](#) (2026-05-01 16:13)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — The Agusan del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ASELCO) has clarified that regular customers were charged only one centavo per kilowatt-hour (kWh) in their March electricity bills, refuting claims that bills had doubled due to the Lifeline Subsidy program. ASELCO's acting manager for corporate affairs and communication, Mimi Mandahuyan-Ramos, said the

- [Labor Day protest in Olongapo decries high cost of living, US military](#) (2026-05-01 16:04)

OLONGAPO CITY — Workers and community groups staged a Labor Day protest outside the Subic Bay Freeport gate on Friday, May 1, drawing attention to rising prices, alleged corruption, and opposition to the expanding presence of foreign military forces in the area. Around 60 protesters joined a one-hour program, where speakers linked local economic hardships

- [HEAT INDEX WATCH: Pangasinan sizzles at 43°C](#) (2026-05-01 15:58)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan — The heat index in Pangasinan hit 43 degrees Celcius on Friday May 1, placing the province under the “danger” level as extreme heat conditions persist. The Pangasinan Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) likened the

conditions to “being inside a car parked under the scorching sun without air conditioning,” underscoring the

- [Navotas landfill fire may leave lasting toxic threat to Manila Bay food chain](#) (2026-05-01 15:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Smoke from the April 10 fire at the closed Navotas Sanitary Landfill may have begun as an air pollution crisis, but environmental groups and researchers now warn its longer-term dangers could spread through nearby waters, marine life and food systems connected to Manila Bay. Weeks after the blaze started, concerns have shifted

- [Lacson: Bringing partial infra probe report up meant to fight fake news](#) (2026-05-01 15:23)

MANILA, Philippines — Delivering a progress report on the blue ribbon committee’s probe of the infrastructure corruption mess before the plenary is meant to inform the people and avoid any misinformation, Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson said on Friday. In a statement, Lacson said that despite disagreements regarding the partial committee report, he has decided

- [Labor Day: Senior High School graduates given headstart in job fairs](#) (2026-05-01 15:07)

MANILA, Philippines — A “Green Lane” or “express entry privilege” was made available for Senior High School (SHS) graduates during Labor Day job fairs held nationwide on Friday, as part of a collaboration between the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole). The Green Lane allows SHS graduates to bypass

- [DOLE releases payment guidelines for employees working on Labor Day](#) (2026-05-01 14:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has issued the rules on the proper payment of wages for employees on Labor Day, May 1, which is a regular holiday. In a Labor Advisory No. 12, series of 2025, released on Friday, DOLE noted that if an employee does not work this Labor

- [Labor Day: Lawmaker renews call for wage tax reform, decent work](#) (2026-05-01 14:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Wage tax reform and the push for “decent work” for all Filipinos were among the key calls raised during the country’s 124th Labor Day observance, with Trabaho Party-list Rep. Johanne Bautista saying workers need stronger economic support amid rising living costs. As the conflict in the Middle East continues to drive prices

- [Dead sperm whale found along shoreline in Catanduanes](#) (2026-05-01 14:24)

LEGAZPI CITY — A dead sperm whale was found along the shoreline of Sitio Ilo in Barangay Batohonan, Viga town in Catanduanes on Wednesday, April 29. The carcass, measuring about 25 meters long and five meters wide, was already in an advanced state of decomposition when assessed, Wheng Bricia-Briones, information officer of the Bureau of

- [After Jay Sonza arrest, PCO vows to continue crackdown on fake news](#) (2026-05-01 14:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Following the arrest of former television and radio personality Jay Sonza, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said Friday it will continue its crackdown on fake news peddlers to ensure they are held accountable under the law. In a press release, the PCO lauded the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for Sonza's arrest

- [Manhunt launched vs 2 suspects in Maguindanao Sur shooting](#) (2026-05-01 14:15)

COTABATO CITY – Police in Maguindanao del Sur have launched a manhunt for two men captured on CCTV firing a pistol against at four motorcycle shop workers in Shariff Aguak town on Thursday, April 30, authorities said. Provincial police Director, Colonel Michael John Mangahis, also appealed to the public to help identify the suspects, who

- [LGUs rely heavily on casual labor for frontline services, CSC data show](#) (2026-05-01 14:04)

MANILA, Philippines — A significant share of frontline government work in the Philippines depends on employees without permanent appointments, according to an analysis of Civil Service Commission (CSC) data by University of the Philippines Diliman professor and Inquirer data scientist Dr. Rogelio Alicor Panao. Non-career personnel account for about 225,438 workers, or 10.74 percent, of

- [Women top contractual jobs; men lead casual, political posts — data](#) (2026-05-01 14:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Women make up a larger share of contractual positions in government, while men dominate both casual work and politically linked appointments, according to an analysis of Civil Service Commission (CSC) data by University of the Philippines Diliman professor and Inquirer data scientist Dr. Rogelio Alicor Panao. The findings are based on data

- [Kabataan solon calls Mendiola police barricade ‘overacting’ on Labor Day](#) (2026-05-01 13:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Kabataan party-list Rep. Renee Co on Friday called the police barricade around the Mendiola area in Manila “overacting,” but the Philippine National Police (PNP) defended the measure, saying there was no “overkill.” Police had cordoned off the Mendiola area amid protests marking this year's Labor Day. “Is President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. afraid

- [Farmer dies from snake bite in Bukidnon town](#) (2026-05-01 13:38)

IMPASUG-ONG, Bukidnon – Authorities confirmed that a venomous snake bite caused the death of a farmer whose body was discovered on the morning of Tuesday, April 28, in Sitio Imbatug, Barangay Kalabugao, Impasugong town, Bukidnon. Police identified the victim as a resident of the village who went to a nearby stream on Monday, April 27,

- [PNP eyes business rivalry in ambush-slay of billiard patron, driver](#) (2026-05-01 13:18)

MANILA, Philippines — A “business rivalry” may have led to the killing of longtime billiards patron and club owner Ceferino “Perry” Mariano, 75, in Quezon City earlier this week, the

Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Friday. “There are some people calling the Quezon City Police District... They are giving information as to Mariano’ s business

- [Wage hikes take effect in Regions 10, 13 on Labor Day, says DOLE](#) (2026-05-01 13:14)

MANILA, Philippines — Workers in Regions 10 and 13 celebrated Labor Day on Friday with higher daily minimum wages ranging from P475 to P500, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said. Beginning May 1, the daily minimum wage in Region 10 rose to P500 from P485 following the implementation of the second tranche of P14.

- [Eastern Visayas marks Labor Day with over 6,800 job openings](#) (2026-05-01 13:11)

TACLOBAN CITY — Thousands of job seekers across Eastern Visayas converged on Labor Day job fairs on Friday, May 1, as participating companies offered at least 6,806 employment opportunities throughout the region. Of the total vacancies, 2,872 were available in Tacloban City alone during a major job fair held at the Tacloban City Convention Center.

- [LTO clarifies: No blanket ban on e-bikes, e-trikes](#) (2026-05-01 13:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) on Friday clarified that there is no blanket ban on electric bicycles (e-bikes) and electric tricycles (e-trikes), stressing that these vehicles can still operate on city and municipal roads. In a statement, LTO chief Markus Lacanilao said the restriction applies only to national highways and

- [Manhunt underway for cop in Pangasinan farmer shooting](#) (2026-05-01 12:52)

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan — Police have launched an intensified manhunt for a police officer suspected of shooting a 25-year-old farmer past midnight on Thursday (April 30) in Barangay Aliwekwek, this capital town. Lt. Col. Junmar Gonzales, Lingayen police chief, said the suspect is a police personnel assigned to the San Carlos City Police Station and a

- [Marcos highlights success of tech-voc, job fair in Labor Day speech](#) (2026-05-01 12:50)

MANILA, Philippines — On Labor Day, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said more than 250,000 job seekers were hired on the spot at job fairs and over five million graduated from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority’ s Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) since he assumed office in 2022. Marcos reported these in his speech during the 124th

- [Amid challenges, Dy vows to continue pushing for workers’ welfare](#) (2026-05-01 11:40)

MANILA, Philippines — House of Representatives Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III has vowed to continue pushing for workers’ welfare, admitting that a lot of challenges and problems in workplaces still plague Filipino laborers. In his Labor Day message, Dy said that he knows that workers still complain about low salaries and benefits, along with the lack

- [OIL PRICE WATCH as of May 1, 2026](#) (2026-05-01 11:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Motorists may soon face another round of fuel price hikes, with the Department of Energy (DOE) signaling a possible increase in pump prices next week. Industry estimates suggest diesel prices could rise by around P0.20 to P0.40 per liter, while gasoline may also post an increase, reversing recent weeks of rollbacks. READ:

- [Ortega: Reason for unanimous vote is strong evidence vs Sara Duterte](#) (2026-05-01 11:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawmakers from different affiliations voted unanimously to declare the existence of probable cause to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte not because of any pay-off, but due to overwhelming evidence presented during hearings, Deputy Speaker Paolo Ortega V said on Friday. Ortega downplayed allegations that there were conditions — alleged budget increments or threats

- [Tiny frog species found in Sibuyan; urgently needs habitat protection](#) (2026-05-01 10:16)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The discovery of a new miniature frog species in the forests of Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park is shedding light on the Philippines' rich yet still underdocumented biodiversity, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Mimaropa said in a social media post on Friday, May 1. The species, *Platymantis*

- [DOTr orders halt on onboarding new TNVS drivers, motortaxi riders](#) (2026-05-01 10:04)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Transportation (DOTr) has ordered the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to stop the onboarding of new transportation network vehicle services (TNVS) drivers and motorcycle taxi riders. “This comes after data showed that some companies have exceeded their allocated limits for the number of drivers and riders,” the

- [From wages to war: Workers take grievances to streets on Labor Day](#) (2026-05-01 09:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Workers took to the streets on May 1, as the National Wage Coalition led Labor Day protests calling for a P1,200 wage, job security, and urgent relief from rising prices. Friday marks the 124th Labor Day celebration in the Philippines, yet labor groups said workers continue to grapple with the labor crisis,

- [DepEd district supervisor gunned down in Zamboanga Sibugay](#) (2026-05-01 09:30)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — A district supervisor from the Department of Education (DepEd) was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Alicia town, Zamboanga Sibugay, on Thursday evening, police said. The victim, identified as Rey Dalaota Camaingking, 45, was a resident of Nesoricom Village, Barangay Magdaup, Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay. Police said the incident took

- [Easterlies to bring heat, isolated rains across Visayas – Pagasa](#) (2026-05-01 09:24)

ILOILO CITY — The Visayas will continue to experience warm and humid weather in the coming days, with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration

(Pagasa) warning of dangerously high heat index levels, despite a slight increase in the likelihood of afternoon rain showers. In a special weather bulletin issued at 5 a.m. on

- [Labor Day message: Senators push urgent action to protect workers](#) (2026-05-01 09:05)

MANILA, Philippines — As the nation celebrates Labor Day on Friday, senators supported calls for concrete and immediate actions that strengthen rights and protect workers who have been pushed to the brink by rising costs and stagnant wages. In a statement, Sen. Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan said that high fuel prices triggered by the Middle East conflict,

- [Workers, groups to march in Bacolod for P1,200 wage hike on Labor Day](#) (2026-05-01 08:56)

BACOLOD CITY – About 2,000 to 2,500 workers and members of progressive organizations are expected to participate in a Labor Day march-rally in Bacolod City on Friday afternoon, May 1. The event aims to demand a legislated daily wage increase of P1,200. READ: Marcos reaffirms government’s genuine support for workers on Labor Day The protestors

- [Rising prices, health top Filipinos’ worries in 2026 – Octa survey](#) (2026-05-01 08:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Inflation topped Filipinos’ worries on national issues in the first quarter of 2026, while health, food, and income security emerged as their most pressing personal concerns, a survey showed. The Octa “Tugon ng Masa” survey, conducted from March 19 to 25 via face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adults, found that 45 percent of

- [4 cops dismissed anew, 7 sacked for kidnapping in sabungeros case](#) (2026-05-01 08:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Four police officers charged over the 2021 to 2022 disappearances of cockfighting aficionados (sabungeros) were ordered dismissed again, alongside seven other cops, in a separate administrative complaint connected to two other alleged kidnapping cases. In a statement on Friday, the National Police Commission (Napolcom) said it had found all 11 police officers

- [PH to experience hot, humid weather with afternoon rain on Labor Day](#) (2026-05-01 07:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Hot and humid weather, with possible afternoon rain showers and thunderstorms, is expected this Labor Day as prevailing easterlies continue to affect the country, according to the state weather bureau. In its latest weather bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the easterlies, or warm winds from the

- [Marcos reaffirms government’s genuine support for workers on Labor Day](#) (2026-05-01 07:26)

MANILA, Philippines – President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. renewed his commitment to building a nation where “hard work is rewarded and opportunity is real” as the country celebrates Labor Day on Friday. In a message, Marcos paid tribute to the workforce whose efforts shape

the nation’ s future and promised to foster an environment that respects honest

- [Decision on ‘P1,200 basic pay’ petitions in NCR seen in July](#) (2026-05-01 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The decision on the petitions calling for a P1,200 daily minimum wage for workers in Metro Manila is expected to be released in July, according to the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole). Dole spokesperson and Assistant Secretary Lennard Serrano on Thursday said the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) for

- [Employers push tax cuts, not wage hikes, on Labor Day](#) (2026-05-01 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The country’ s largest employers’ group is pushing back against calls for wage increases on Labor Day, warning that most companies are already strained by rising costs and cannot absorb higher labor expenses. “We understand the needs of the people, but the government should be the one to shoulder that. Companies can no

- [LTFRB summons bus firm personnel for not giving 20-percent fare discount](#) (2026-05-01 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has summoned the operator, driver and conductor of a public utility bus registered under the government’ s service contracting program for failing to give a fare discount to a passenger. The LTFRB said in a statement on Thursday that it issued a show cause order

- [PH press freedom rank up but media still at risk](#) (2026-05-01 05:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines now ranks 114th in the 2026 World Press Freedom Index, slightly higher than the previous year’ s 116, even as the annual report shows the level of freedom enjoyed by media around the world to be at its lowest since 2001. Despite the country’ s higher ranking, the international nonprofit organization, Reporters

- [DA: Palay harvest drops to lowest levels since 2019](#) (2026-05-01 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Palay (or unmilled rice) production in the first quarter of this year reached its lowest level since 2019 as farmers planted less of the household staple, according to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). The statistics agency recorded that palay output totaled 4.4 million metric tons (MT) in the first quarter

- [DOTr chief blames TNCs, gov’ t execs for bloated list of beneficiaries](#) (2026-05-01 05:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez has blamed transport network companies (TNC) and unidentified officials of two government agencies for the bloated list of beneficiaries used in the payout of a P5,000 fuel subsidy for public utility vehicles amid the energy crisis. Lopez said that officials of TNCs and the Department of Transportation (DOTr)

- [Gov’ t needs P155B to fund proposed Uplift law](#) (2026-05-01 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The Marcos administration will need at least P155 billion to fund the programs and projects, including the possible expansion of subsidies for the middle class, to address the energy and price shocks caused by the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. The amount is based on an estimate given by the Office

- [Luistro rejects Pulong Duterte jab: House panel not pressured](#) (2026-05-01 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The head of the House justice committee on Thursday rejected allegations by a brother of Vice President Sara Duterte that lawmakers had been pressured to find probable cause in the impeachment complaints against her. Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said the congressional panel was not biased when it ruled on Wednesday to support

- [House prosecutors next: De Lima, Diokno among those suggested](#) (2026-05-01 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The House prosecution team for the anticipated Senate impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte may be composed of new and familiar names, including holdovers from the roster formed in 2025. Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro, chair of the House committee on justice, on Thursday mentioned several candidates who can make the 11-member

- [Senate prez: ‘Forthwith’ means ‘the following day’](#) (2026-05-01 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Vicente “Tito” Sotto III on Thursday committed to begin the trial of Vice President Sara Duterte “forthwith,” or the day after the articles of impeachment against her are transmitted to the Senate by the House of Representatives. Sotto made the remarks after emerging from a caucus among senators to discuss

- [Leyte irrigation project to boost rice production in Eastern Visayas](#) (2026-05-01 05:17)

VILLABA, LEYTE, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday led the inauguration of the P1.21-billion Hibulangan Reservoir Irrigation Project here, a major infrastructure development expected to enhance agricultural productivity across several towns in Leyte province. The project, considered one of the region’s largest irrigation facilities, is designed to provide reliable irrigation water to some

- [La Union provincial gov’t hands over 94 vehicles to villages](#) (2026-05-01 05:10)

DAGUPAN CITY, PANGASINAN, Philippines — La Union Governor Mario Eduardo Ortega and Vice Governor Eric Sibuma led the distribution of 92 multi-purpose vehicles (MPVs) and two dump trucks during a turnover ceremony held on Thursday to recipient barangays in the province. The turnover was held at the Speaker Pro Tempore Francisco I. Ortega Convention Center

- [Group seeks P250 wage hike in Western Visayas](#) (2026-05-01 05:06)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — Citing the crippling effects of the recent oil price shocks and soaring inflation, labor alliance United Labor Panay petitioned the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) on Thursday for a P250 increase in the daily minimum wage for

workers across Western Visayas. The filing of the petition was accompanied by

- [Leyte' s Kalanggaman Island on world' s list of best beaches](#) (2026-05-01 05:04)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — Kalanggaman Island in Palompon, Leyte, has earned a spot on the 2026 list of the world' s 50 best beaches, drawing recognition from international travel professionals and seasoned travelers. Karina Rosa Tiopes, Department of Tourism director for Eastern Visayas, described the inclusion of Kalanggaman as a “proud and happy moment” for

- [Advocates want green energy projects hastened](#) (2026-05-01 05:02)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Philippines — Consumer advocates on Tuesday warned that the cost of power in Mindanao, and even the rest of the country, could rise further if the Department of Energy (DOE) lifts the moratorium on the use of coal to generate electricity. BenCyrus Ellorin, project director of the Consumers for Renewable Energy

- [Rising heat index in parts of Visayas to persist into early May](#) (2026-05-01 04:59)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — High heat index levels are expected to continue across much of the Philippines through the first days of May, with several areas in the Visayas still experiencing conditions classified as “danger,” according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Based on Pagasa' s latest data as of 5 p.m.

- [Iloilo City to grant fuel subsidy to taxi drivers as oil prices rise](#) (2026-05-01 04:48)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — The Iloilo City Government is set to roll out a fuel subsidy program for taxi drivers, offering P1,000 worth of fuel coupons to help cushion the impact of rising oil prices driven by global supply pressures. According to an advisory from the Iloilo City Public Information Office, the first release of

- [Search on for man who went missing while swimming in Marinduque](#) (2026-05-01 04:46)

CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO, Philippines — The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has launched a search and rescue operation for a 48-year-old man who went missing while swimming along the shoreline of Gasan town, Marinduque province on Thursday. The missing individual was identified as Armando Sapunto, of Barangay Pangi, also known as Little Pangi. He was

- [15 drug suspects nabbed; over P392,000 worth of shabu seized in Caraga](#) (2026-05-01 04:21)

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN DEL SUR, Philippines — Fifteen suspected drug personalities were arrested while more than P390,000 worth of suspected shabu was seized in separate anti-illegal drug operations across the Caraga region on Tuesday, April 29, police said. The Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13) said the operations resulted in the confiscation of 57.74 grams

- [89-year-old bedridden woman dies in Iloilo fire](#) (2026-05-01 04:13)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — An 89-year-old bedridden woman died after a fire ravaged seven houses in Sara town, Iloilo province, on Tuesday, leaving an estimated P1.6 million in structural damages. According to Fire Inspector Jory Biliran, chief of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Sara Fire Station, the blaze completely destroyed five homes and partially

- [Army division based in CDO has new commander](#) (2026-05-01 04:09)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Philippines — Major General Michelle Anayron on Wednesday bowed out as commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, relinquishing his post to a Philippine Military Academy (PMA) classmate, after 38 years of service in the military. Anayron formally turned over command to Brigadier General Siegfred Tubaldo, a classmate from the PMA

Source: The Manila Times

- [Govt eyes digital platforms to hasten delivery of its health services](#) (2026-05-08 04:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The government is considering the expanded use of digital platforms to speed up the delivery of health services to Filipino families in need of assistance, Malacañang said Friday. Executive Secretary Ralph Recto and Health Secretary Ted Herbosa led discussions on improving the implementation of the Medical Assistance to Indigent and Financially Incapacitated Patients Program (MAIFIP) in Malacañang on Wednesday. The meeting focused on measures to prevent long lines, repetitive requirements, and excessive paperwork in the processing of requests for medical assistance. Recto said the Department of Health (DOH) should ensure that MAIFIP was not only for indigent patients but also middle-class families, so more Filipinos can feel the benefits of the taxes they contribute to the government. "President Bongbong (Ferdinand Jr.) Marcos ordered that if the government has assistance, it should arrive quickly, properly, and without causing hardship to the people," Recto said in a statement. "Access is the measure of true service. Because if the process itself becomes a barrier, even if there is funding, people will not feel it," he added. The MAIFIP is DOH initiative providing financial aid for medical expenses to eligible patients in the Philippines. It covers hospitalization, medicines, diagnostics, and procedures at DOH, local government unit-operated medical facilities, and some private facilities, aiming to bridge gaps in the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. coverage.

- [20 Pinoy trafficking victims return from Cambodia](#) (2026-05-08 04:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) on Friday said that 20 Filipino human trafficking victims from Cambodia were "safely repatriated" by the Philippine government. In a statement, the agency said the repatriation was in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directives in ensuring the protection and welfare of overseas Filipino workers in situations of distress. The Filipinos arrived at Terminal 1 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) aboard a flight from Techo International Airport in Phnom Penh,

Cambodia and the repatriation was made possible through coordinated efforts of the DMW through the Migrant Workers Office in Singapore and the Philippine embassy in the Cambodian capital. “Upon arrival, they received assistance to ensure their recovery and reintegration, including financial and welfare support from the DMW and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), and legal assistance from the DMW-Migrant Workers Protection Bureau and the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) Task Force. The Bureau of Immigration and NAIA Task Force Against Trafficking (NAIA-TFAT) also extended airport assistance,” the agency said.

- [Tropical Storm ‘Hagupit’ intensifies as it moves west-northwest](#) (2026-05-08 04:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) on Friday said that a tropical storm, named “Hagupit,” continues to intensify, as it moves west-northwestward. In its 11 a.m. bulletin, the weather bureau said the storm remained outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), but it is 1,460 kilometers east of Northeastern Mindanao, with maximum sustained winds of 85 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center, gustiness of up to 105 kph. The present movement of the storm is westward at 20 kph, with strong to gale force winds extending outwards up to 280 km near the center. No storm signals have been hoisted, but the storm is forecast to move west-northwestward during the majority of the forecast period and will remain over the Philippine Sea, said the weather bureau. However, it is set to enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility on Saturday afternoon or evening and will be given the localized name “Caloy.” The weather bureau said it could reach the category of a severe tropical storm, but it could weaken on Saturday because of an “unfavorable environment” and would further be downgraded to a tropical depression on Monday next week until it becomes a low pressure area on Wednesday next week. “Hagupit is less likely to directly affect the weather and sea conditions in the next 3 days,” the weather bureau noted in its bulletin.

- [Manila roads closed for marathon event on May 9](#) (2026-05-08 04:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The Manila Public Information Office (MPIO) issued several road closures in the city for a marathon event on May 9. In a Facebook post, the MPIO said the road closures for the Popeye run would start at 2 a.m. on Saturday, which will cover the southbound lane of Roxas Boulevard from Katigbak Drive to P. Ocampo Street, the westbound lane of Quirino Avenue from Adriatico Street to Roxas Boulevard, P. Burgos Avenue (southbound) at the corner of Victoria Street, and the westbound lane of Finance Road from P. Burgos Avenue to Taft Avenue. The MPIO urged motorists to take alternate routes.

- [Zaldy Co in high-end property in France while seeking asylum — Remulla](#) (2026-05-08 04:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Resigned Ako Bicol Party-list representative Zaldy Co is staying in an upscale property along the Champs-Élysées in France while pursuing political asylum, Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla said Friday. Remulla, speaking at the Samahang

Plaridel Kapihan media forum, said Co was in a high-end property in one of Paris' most exclusive districts. "He has a house on the Champs-Élysées with 10 bedrooms, near Christian Dior. That's where he is staying now," he said, estimating the property value at around 200 million euros. According to Remulla, Co filed an application for political asylum in France just last week, noting that asylum applications can only be lodged in one country. "You can only file once. For (former presidential spokesman) Harry Roque, he only applied in Vienna. You cannot apply again in another place. So he can only apply in France," he said. Remulla added that Philippine and French authorities were communicating regarding Co's asylum bid. "There are conversations going on to that effect. Nag-uusap naman sila (They are talking)," he said. 'Red notice still pending' The disclosure on Co's whereabouts and asylum application came as Remulla confirmed that the Philippine government's request for an Interpol Red Notice against the former lawmaker remained pending six months after it was filed. He said the request was submitted in September 2025 through the Presidential Commission for Transnational Crimes (PCTC), but Interpol has yet to act on it. "September 2025. We already applied. It turns out that the laws in the Philippines and Interpol are different. As long as there is even a slight political inclination, they delay it," Remulla said. Despite the delay, he expressed confidence that the notice would eventually be issued. "I'm confident we will get the red notice. I'm confident we're going to get Zaldy Co back here to the Philippines," he said. 'Detention in Europe' Remulla also detailed Co's movements in Europe, confirming that he was detained for 36 hours at the border between the Czech Republic and Germany. He said he personally informed President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of the incident, adding that Co was stopped by immigration authorities while attempting to enter Germany and was brought to Prague. "He was detained for 36 hours. I was the one who informed the President of his capture. The DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] and DOJ [Department of Justice] took the lead," he said. Remulla said Co presented an expired Philippine passport during the incident, contrary to earlier speculation that he had used a Portuguese passport. "He presented a Philippine passport, but it was already expired. So what he presented was a Philippine passport, not the one from Portugal," he said. He added that government counsel was en route to Prague when Co was reportedly released after undergoing court proceedings with a lawyer he had hired. "I think he went through court proceedings where he had a lawyer he hired, and then he was released. It was an immigration violation because his passport had already expired," he said. 'Government continues push' Remulla said efforts to secure Co's return were ongoing, including diplomatic coordination and continued engagement with Interpol. He said he has raised the matter with Interpol officials, though the red notice process has been slow. "If I could just kneel in front of Interpol to get the red notice, I would do it. I've already spoken with the vice president of Interpol, the chairman has not yet. We're trying our best," he said. He stressed that the red notice remained key to bringing Co back to the Philippines and dismissed concerns that the asylum application could derail efforts. "Let's prioritize the red notice first. We will get him before his asylum application is finished. I am confident that before it is completed, we will already have Zaldy," he said.

- [DOH awaits WHO guidance on passengers, crew of hantavirus-affected cruise ship](#) (2026-05-08 04:24)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) said it was still awaiting guidance on the next steps for the Filipino passengers and crew aboard the cruise ship linked to the reported hantavirus outbreak. DOH Spokesman Albert Domingo told The Manila Times on Friday that they have yet to receive instructions from the World Health Organization (WHO) on the appropriate measures to be implemented concerning all the Filipinos aboard the MV Hondius—the ship where the reported outbreak was traced. “The Philippines has yet to receive advice from the WHO on the next steps to be taken about passengers and crew on the affected cruise ship. We will act accordingly in line with established quarantine protocols once more information is available,” said Domingo. About 38 Filipinos were reportedly aboard the MV Hondius, and Domingo said none of them was showing signs of the illness. On Thursday, Singapore confirmed that its 2 residents who were exposed to the hantavirus aboard the ship had been tested and isolated. Their test results are still pending.

- [176 file COCs for BARMM Parliament as filing period closes](#) (2026-05-08 04:19)

A total of 176 candidates filed their Certificates of Candidacy (COCs) for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) parliamentary elections during the three-day filing period from May 5 to 7, 2026, according to the consolidated list released by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) Bangsamoro Electoral Office. The candidates are vying for seats in the upcoming BARMM parliamentary elections scheduled for September 14, 2026. Basilan province, which has four districts, produced the highest number of filers with 17 candidates. Lanao del Sur followed closely with 33 candidates across nine districts, making it the province with the most COC filers in the region. Maguindanao del Norte recorded 11 candidates across five districts, while Maguindanao del Sur had 16 candidates also spread over five districts. Tawi-Tawi, with four districts, saw 13 candidates file their COCs. The Special Geographic Area (SGA), which covers 63 barangays formerly part of Cotabato province, recorded seven candidates across two districts. Cotabato City, with three districts, listed 11 candidates. Among the notable filers is incumbent Bangsamoro Transition Authority member Paisal A. Sali, who filed under the United Bangsamoro Justice Party (UBJP) for Basilan's 2nd district. In Lanao del Sur, multiple candidates from SIAP Party, UBJP, and Progresibong Bangsamoro Party filed their COCs, including incumbent officials Alexander Alonto Jr. (SIAP Party, 2nd district) and Ziaur-Rahman Alonto Adiong (SIAP Party, 3rd district). The UBJP, the political party of BARMM Chief Minister Ahod "Al Haj Murad" Ebrahim, fielded candidates across all provinces. The Bangsamoro Federal Party (BFP) and BAPA Party also showed strong representation. Several candidates ran under independent tickets, while others represented smaller parties such as BEST Party, Bangsamoro Party, Bangsamoro Peoples Party, SIAP Party, Al Ittihad-UKB, Partido Maharlika, Isama Party, Progresibong Bangsamoro Party, and BGC. In Cotabato City, candidate Reynaldo Largo Canen initially filed under the independent ticket but later withdrew, refiling under the BEST Party, as indicated by a notation in the Comelec list. The consolidated list, dated May 5-7, 2026 but released to the public following the filing period,

serves as the official record of aspirants for the region's first regular parliamentary elections since the BARMM was established in 2019 following the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law. Comelec is expected to begin the verification and screening of COCs, including checking for possible nuisance candidates and ensuring compliance with election laws and regulations. The BARMM parliament will have 80 members — 40 parliamentary seats elected by district and 40 reserved for sectoral representatives appointed by the chief minister. The May 5-7 filing covers the district representatives. Election officers reminded filers that withdrawal of COCs is no longer permitted after the deadline, and substitutions due to withdrawal will only be allowed until May 14, 2026.

- [Marcos pushes Asean maritime cooperation amid global tensions](#) (2026-05-08 04:19)

LAPU-LAPU CITY, Cebu – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Friday called for stronger maritime cooperation among Southeast Asian nations amid rising geopolitical tensions and increasing disruptions to global trade routes. Speaking at the opening of the 48th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit Plenary here, Marcos underscored the importance of maintaining safe and stable maritime passage amid the escalating conflict in the Middle East. The President noted that attacks and counterattacks involving Iran, Israel, and the United States have disrupted maritime and air transport routes, including movements through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's key energy shipping corridors. "These developments have disrupted maritime and air transport routes, heightened risks to merchant and non-combatant vessels and aircraft, and affected the flow of energy and essential goods," Marcos said. Against this backdrop, Marcos said Asean must deepen maritime coordination and cooperation to help safeguard regional stability and economic resilience. He said leaders were expected to adopt the Asean Leaders' Declaration on Maritime Cooperation, which includes the Philippines' proposal to establish an Asean Maritime Center. The proposed center will serve as a platform for maritime cooperation and coordination among member states and Asean-led mechanisms, Marcos said. "As we push forward the implementation of the Asean Community Vision 2045, we recognize the importance of maritime cooperation," he said. The Philippines has consistently advocated for stronger maritime collaboration within Asean amid growing security and economic concerns in regional waters and global shipping lanes. "Navigating Our Future Together is not only our Chairship theme, but also the task that lies ahead of us," the President said. Marcos also reiterated Asean's call for the peaceful settlement of disputes, protection of civilians, and restoration of safe and unimpeded transit passage in the Strait of Hormuz. The Asean Summit in Cebu gathered leaders from the bloc's 11 member-states.

- [Asean 2026 opens; Marcos appeals for unity, cohesion amid uncertainty](#) (2026-05-08 04:04)

LAPU-LAPU CITY, Cebu – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. called on his fellow Southeast Asian leaders to stand united and remain resilient amid growing geopolitical and economic uncertainty, as he formally opened the 48th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean)

Summit and Related Meetings here on Friday. Speaking before Asean leaders at the Mactan Expo Center, Marcos said the region was facing a “defining moment” as conflicts and global disruptions continue to affect economies, livelihoods, and regional stability. “We meet at a time of considerable challenge across our region and beyond,” Marcos said, citing the impact of the volatile situation in the Middle East on Asean economies and communities. “The work of ASEAN must continue, not despite the challenges, but because the times demand our answers to those challenges,” he added. Marcos said the Philippines recalibrated its Asean hosting by scaling down non-essential activities and shifting some meetings online in response to rising energy and economic pressures linked to the conflict in the Middle East. Despite the adjustments, he said Asean remained committed to sustaining cooperation and aligning regional responses through meetings among foreign ministers, as well as those for economics, agriculture, and energy. The President also emphasized that Asean’s strength lies in unity and cooperation, particularly during periods of uncertainty. “For Asean has always drawn its strength not from uniformity but from unity,” he said. Marcos and First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos welcomed Asean leaders and their spouses upon arrival at the summit venue. Among those present were Brunei Darussalam Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, Lao Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, Timor-Leste Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão, and Vietnamese Prime Minister Lê Minh Hưng. Myanmar was represented by U Hau Khan Sum, permanent secretary of its Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (PNA)

- [Lawmakers 'cashing in' on impeachment - Sara](#) (2026-05-08 03:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte said many were profiting from her impeachment case as it neared conclusion at the House of Representatives once the articles of impeachment are put to a vote before the plenary. She also urged those who received money for signing the articles of impeachment to give it to their constituents. Her comments come after several lawmakers said that around 180 to 210 lawmakers have manifested to sign the articles of impeachment when it reaches the plenary on May 11. Speaking to blogger Alvin Zarzate at The Hague on Thursday (early Friday morning Manila time) after visiting her father, former president Rodrigo Duterte, the vice president was asked about her view regarding the confidence of several lawmakers that there were more than 106 votes, the minimum number needed, to impeach her. “So, a lot of people are profiting by using my name. I hope their constituents finally get a share of the money inside their pockets and their suitcases,” Duterte said in Filipino and Bisaya. She also criticized the issuance of subpoenas to prominent pro-Duterte commentators, including Jay Sonza and Jeffrey Celiz, calling the government “sensitive” and “insecure” to their criticisms. Duterte urged the Marcos government to focus first on making the country peaceful and progressive instead of focusing on criticisms. She also slammed Palace Press Officer Clarissa Castro for telling her to read the Constitution over comments on her alleged preparations for the 2028 elections. “When Claire Castro speaks, don’t pay attention to her or give her any importance. Because when you pay attention to her, it feeds

her attention-seeking behavior. And the problem with that attention-seeking attitude is that she will bring embarrassment to our country. Because whenever she speaks, the seal of the Office of the President is right there." Duterte said.

- [NBI move vs anchor of controversial social media firm an attack on press freedom, says expert](#) (2026-05-08 03:37)

MANILA, Philippines — An international law expert on Friday warned that the National Bureau of Investigation's (NBI) move to identify an anchor from a controversial social media firm as a person of interest in the alleged extortion case involving former speaker Martin Romualdez amounted to an attack on press freedom and an attempt to silence critics of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr..Melissa Loja issued the warning after NBI Director Melvin Matibag confirmed that CJ Hirro of the Peanut Gallery Media Network (PGMN) had been included in the complaint affidavit filed in connection with the case and would be summoned by the bureau. "Targeting an anchor who happens to be 'anchoring' the documentary against Romualdez is targeting press freedom," Loja told The Manila Times. "The purpose is clearly to silence the anchor and prevent her/him from presenting the documentary," she added.The NBI arrested PGMN founder Franco Mabanta and four others over Romualdez' s complaint alleging that they attempted to extort up to P350 million in exchange for not releasing an exposé video linking the former speaker to corruption at the House of Representatives.Matibag said Hirro was identified as a person of interest based on the complainant' s affidavit and was also seen in a video clip referenced in the complaint.Matibag also said the NBI was looking into the possible participation of other PGMN members and was applying for a cyber warrant to examine seized gadgets and determine whether other individuals may have been victimized by the alleged extortion scheme.Loja, however, questioned the scope of the proposed cyber warrant, saying it should not cover the documentary itself. "The cyber warrant should not include the documentary itself. Questioning the documentary itself is attacking the speech content already," she said.She also accused Matibag of using the NBI to suppress dissent. "Matibag is clearly weaponizing the NBI to silence critics of Marcos," Loja said.The international law expert further cast doubt on the NBI' s account of the alleged entrapment operation, saying key evidence had not been disclosed publicly. "This makes the 'entrapment' story even more doubtful, especially as the CCTV cameras in the function room have not been made public," she said. "Only those CCTV footages can reveal whether Mabanta was expecting the maletas or was surprised when Matibag' s men wheeled in the maletas," Loja added.She also questioned the reliability of videos released by the NBI. "The NBI videos are unreliable, especially as the audio is distorted," Loja said.

- [Social media personality Mabanta, 4 others may post bail — lawyer](#) (2026-05-08 02:55)

MANILA, Philippines — A social media personality and four others may post bail this Friday, according to their legal counsel.In an interview, lawyer Bernice Rodriguez said arrangements for bail for Peanut Gallery Media Network (PGMN) founder Franco Mabanta and his co-accused were being prepared, noting that the legal team expected to file the necessary pleadings this

morning. 'We will file the necessary pleadings in the morning and hopefully this will all be over soon,' she said, adding that bail could "most likely" be processed within the day or by the following day. She, however, declined to disclose the bail amount when asked. Rodriguez also said their clients remained in good condition while under the custody of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), describing them as tired but stable. She said the team had assisted in settling them in after what she described as a long day of processing and movement of personal belongings. "They're very good. They're just really tired... but they're okay and we constantly update them on the legal proceedings and the strategies that we have," she said. The lawyer likewise confirmed that they have not received any subpoena for PGMN anchor CJ Hirro, stressing that she is not a respondent in the case. "We didn't get anything. There was no official subpoena, no document was given to us," Rodriguez said, adding that they had been at the NBI throughout Thursday and could have been served documents if any had existed. Rodriguez also addressed circulating claims and a video allegedly involving an NBI agent and Mabanta, saying the matter would be handled as part of their defense. She firmly denied allegations of wrongdoing. "There was no extortion. There was no extortion, there was no crime that was committed," she said.

- [JV Ejercito pushes reforms to protect sugarcane farmers from losses and over-importation](#) (2026-05-07 16:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. JV Ejercito filed Senate Bill (SB) 2114 to address over importation of sugar and protect local producers from unfair competition amid declining incomes of farmers and workers. The senator said SB 2114 seeks to strengthen the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) and rationalize the use of sugar industry funds. The Senate deputy majority leader said the sugar industry is an "important pillar of agriculture" in the country as some 88,000 sugarcane farmers depend their livelihood on it. "We must address this problem in the sugar industry immediately because of it contributes a lot to food security, renewable energy, and countryside development," Ejercito said in a statement in Filipino. "Ultimately, this bill aims to build a more competitive, sustainable, and inclusive sugar industry that not only drives economic growth but also uplifts the lives of those who depend on it," he said. Ejercito said the sugar industry continues to face long-standing challenges such as over-importation, low farm productivity, outdated milling system, limited access to financing, weak infrastructure, and increasing global competition. He flagged the apparent inefficient implementation of the Sugar Industry Development Act (SIDA), noting that available funds have not been fully utilized to benefit farmers and stakeholders. He said the reported utilization rates ranged only from about 10 percent to 18 percent, "reflecting serious gaps in absorptive capacity, planning, and program execution." He said Republic Act 10659, or the SIDA Law of 2015, was enacted to promote the growth and competitiveness of the Philippine sugar industry through productivity enhancement, infrastructure development, human resource development, and research initiatives. Ejercito said the continued instability in sugar supply and pricing, attributed to importation policies that may be contributing to oversupply. "Such oversupply conditions have reportedly resulted in foregone revenues amounting to approximately P11.8 billion for sugar

alone, thereby significantly impacting farmer incomes and industry sustainability,” he said.

- [Asean leaders to tackle maritime, energy issues in Cebu summit](#) (2026-05-07 16:10)

LAPU-LAPU CITY — Maritime tensions in the South China Sea will be on the agenda in Cebu this week as Southeast Asian leaders open the 48th Asean Summit, with negotiations on a Code of Conduct (COC) again set for discussion alongside broader regional security and economic priorities. The leaders plan to issue a contingency plan that upholds international law, sovereignty and freedom of navigation in what could be seen as a veiled rebuke to the United States, Israel and Iran over the Middle East war that has hurt the economies in the region, according to a draft declaration. The declaration outlines a crisis plan to deal with the energy shortages and other global problems caused by the war. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), meanwhile, said the COC will be included in the summit agenda, although officials do not expect a binding agreement to be finalized at this point. “The discussions and the negotiations on the COC, while... Asean-related are a separate negotiation by itself,” said Assistant Secretary Dominic Xavier Imperial, DFA spokesman on Asean. “It will be discussed during this summit, it will form part of the discussions under specific agenda [on] regional and international issues, so it will still be part of the discussions,” he added. Imperial said Asean members, together with China, continue negotiations on the COC with regular talks and commitments to hold more frequent engagements. He said officials see progress in the discussions and noted the sustained commitment of all parties involved, referring to the 10 Asean member states and China in the ongoing negotiations. Asean leaders are also set to endorse three key documents under the Asean Political-Security Community pillar, including a declaration on maritime cooperation. Imperial said the bloc works toward the endorsement of these outcome documents for consideration by Asean leaders. The maritime cooperation proposal seeks stronger coordination in regional waters, expansion of the Asean Coast Guard Forum and the establishment of an Asean Maritime Center in the Philippines. Leaders will also issue a statement on the Middle East crisis following earlier emergency meetings of Asean foreign ministers, as the conflict continues to affect global oil supply and fuel prices. Energy and food security also dominate the summit agenda. National responses insufficient “The adverse effects of the Middle East crisis remind us that the world is interconnected, and no country can navigate external shocks alone,” said Department of Trade and Industry Undersecretary Allan Gepty. “National responses alone are not sufficient. We must strengthen regional coordination, particularly in energy security, food security, logistics and supply chain resilience,” he said. Asean leaders are also set to consider the Cebu Protocol to Amend the Asean Charter, the first amendment since 2007, which supports the integration of Timor-Leste as the 11th member of the regional bloc. While supply chain woes sparked by the US-Israeli attack on Iran may dominate talks, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, now 11 strong with the addition of Timor-Leste, has a still-raging civil war in its own backyard. Strait talk Dwindling fuel supplies, soaring food costs and the safety of migrant workers near the Middle East conflict zone will be the most pressing issues at the summit, Marcos said in March, days after declaring a national energy emergency. “What we really need at this time is for leaders to talk about... how can we

help each other,” he said, batting down rumors the summit could be called off entirely amid the crisis. But while Asean has issued broad statements about energy cooperation, it has no existing mechanisms that mandate action. The bloc’s decades-old Petroleum Security Agreement, for instance, a fuel-sharing scheme aimed at ensuring energy stability, has never been invoked and is purely voluntary. The Philippines said on Wednesday it had endorsed a group “response to the crisis” in the Middle East it hoped to issue this week, without providing details. That document would likely include a call to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and ensure freedom of movement in other critical sea lanes, according to an Asean diplomat who had seen an early draft. Regional outcast Asean member state Myanmar has been formally excluded from summits like the one in Cebu since its military junta snatched power in a 2021 coup that triggered a bloody civil war and crackdown on dissent. Whether or not a recent election that installed junta leader Min Aung Hlaing as president — or the decision to move democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi from prison to house arrest — will inch it closer to a return to the fold is unclear. Min Aung Hlaing said his government would “work to restore normal relations” with Asean after he was sworn in as president last month, but the bloc — which has worked fruitlessly to restore peace for years — appears far from a consensus. Thai Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow said in January that Bangkok had proposed a “calibrated engagement” with the new government, saying he hoped the election could be the “start of the transition.” “A good number” of the bloc’s members hold similarly “pragmatic” views, Foreign Secretary Theresa Lizaro said at that month’s Asean summit. But at least a few countries are believed to be setting the bar higher. An Asean diplomat who spoke to Agence France-Presse (AFP) said the bloc had “only one card” to play with Myanmar: full diplomatic recognition. On Wednesday, the Philippines praised Myanmar’s decision to move Suu Kyi to house arrest while asking that a special envoy be granted “brief access” to the 80-year-old. Code of conduct A declaration on “maritime cooperation” is also expected to emerge from this week’s summit, but not the long-sought-after Code of Conduct for the South China Sea. Asean and China have been negotiating a code of conduct to regulate behavior in the contested maritime area for more than two decades since the idea was first proposed. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam all have claims in the critical waterway, which China claims in nearly its entirety despite an international ruling that its stance has no legal basis. The Philippines, which has seen its ships engage in repeated clashes with Chinese vessels, said in February it hoped to bring long-running talks to a conclusion this year while serving as Asean chairman. However, talks have stalled repeatedly over disagreements on the code’s scope, enforcement and legal status. Manila-based geopolitical analyst Don McLain Gill said that while the Philippines could be expected to stress maritime security, any pact China would agree to would lack teeth. The Southeast Asian diplomat, meanwhile, said there was “no way” Beijing would sign anything legally binding but would instead seek a “political declaration.”

- [GDP growth hits 5-year low](#) (2026-05-07 16:09)

THE Middle East war and the lingering effects of the flood control bribery scandal drove economic growth to a five-year low, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said Thursday,

adding future targets would be lowered. Gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 2.8 percent for the three months to March, sharply down from the 5.4 percent in the same period last year, the PSA said. It was also a dip from the 3-percent growth registered in the final quarter of 2025, the agency said. “Our growth performance trails Vietnam, Indonesia and China, among others, in the region,” Economic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan told a news conference. “We definitely will move our growth targets lower... given the situation, especially [with] the global uncertainty remaining highly elevated,” he said. Balisacan blamed the weak growth on the Middle East conflict, a scandal involving billions of pesos in fraudulent state-funded flood control projects and the delayed approval of the national budget, which hampered infrastructure projects. The bogus flood control projects, believed to have cost taxpayers billions of pesos, sparked protests and arrests across the storm-battered country this year. Consumer prices also spiked to a three-year high of 7.2 percent for the quarter, which Balisacan called a “major factor” leading to the lowered GDP growth. “Addressing corruption firmly and transparently is essential to rebuilding confidence among businesses, investors and consumers alike,” he said. Excluding the pandemic years, economic growth in the first quarter was the lowest since the first three months of 2021, National Statistician Dennis Mapa said Thursday. Manila’s economic managers will meet next week to review their targets, Balisacan said. The government in December revised downward its 2026 GDP target to 5-6 percent — from 6-7 percent. Capital formation down Data showed that capital formation contracted by 3.3 percent in the first quarter, markedly down from last year’s 18.7 percent. Government spending also dropped to 3.0 percent from January to March 2025’s 5.3 percent. “The delays in the passage and subsequent release of the 2026 national budget slowed the rollout of critical government programs and infrastructure projects,” Balisacan said. “Third and foremost, the conflict in the Middle East, which escalated toward the end of February, triggered higher global oil prices and renewed supply chain pressures, creating additional risks for oil-importing economies such as the Philippines,” Balisacan said. Meanwhile, household spending also dropped to 3 percent from 5.3 percent last year. Major economic sectors also recorded slower growth during the period, with industry contracting to 0.1 percent from 4.6-percent growth in the same period in 2025. Agriculture, forestry and fishing also contracted to 0.2 percent from 2.2 percent. Services also dropped to 4.5 percent from last year’s 6.2 percent. “The lingering effects of oil prices and supply chain disruptions will persist in the coming months. So there are continuing challenges ahead,” Balisacan said. “Restoring public trust and strengthening institutional credibility remain among the Marcos administration’s highest priorities,” he added. Growth target to be revised Given the first-quarter growth slump, Balisacan said the economic managers are scheduled to meet next week and might revisit their macroeconomic assumptions. The Development Budget Coordination Committee has set a 5.0- to 6.0-percent growth target for this year. However, Balisacan said they might revise it downward amid the local and global headwinds. He argued that they “don’t expect to achieve the kind of growth that we expected to happen a year ago given recent developments.” “We definitely will move our targets lower because given the situation, especially the global uncertainty remaining highly elevated, our pre-Middle East conflict assumptions would no longer hold,” he added. Balisacan told reporters that potential growth remained at 6.0 percent, however, this becomes more

challenging to attain given the conditions globally. “Our program is dynamic in the sense that we have to adjust when situations change. You can’t keep persisting and something that’s no longer attainable,” Balisacan said. “The world has changed so much since last year. So we have to reflect that in our growth assumptions among other considerations,” he added.

- [P60B returned to PhilHealth in line with Supreme Court's ruling](#) (2026-05-07 16:08)

THE Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) said P60 billion has been returned to the state insurer from the National Treasury. In a statement on Thursday, PhilHealth said it has received the funds, following the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. “This move is a clear statement of the president’s confidence that PhilHealth will fulfill its mandate to be a partner to every Filipino in their health needs,” it said. In December 2025, the Supreme Court ordered the government to return the funds transferred to the National Treasury back to PhilHealth through the 2026 General Appropriations Act. PhilHealth added that the funds will be used to improve its health services, ensuring that they benefit the average Filipino. “PhilHealth reaffirms its commitment to safeguard the trust placed in it by the president and the people. The corporation will ensure that every peso of this money is allocated to improving benefits, strengthening systems to expedite processes and delivering fast, fair and truly reliable services to every Filipino,” PhilHealth said. Meanwhile, health reform advocate Dr. Tony Leachon said the government’s handling of the funds is a “double jeopardy,” saying taxpayers are now “paying twice” after the funds were restored through the national budget following the Supreme Court’s ruling declaring the transfer unconstitutional. “The P60-billion diversion from PhilHealth reserves is not only unconstitutional — it is a double blow to the Filipino people,” Leachon said. He noted that while the Supreme Court declared the transfer unconstitutional, the replacement funds were not directly restored from the original disbursements but were instead charged to the 2026 national budget. Leachon said the Department of Budget and Management records showed that a P60-billion allotment was released to PhilHealth in April 2026 to comply with the Court’s order. “This sequence creates a double jeopardy for citizens: the original health fund was depleted, and the restoration is now borne by the same public purse,” he said. Leachon also lamented what he described as “lost opportunities” from the diversion of the funds, saying the amount could have expanded PhilHealth coverage, accelerated hospital reimbursements, funded programs for patients with cancer and heart disease, and strengthened primary health care services in underserved areas. He also called for accountability among officials involved in the transfer, including Executive Secretary Ralph Recto and former PhilHealth chief Emmanuel Ledesma Jr., saying they should face possible plunder charges. Meanwhile, affiliates of the Nagkaisa Labor Coalition, who sent petitions to the Supreme Court, welcomed the funds’ remittance and also called on the government to appoint representatives of workers in government agencies. In a statement, the group said it wanted to see representatives of workers sit in agencies that include PhilHealth, Social Security System (SSS) and Pag-IBIG Fund. “The funds of PhilHealth, SSS and Pag-IBIG are not [the] government’s extra wallet. This is not merely [a] loose change in the national budget. These are workers’ contributions,” the groups said. They emphasized that “stronger

workers' representation" in government-owned and -controlled corporation boards would "help ensure transparency, accountability and proper use of social protection funds for health care, housing and social security." "If workers' money keeps the system running, then workers should have a seat in the boardroom — not just in the waiting room ... Because of the lack of representation, workers are always left behind in many issues," Nagkaisa chairman Sonny Matula said in a statement.

- [DOJ evaluates complaint against Leviste](#) (2026-05-07 16:07)

THE Department of Justice (DOJ) said on Thursday the criminal complaint filed by Energy Secretary Sharon Garin against Batangas 1st District Rep. Leandro Antonio Leviste and several officials of Solar Para Sa Bayan Corp. (SPBC) is under evaluation and has not been docketed. DOJ spokesman Polo Martinez said the complaint is still being assessed to determine whether the evidence submitted is sufficient to proceed to a preliminary investigation. The complaint, filed on Wednesday, named Leviste — who is also SPBC chairman, president, chief executive officer and director — as well as other corporate officials Antonio Legarda Sr., Benjamin Legarda, Antonio Legarda Jr., Irma Flaminiano and Hazel Iris Lafuente, who also holds the positions of corporate secretary and treasurer. Garin accused the respondents of violating Commonwealth Act 146, or the Public Service Act, in connection with alleged noncompliance with obligations under Republic Act (RA) 11357, which granted SPBC a 25-year legislative franchise in 2019. She alleged that the company failed to implement its mandated electrification projects for remote and underserved communities. She said records from the Department of Energy (DOE) showed no applications for permits, licenses or regulatory approvals submitted by SPBC for the implementation of its obligations, except for an application linked to a Solar Energy Contract for the Paluan Solar Project in Occidental Mindoro, which likewise had no confirmed implementation. Garin cited a DOE certification that the agency had no record of SPBC submissions of required reportorial compliance under its rules and under RA 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act. She also pointed to provisions under RA 11357, which require SPBC to secure DOE identification of service areas, as well as permits and licenses from the Energy Regulatory Commission and other agencies prior to operation. Failure to operate continuously for two years could result in the franchise being deemed ipso facto revoked, she said. She said the alleged non-operation could lead to liability under the Public Service Act, independent of any franchise revocation proceedings. Garin also noted that while SPBC was remiss in fulfilling its franchise obligations, another firm linked to Leviste — Solar Philippines Power Project Holdings (SPPPH) — has continued renewable energy operations. The DOE said it fined SPPPH for P24 billion earlier this year for alleged failure to deliver committed projects. The agency also canceled 163 power supply service contracts totaling around 17,000 megawatts, including 28 contracts held by Leviste's company with commitments amounting to 12,000 megawatts of solar capacity, or about 60 percent of the DOE's projected supply targets.

- [Philippine Coast Guard challenges illegal Chinese research in contested waters](#) (2026-05-07 16:06)

THE Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said it challenged what it described as illegal Chinese marine scientific research (MSR) activities and the continued swarming of Chinese maritime militia vessels in the Kalayaan Island Group (KIG) during a maritime domain awareness (MDA) flight on Wednesday. In a statement issued on Thursday, the PCG said its Islander 4177 aircraft monitored the Chinese oceanographic research vessel Xiang Yang Hong 33 about 7.34 nautical miles west of Rozul Reef, where it was seen deploying a service boat toward the reef. The PCG said the activity confirmed “ongoing unauthorized MSR operations” within the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Also monitored in the area were Chinese Coast Guard vessel CCGV 5309 loitering west of Rozul Reef and 13 Chinese Maritime Militia vessels anchored nearby. Citing data from Canada’s Dark Vessel Detection system, the PCG said Xiang Yang Hong 33 departed China on April 15 and had since conducted survey operations across several maritime features within the Philippine EEZ. According to the PCG, the vessel operated near Ayungin Shoal from April 20 to 22 with support vessels Yue Xia Yu Zhi 20027 and 20026. It later moved to Escoda Shoal from April 22 to 28 before conducting activities near Arellano Reef and Bulig Shoal from April 28 to May 1. The PCG added that the vessel was also monitored inside Panganiban Reef from May 1 to 3 and near Quirino Atoll and Rozul Reef from May 3 to 6. Since May 6, it was reportedly tracked through the Automatic Identification System while moving from Jacinto Reef toward Diego Silang Reef. During the same flight, the PCG aircraft also spotted 28 Chinese Maritime Militia vessels anchored near Cay 1 and Cay 2 close to Pag-asa Island. One Chinese Coast Guard vessel, CCG 5101, was observed about two nautical miles west of Pag-asa Island. The PCG said the activities violated the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos), which requires foreign states to secure the consent of a coastal state before conducting marine scientific research within its EEZ. “The Philippines has not granted such consent to the PRC for any MSR activities in these waters,” the agency said. PCG Commandant Admiral Ronnie Gil Gavan said the agency would continue conducting lawful maritime patrols in the West Philippine Sea “to challenge any illegal activities that undermine our sovereignty and sovereign rights.”

- [Go welcomes approval of basic education voucher program bill](#) (2026-05-07 16:05)

SEN. Christopher “Bong” Go welcomed the approval on third reading of Senate Bill (SB) 1981, or the proposed Basic Education Voucher Program Act, a measure aimed at institutionalizing a private basic education voucher system for learners from kindergarten to Grade 12. SB 1981 was approved on Monday as lawmakers also advanced another education-related proposal backed by Go — Senate Bill 1894, or the proposed Enhancing Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act — which passed on second reading the same day. Go said the measures seek to provide continuous educational support for students from basic education to college and technical-vocational training. “For me, our support for education should be continuous. Many Filipino families struggle to pay for their children’s education, so if there is a way to help them, we should do it,” Go said. The proposed Basic Education Voucher Program Act will allow students from geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs), Indigenous peoples communities, beneficiaries of the government’s Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or 4Ps,

and learners facing barriers to enroll in accredited private institutions using government-funded vouchers. Alternative Learning System (ALS) completers and disadvantaged learners in areas without accessible public schools also qualify as automatic voucher recipients. To improve transparency and accessibility, the bill mandates the creation of a publicly accessible online platform where beneficiaries can view accredited private schools, including details on tuition fees, school capacity, and academic performance. It likewise includes establishing a nationwide school congestion-mapping system to identify areas where voucher assistance is most needed due to overcrowding in public schools. Go emphasized the importance of ensuring accountability and proper targeting in implementing education assistance programs. SB 1894 seeks to strengthen Republic Act 10931 by expanding support mechanisms for disadvantaged college and technical-vocational students.

- [Italy seeks Filipino nurses to fill healthcare gap](#) (2026-05-07 16:04)

ITALY intends to recruit thousands of Filipino nurses to address healthcare workforce gap, the Philippine Embassy in Rome said. Philippine Ambassador to Rome Neal Imperial said he met with Italian Health Minister Orazio Schillaci on April 24 at the Ministry of Health in Rome where they discussed the possibility of expanding cooperation on healthcare workforce mobility. Italy faces a shortage of 15,000 to 20,000 nurses and has expressed strong interest in tapping into the Philippines' pool of highly qualified healthcare professionals, the embassy said. "Filipino nurses were noted to be highly regarded in Italy for their competence, professionalism, and quality of care," Imperial said in a statement on Wednesday. "We welcome Italy's recognition of the value that Filipino nurses bring to its healthcare system," the ambassador said. Schillaci confirmed to Imperial the extension of the work validity for Filipino nurses currently employed in Italy for an additional two years, from 2027 to 2029. They were allowed to work in Italy during the Covid-19 pandemic without going through stringent requirements but their contracts were set to expire on Dec. 31, 2027. "This is a very positive and practical outcome for our Filipino nurses already in Italy. The extension ensures continuity while providing greater security in their employment," Imperial said. The embassy said Italy is open to negotiate a government-to-government labor agreement on health professionals, which would establish a structured, transparent, and regulated mechanism for the recruitment and deployment of Filipino nurses to Italian hospitals and clinics. "A formal bilateral framework will help ensure that recruitment is orderly, fair, and responsive to the needs of both countries, while safeguarding the welfare of our healthcare professionals," Imperial said. Italian authorities, however, stressed that employment would be subject to national regulatory requirements. Filipino nurses must meet qualifications including a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, recognition of credentials, registration with professional bodies, Italian language proficiency (at least B2 level), and completion of required professional training. The meeting also discussed cooperation on the health and well-being of the Filipino community in Italy. Imperial proposed collaboration on programs to support long-term health outcomes, which Schillaci welcomed.

- [Power outages cost tourism hubs up to P100,000 daily – study](#) (2026-05-07 16:02)

TOURISM-DEPENDENT businesses in Camiguin, Siquijor, and Masbate are losing as much as P100,000 a day due to persistent power outages and rising electricity costs, according to a study released Thursday by consumer advocacy group ILAW Pilipinas. Based on focus group discussions (FGDs) conducted in the three provinces, the study found that unreliable electricity is not only cutting into business revenues but also affected tourist arrivals. Based on the study, businesses in Camiguin reported the highest losses, ranging from P10,000 to P100,000 per day. Siquijor establishments cited losses of up to P60,000 daily, while Masbate businesses reported losses of as much as P50,000 a day. The group said power interruptions are affecting operations in hotels, restaurants, retail, and other tourism-related services, disrupting food preparation, digital payments, and guest services. These disruptions have led to booking cancellations, shortened stays, and refund requests, with small enterprises most affected due to limited capacity to absorb losses. To cope, many establishments have resorted to generator use, which ILAW said has become increasingly costly amid rising fuel prices. The group cited global oil price pressures linked to tensions in the Middle East, while the Department of Energy has earlier projected electricity rate increases of up to 16 percent due to higher fuel costs. The study also found varying levels of power instability in the three provinces. Masbate recorded the most severe and frequent disruptions, attributed to distribution inefficiencies, limited supply, delayed post-typhoon infrastructure repairs, voltage fluctuations, and illegal connections. In Siquijor, outages were described as less severe but still frequent, driven by aging infrastructure and reliance on temporary fixes. The local Chamber of Commerce has reportedly implemented a rotating communication system to monitor updates from the electric cooperative. Camiguin showed relatively better stability, but outages still disrupt business operations. Some establishments have shifted to solar energy, although adoption remains limited due to policy and capacity constraints. ILAW National Convenor Agnes Garcia said energy reliability should be treated as an economic concern, not just a technical issue. “When power is unreliable, it doesn’t just leave communities in the dark, it also leaves them with financial burden and stalled economic growth,” Garcia said. The group is calling for short-term measures, including more accurate outage scheduling, real-time updates from electric cooperatives, and targeted financial assistance for affected businesses. For long-term solutions, ILAW urged investments in grid modernization, improved distribution systems, expanded access to diversified energy sources, and stronger governance in the power sector. ILAW Youth Convenor Francine Beatriz Pradez said unreliable electricity directly affects tourism demand. “Without reliable power, tourists are less likely to visit these places, resulting in major losses for their tourism economy,” she said.

- [Magna Carta for health workers reforms pushed](#) (2026-05-07 16:01)

THE Alliance of Health Workers (AHW) urged Congress Thursday to pass amendments to the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers. The call was made at a protest organized by AHW in Manila during the observance of National Health Workers Day. The group expressed support for the re-filing of proposed amendments to the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers, noting that the proposed changes, which include the 36,000 entry salary for both public and private health

workers, were drafted by health industry practitioners. “These measures seek to address long-standing issues faced by health workers, including low wages, inadequate benefits, job insecurity, and poor working conditions,” the AHW said. On Wednesday, the Makabayan bloc filed House Bill (HB) 9128, or the “Strengthening the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers,” which seeks to amend the outdated Republic Act 7305. The bill aims to protect the rights of the health workers. They also filed HB 9129, or the Magna Carta of Private Health Workers, which aims to provide for the rights, welfare, and benefits of private health workers to encourage them to stay in the country and serve the Filipino people. “There is a pressing need for these amendments, and health workers deserve the strong support of all legislators, as many of the benefits under the law have become outdated since its enactment in 1992 and have not been substantially revised since. For instance, the subsistence allowance, which has remained at 50 pesos since 1992, is proposed to be increased to 750 pesos. Likewise, the laundry allowance is proposed to be adjusted from 125 pesos to 1,500 pesos, alongside calls to significantly increase hazard pay and other benefits to levels that are fair, just, and commensurate with the risks and sacrifices of health workers,” the AHW said. The group emphasized that the measures were essential not only for the well-being of health workers but also for ensuring accessible, quality health services for the public.

- [Mount Everest season opens late, with climbers undeterred by huge ice block and high travel costs](#) (2026-05-07 16:00)

KATHMANDU, Nepal — An unstable ice block dangerously hanging over the key trail on Mount Everest, high travel costs and increased permit fees haven't deterred hundreds of climbers from attempting to scale the world's highest mountain. Around 464 climbers and an equal number of their Nepali climbing guides are at the base camp gearing up for the ascent to the nearly 8,850-meter (around 29,000-foot) high peak this month during the much anticipated window of good weather on the mountain. Climbers began gathering last month at the base camp, which is at an altitude of 5,300 meters (17,340 feet.) But for more than two weeks, a massive and unstable block of ice, or serac, stalled them from moving further up the peak. “Icefall doctors” — the elite guides deployed by the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee, or SPCC, to lay the yearly climbing route by setting ropes and securing aluminum ladders over crevasses — usually finish the task by mid-April. But not this year. The team opened the Icefall route only on April 29 but also issued a warning: “The serac has multiple cracks and may collapse at any time. SPCC strongly urges all expedition operators and climbers to exercise extreme caution.” The new trail dug by the team passes below the serac, which was likely to remain. The serac is part of the Khumbu Icefall, a constantly shifting glacier with deep crevasses and huge overhanging ice that can be as big as 10-story buildings. It's considered one of the most difficult and trickiest sections of the climb to the peak. A falling serac triggered an avalanche over the Khumbu Icefall in 2014 that killed 16 Nepali guides and workers. Climbers, their guides and expedition outfitters are both eager and cautious about the situation on the mountain. Renowned mountain guide Lukas Furtenbach, who has 40 international climbers, 11 guides and 90 Sherpas on Mount Everest, said he was worried. “Anyone who says they’re not concerned is either inexperienced

or not paying attention,” Furtenbach said from the base camp. “The serac is a real, objective hazard.” He said the route was more complex and exposed than last year in one section. “The Icefall is constantly changing, but right now it’s not just more broken — it’s also forced into a line that passes under unstable features,” he said. This year, the team is reducing loads, minimizing exposure time, carefully timing movements through the Icefall, and relying on highly experienced Sherpa and guides for risk assessment. Other expedition operators are also cautioning their members about the risks and closely monitoring the situation. “If you go in the morning, it might be safer because the ice is frozen, but in the afternoon it becomes dangerous as weather gets warmer, with the risk of ice melting and falling,” said Ang Tshering Sherpa of the Kathmandu-based Asian Trekking. “It is very necessary to be cautious this year.” There have been rising concern over the fast melting of the glaciers because of global warming and climate change. U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres flew to a mountain in Nepal in 2023 and warned of the devastating level of melting glaciers in the Himalayan mountains. Ang Tshering Sherpa said there are a good number of climbers on Mount Everest this season, despite the Iran war and increased travel costs. The number of climbers from Western countries like U.S. and Europe has decreased, but Asian climbers have increased. Mount Everest, which straddles along the Nepal-China border, can be climbed from both sides. China, however, has closed its route this year, leaving all climbers to make their attempt from Nepal on the south side of the peak. Thousands of people have climbed the peak since it was first scaled on May 29, 1953, by New Zealander Edmund Hillary and Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay.

- [215 lawmakers back Sara's impeachment'](#) (2026-05-07 16:00)

SOME 215 members of the House of Representatives support the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte, a member of the House Committee on Justice, Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon, said Thursday. The House is expected to vote on May 11 on whether to send impeachment articles against Duterte to the Senate for trial. Under the Constitution, doing so needs a vote of at least one-third of all House members — or 106 of the current membership. “From consultations, we are now at around 215 House members supporting the impeachment,” Ridon told reporters. “This is now more than 2/3 of all House members, and approximates the total number of votes in last year’s impeachment vote,” he said. Lawmakers have been provided with copies of the impeachment articles against the vice president ahead of the expected vote. House Deputy Majority Leader and Manila 1st District Rep. Ernesto Dionisio Jr. said on Wednesday evening during the plenary session that members have furnished electronic copies of Committee Report 261, containing House Resolution 989 including its annexes. Downloadable electronic copies of the report are also available on the House website. Printed copies of the report have also been distributed. Resolution 989 sets forth the impeachment articles. Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro, the chairman of the House Committee on Justice, noted that the Supreme Court required that House members be provided with a copy of the articles of impeachment with the evidence. “They should be given reasonable time to read and study the same before the plenary vote. That’s part of due process,” Luistro said in Filipino and English. The impeachment articles seek Duterte’s

removal from office and perpetual disqualification from holding any office under the Republic of the Philippines. It also declares that she will be liable to prosecution, trial and punishment, according to law. Article I alleged that Duterte committed culpable violation of the Constitution, graft and corruption, and betrayed public trust “through the systematic misuse, misappropriation and irregular liquidation of confidential funds amounting to” P500 million “released to the Office of the Vice President and” P112.5 million “released to the Department of Education.” Duterte served as Education secretary before she resigned from that post in 2024. Article II alleged that she committed culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayed public trust when “she: allegedly amassed “unexplained wealth manifestly disproportionate to her lawful income and earnings during her incumbency as a public official;” allegedly failed “to fully and truthfully disclose all her and her spouse’s assets, liabilities and net worth in her statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN), including in her SALN for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024;” and allegedly failed “to divest, and instead, willfully continued, all her business interests during her tenure as” vice president “for the years 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.” Article III alleged that she “committed bribery, graft and corruption, culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayed public trust when she gave monetary gifts or payments to” certain people “to induce the violation and circumvention of procurement and other related laws.” The last article, Article IV, alleged that Duterte “committed culpable violation of the Constitution, high crimes and betrayed public trust by contracting for the assassination of” President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., first lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, and former speaker and Leyte 1st District Rep. Martin Romualdez “by making grave threats and by actively inciting sedition against the” Republic. Duterte has denied the charges. On Thursday, she said she is leaving everything to God as she maintained that the allegations raised against her are baseless. Speaking to blogger Alvin Zarzate at The Hague after she visited her father, former president Rodrigo Duterte, the vice president said she believes the impeachment case against her was “made up” by the members of the House of Representatives. “Everything that happens in a person’s life is written by God. So, if I get impeached, that was already written by God. If I don’t get impeached, [then] see you tomorrow,” Duterte said in Filipino. When asked on whether she would be vindictive against those who would vote for her impeachment, Duterte said that she is not the type of politician who would hold grudges against their political enemies. She said that if she were a lawmaker, she would look at the evidence first before deciding whether to support the impeachment complaint. “When the complaint was filed, there was no evidence at all included in it. Everything was just — what do lawyers call them? It’s as if they are all just allegations. There is nothing to support the allegations. So, that is what they should be looking at. Is there a basis for this or not?” Duterte said. She asked whether the impeachment case is about accountability or just removing a person who does not agree with the Marcos administration. Asked if she believes that some lawmakers are being “pressured” to sign the impeachment complaint for fear of losing their budgetary allocations, Duterte simply said that the government has no more money. “Whether there is an impeachment or not, there is no more money that can be given. If they still give that away — the MOOE (Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses) for the congressmen — the government will no longer be able to function,” Duterte said. She said that

the government should focus first on solving inflation rather than giving bribes to impeach her. Duterte also said that she can help people if she won't be vice president in a different capacity. "My capacity to help will not go away. I am not desperate for a position because, regardless of what position you hold, if you truly want to help people, it is always possible," Duterte said.

- [No winners in Super Lotto 6/49, Lotto 6/42 draws for May 7](#) (2026-05-07 15:53)

There were no winners in the Super Lotto 6/49 and Lotto 6/42 draws on Thursday night, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said. The winning combination for the Super Lotto 6/49 was 47-11-24-33-48-02, with a jackpot prize of P25,000,000.00. There were also no winners in the Lotto 6/42, which had the winning combination 28-20-36-29-11-27 and a jackpot prize of P10,000,000.00.

- [Democratic senators press US military on Israel's evacuation zones, warning of legal risks](#) (2026-05-07 15:43)

BEIRUT — A dozen U.S. Democratic Senators have called for the U.S. Central Command to answer questions about American coordination with Israel in declaring broad "evacuation zones" in Lebanon and Iran, alleging that the practice may violate international law. The letter underlines how the Democratic Party — both its leaders and the base — has grown increasingly critical of Israel. Since the beginning of the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran and the latest Israel-Hezbollah war in Lebanon, the Israeli military has regularly issued maps covering large areas of territory along with warnings telling all residents of the zones to flee. Israel had previously used a similar approach in Gaza. The senators said the sweeping warnings have "been used to permanently displace people and destroy homes and towns" and that some civilians who refused to leave their homes in the areas have been killed by subsequent strikes. The 12 senators led by Vermont Sen. Peter Welch, in a letter dated May 4 to CENTCOM chief Adm. Brad Cooper that was provided to The Associated Press, state that Israel's practice of unilaterally declaring mass evacuation warnings in Lebanon and Iran "likely contravene international laws the United States has helped develop around humane warfare." The other signatories include senators Bernie Sanders of Vermont, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Sen. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin. The letter asked the CENTCOM chief whether U.S. forces have coordinated military targets with Israeli forces during the recent war with Iran, whether they provided assistance or intelligence helping Israel's military to impose the evacuation zones in Lebanon and Iran, and whether CENTCOM signed off on U.S. military support for the targeting of people or infrastructure in the evacuation zones. It also asked whether the U.S. military has reviewed the legality of the practice. The Israeli military declined to comment when asked about the letter. CENTCOM did not immediately respond to a request for comment. In the past, Israel has said the evacuation maps aim to keep civilians out of harm's way. It says Hezbollah has positioned fighters, tunnels and weapons in civilian areas across southern Lebanon, from which it has launched hundreds of drones and missiles — without warning — into northern Israel. A shift in the party stance Observers said the move is part of a larger shift in the stance of

Democratic Party leaders on U.S. military assistance to Israel. Democrats have also been critical of the Trump administration's entry into the war on Iran alongside Israel. The letter came nearly three weeks after more than three dozen Democrats supported an effort by Sanders to block arms sales to Israel, signaling a growing discontent in the party with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the wars in Gaza and Iran. The two resolutions to block U.S. sales of bulldozers and bombs to Israel were opposed by all Republicans and rejected 40-59 and 36-63. Jon Finer, former deputy national security adviser under President Joe Biden, said the recent steps by Democratic senators reflect a “growing concern about Israeli conduct of various wars that cause civilian harm and U.S. complicity in that” across the spectrum within the Democratic Party. Asked why the Democratic Party is taking these steps now and not at the time when the war in Gaza and the Israel-Hezbollah war broke out — when the Democratic Biden administration was in power — Finer said: “our operational integration with Israel appears to be growing, which is part of it, but the truth is the Democratic base has been moving in this direction for some time and Washington has been catching up.” Andrew Miller, a former senior official on Israel and Palestinian Affairs at the State Department, said the letter “represents a shift among congressional Democrats moving from questions of the legality of Israeli military operations to concerns about the complicity of the U.S. military.” “It demonstrates that Democrats are taking international law very seriously and that is a welcome development,” Miller said. The evacuation zones Israel has issued dozens of evacuation warnings in Lebanon since the latest Israel-Hezbollah war began on March 2. Over 1 million people in Lebanon have fled their homes during the war. Israel has also issued similar warnings for Iranians, both during the 12-day Israel-Iran war last year and during the U.S.-Israeli war launched on Iran on Feb. 28. In one case last year they warned 300,000 people in Tehran, Iran's capital, to evacuate. On Wednesday, the Israel military's Arabic-language spokesperson Avichay Adraee issued an evacuation warning to residents of 12 villages in southern Lebanon saying Hezbollah is using them to launch attacks. The warnings came despite a ceasefire that has been nominally in place since April 17, although Israel and Hezbollah have been carrying daily attacks since then. The senators said the declaration of evacuation zones does not absolve Israeli and U.S. forces “from the absolute legal responsibility to determine that each individual person or civilian facility targeted by drones, jets, and gunfire is, in fact, a military target.” It said the use of the zones has been linked to “the deaths of thousands of civilians,” describing them as “kill zones.” In response to questions by the AP last month, the Israeli military said it issues warnings by phone, text, radio broadcast, social media and leaflets dropped from the air, in accordance with the “principles of distinction, proportionality and feasible precautions” under international law. ___Associated Press writer Julia Frankel contributed to this report from Jerusalem.

- [PTFOMS, NBI ink MOA for stronger media workers protection](#) (2026-05-07 15:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFOMS) and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Thursday, signed a Memorandum of Agreement for the strengthened protection of media workers in the country. Undersecretary Jose Torres Jr.,

PTFOMS Executive Director, and NBI Director Melvin Matibag sealed the pact to reaffirm both bodies' commitment to stronger cooperation in investigating attacks, threats, and killings involving journalists nationwide. "The partnership seeks to further enhance coordination, intelligence sharing, and case buildup efforts while promoting proactive measures to ensure the safety, security, and protection of media practitioners in the line of duty," Torres said in a statement. "The MOA underscores the government's continuing resolve to uphold press freedom and protect members of the media against violence and intimidation," he added. Under the agreement, the PTFOMS and NBI shall work together to enhance the protection of media practitioners through several key initiatives and information exchange to facilitate the sharing of critical data relevant to media-related cases. It likewise seeks to strengthen joint investigation efforts to ensure that violations against journalists are handled with speed, impartiality, and comprehensive oversight. Created under Administrative Order (AO) No. 1 in 2016, the PTFOMS' primary task is to serve as a mechanism to address the various threats and acts of violence against Filipino media practitioners.

- [Oil prices drop awaiting Mideast peace progress](#) (2026-05-07 15:15)

Oil prices fell and global stock markets traded mixed Thursday awaiting an update on a US plan to end the Middle East war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz. After having plunged more than 10 percent at one point Wednesday on peace hopes, crude futures fell nearly another four percent. The benchmark international oil contract Brent Crude was back under \$100 per barrel. European stock markets declined after big gains the previous session, while leading Asian markets climbed. Tokyo soared 5.6 percent, which largely reflected resumption of trading in Japan after the country's public holidays this week. "The wild streak of enthusiasm which hit markets amid hopes for a major de-escalation in the Iran conflict is tempering," noted Susannah Streeter, chief investment strategist at Wealth Club. "There's a realisation that there are more hurdles to climb for a longer-term resolution to be agreed, even though Iran is reported to be studying a US peace proposal aimed at formally ending the conflict." US President Donald Trump said an agreement could be near after positive talks, with Iran adding that it would pass on its latest position to mediator Pakistan. The war, launched by the United States and Israel in late February, has seen Iran respond with attacks across the Middle East and impose a chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, the gateway to the Gulf oil and gas industries and a strategic trade route. In foreign exchange Thursday, the dollar lost some of its safe haven support. Investors in Tokyo were closely watching the yen after speculation of intervention by the Japanese government to prop up the beleaguered currency. Norway's central bank on Thursday hiked its guiding rate by a quarter point to 4.25 percent, citing a risk that the war in the Middle East could worsen already elevated inflation. "Inflation is too high and has run above target for several years," Norges Bank governor Ida Wolden Bache said in a statement. - Earnings boost - Away from the war, there has been a fresh wave of cash pumped into the technology sector as traders snap up all things artificial intelligence, helped by standout earnings from Apple, Google parent Alphabet, Microsoft and Samsung during the ongoing first-quarter reporting season. "It does feel as if US stock indices are in a melt-up phase," said

Trade Nation analyst David Morrison, using an expression for a situation when a large of amount of money is invested in stocks in a short period of time. Both the S&P 500 and the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite set fresh all-time highs as trading got underway, even if they only edged higher. "FOMO (fear of missing out) is playing an important role here, yet it's difficult to work out what could trigger a significant pullback," said Morrison. "That in itself is a concern." Emirates Group on Thursday announced a three-percent rise in annual profits to \$5.7 billion despite severe disruption to flights owing to the war. - Key figures at around 1330 GMT - Brent North Sea Crude: DOWN 3.7 percent at \$97.50 a barrel West Texas Intermediate: DOWN 3.9 percent at \$91.37 a barrel New York - DOW: UP 0.4 percent at 50,109.76 points New York - S&P 500: UP 0.1 percent at 7,373.25 New York - Nasdaq Composite: UP 0.2 percent at 25,877.65 London - FTSE 100: DOWN 0.8 percent at 10,355.47 Paris - CAC 40: DOWN less than 0.1 percent at 8,293.01 Frankfurt - DAX: DOWN 0.2 percent at 24,867.36 Tokyo - Nikkei 225: UP 5.6 percent at 62,833.84 (close) Hong Kong - Hang Seng Index: UP 1.6 percent at 26,626.28 (close) Shanghai - Composite: UP 0.5 percent at 4,180.09 (close) Euro/dollar: UP at \$1.1774 from \$1.1752 on Wednesday Pound/dollar: UP at \$1.3625 from \$1.3594 Dollar/yen: DOWN at 156.30 yen from 156.39 yen Euro/pound: DOWN at 86.43 pence from 86.45 pence

- [3 Australian women returning from Syria are arrested on suspicion of slavery and terrorism offenses](#) (2026-05-07 14:43)

MELBOURNE, Australia — Three women who were among 13 Australians returning home from Syria were arrested at airports on Thursday on allegations of slavery and terrorism inside the Islamic State group's former so-called caliphate, police said. The four women and nine children, who have spent years in Roj Camp in the Syrian desert, landed on two Qatar Airways flights from Doha Thursday, a day after the Australian government announced their intention to return. Stephen Nutt, the Australian Federal Police Assistant Commissioner for Counter Terrorism, said a 53-year-old woman who arrived at Melbourne Airport would be charged by Friday with four crimes against humanity including possessing a slave and engaging in slave trading. He said a 31-year-old woman, who also landed in Melbourne, would be charged with two slavery offenses. Each offense carried a potential maximum penalty of 25 years in prison, Nutt said. A third woman, a 32-year-old who arrived with her son at Sydney Airport, would be charged with being a member of a terrorist organization and with entering or remaining in a region controlled by a terrorist organization. Each charge carries a potential maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. Under Australian law, it became an offense to travel to the former Syrian Islamic State group stronghold of Raqqa without a legitimate reason from 2014 to 2017. The Australian government had condemned the women for supporting Islamic State militants by traveling to Syria and had refused to help repatriate them. Police have been investigating for more than a decade Australians' potential involvement in atrocities while in Syria. Deakin University extremism expert Joshua Roose said Australian authorities were investigating abuses within the caliphate including enslaving Yazidi women and harsh policing of sharia law. "Some of the worst forms of violence were in fact enacted by women, so we need to understand that it's a problem," Roose told Australian Broadcasting Corp. ABC reporter Bridget Rollason, who

was on the Melbourne flight from Doha, said some of the women told her of spending as long as 12 years in Syria, with children born in hellish conditions inside the camps. “When I did actually ask them about the prospect of facing arrest, they actually told me that they were willing to take the hit, they said, for their children because they want to bring their children back to Australia,” Rollason said. “One of the women I spoke to said that what she missed the most was coffee. She said she couldn't wait to get to Little Collins Street in Melbourne to have a coffee again,” she added. The child welfare-focused aid agency Save the Children failed in a court bid in 2024 to compel the Australian government to repatriate citizens from Syrian camps. Save the Children Australia chief executive Mat Tinkler said Australian authorities now had to give priority to the returned children's welfare. “Two-thirds of this cohort that we’re talking about... are children. So there’s been a lot of focus on the women and the choices they may have made. But we need the focus now to be on these children and give them a chance of resuming a normal life here in Australia,” Tinkler said. Australian governments have repatriated Australian women and children from Syrian detention camps on two occasions. Other Australians have returned without government assistance.

- [US awaits Iran response to latest deal offer](#) (2026-05-07 14:09)

TEHRAN, Iran — The United States was waiting on Thursday for Iran to respond to its latest proposed deal to end the war in the Middle East and to reopen the key shipping lane out of the Gulf. Asian stocks soared and oil prices fell after US President Donald Trump said once again that an agreement could be near after positive talks, and Iran said it would pass on its latest position to mediator Pakistan. Any agreement to prolong the ceasefire between the United States and Iran could also lower tensions in Lebanon, where an already fragile truce with Israel was under renewed strain after a strike on southern Beirut killed a Hezbollah commander. The war, launched by the United States and Israel in late February, has seen Iran respond with attacks across the Middle East and impose a chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, the gateway to the Gulf oil and gas industries and a strategic trade route. Trump had this week briefly launched a naval operation to escort commercial vessels and force open the strait, only to stand it down within hours, citing progress on negotiations with Iran, which have been mediated by Pakistan and supported by Washington's Gulf Arab allies. In Iran, however, many were wary of increased repression as the war drags on. “The economic situation got worse, and this government has become even more brutal,” 49-year-old Ali told AFP journalists in Paris from the Iranian city of Tonekabon, using only his first name for fear of retribution. - “Under review” - “We've had very good talks over the last 24 hours, and it's very possible that we'll make a deal,” Trump told reporters on Wednesday, adding his now habitual threat to return to bombing if Tehran refuses to back down to US demands. Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said the US proposal remained “under review” and Tehran would communicate its position to mediator Pakistan “after finalising its views”. According to a report from US network NBC News, Trump's U-turn came after Saudi Arabia -- whose Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman reportedly talked directly to Trump -- refused to allow US forces to use its airspace and bases for the Hormuz operation. US news outlet Axios, citing two officials, reported that both Tehran and

Washington were close to agreement on a one-page memorandum of understanding to end the war and set a framework for negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme. Trump has claimed that Iran's leadership is divided, in the wake of the deaths of many senior figures in US and Israeli strikes. But President Masoud Pezeshkian said Thursday he had met with the country's supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei, who has not been seen in public since his appointment in early March. "What struck me most during this meeting was the vision and the humble and sincere approach of the supreme leader of the Islamic revolution," Pezeshkian said, in a video broadcast by state television. Khamenei, reportedly wounded in strikes on the first day of the Middle East war that claimed the life of his father and predecessor Ali Khamenei, has released only written statements since his appointment. - Oil prices fall - Oil prices fell again, tumbling by two percent Thursday -- having fallen around 10 percent over the previous two days -- and Tokyo's Nikkei index led another strong rally across Asia stocks, fuelled by revived optimism that the talks will bear fruit. Energy prices are still much higher than before the conflict, but international standard Brent and US benchmark West Texas Intermediate are both now below the symbolic \$100 level. Markets have been particularly concerned about the Strait of Hormuz, which in peacetime carries a fifth of the world's oil and LNG trade as well as a good chunk of its fertiliser. On the Lebanese front, Israel struck Beirut's southern suburbs Wednesday in the first such attack in nearly a month, killing a senior Hezbollah commander from its elite Radwan force. In a video released by his office, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "I say to our enemies in the clearest possible terms: no terrorist is immune. Anyone who threatens the State of Israel will die because of his actions." The Israeli military said in a statement Thursday that an "explosive drone impact" had wounded four of its soldiers -- one severely -- in southern Lebanon the previous day.

- [NBI receives sworn statements alleging Baligod influenced selection of lawmakers in PDAF probe](#) (2026-05-07 13:59)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said Thursday it has received sworn statements from two state witnesses alleging that lawyer Levito Baligod played a role in influencing the identification of lawmakers to be included in succeeding phases of the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) scam investigation. The affidavits, submitted by Marina Sula and Mary Arlene Baltazar—both under the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Witness Protection Program—were transmitted to the Office of the NBI Director through counsel following recent public remarks attributed to Baligod regarding his involvement in the high-profile plunder cases. In their sworn statements, the witnesses alleged that Baligod participated in discussions and processes that influenced which lawmakers would be identified and included in subsequent phases of the PDAF scam probe. They said they executed the affidavits to clarify what they described as inaccurate public claims and to place on record their account of events during the investigation. Sula and Baltazar also disputed Baligod's earlier claim that he resigned as counsel for whistleblower Benhur Luy in 2014 because of alleged disagreements over "selective prosecution." According to the witnesses, they did not observe any conflict between the DOJ and the NBI in the handling of the cases. They further alleged that Baligod's

legal representation of Luy and Merlina Suñas was terminated rather than voluntarily withdrawn, contrary to earlier public statements suggesting that he stepped down in protest over prosecutorial decisions. The PDAF scam involves allegations that congressional discretionary funds were funneled through bogus non-government organizations, making it one of the country's largest corruption scandals. The NBI said the sworn statements have been officially received and will form part of the case records for evaluation under existing rules and procedures. "The Bureau remains committed to the impartial investigation of cases based solely on evidence, sworn testimony, and due process," NBI Director Melvin Matibag said. Authorities did not provide further details on whether the new affidavits would affect ongoing proceedings, but stressed that all submissions would be assessed as part of the continuing review of evidence in the PDAF cases.

- [Two Singapore residents isolated, awaiting hantavirus test results](#) (2026-05-07 13:38)

Two Singapore residents who had been on board a hantavirus-hit cruise ship have been isolated as they await test results for the rare respiratory disease, Singapore's Communicable Diseases Agency (CDA) said on Thursday. Two men aged 65 and 67 had been on the ship and also the same flight as a confirmed hantavirus case from St Helena to Johannesburg on April 25, the CDA said. Both arrived in Singapore in early May and have been isolated and are being monitored at Singapore's National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID). The confirmed case did not travel to the city-state and died in South Africa. "Two Singapore residents had been on board the cruise ship MV Hondius, which has reported an outbreak of Andes hantavirus. Both individuals have been isolated at the National Centre for Infectious Diseases, where they are being tested for hantavirus," a CDA statement said. "Their test results are pending. One has a runny nose but is otherwise well, and the other is asymptomatic. The risk to the general public in Singapore is currently low. "If the pair test negative for hantavirus "they will be quarantined for 30 days from the date of last exposure", CDA said, adding that "testing will be conducted again before release from quarantine". If they test positive they will remain hospitalised for monitoring and treatment, and "contact tracing will be conducted to identify persons who have been exposed during the infectious period, and close contacts will be quarantined", the CDA said. The MV Hondius has been at the centre of an international health scare since Saturday, when the UN's health agency was informed that three passengers had died and the suspected cause was hantavirus. Eight cases, including three deaths, had been linked to the cluster on the cruise ship by Wednesday, according to CDA. The rare disease is usually spread from infected rodents, typically through urine, droppings and saliva. However, experts have confirmed that the version of the virus detected aboard the Hondius is a rare strain that can be transmitted between humans.

- [Gatchalian brothers mourn passing of Times Chairman Emeritus Dante Ang](#) (2026-05-07 13:34)

MANILA, Philippines – The Gatchalian brothers – Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, Social Welfare and Development Secretary Rex Gatchalian and Valenzuela City Mayor Wes Gatchalian – were

one in mourning for the passing of The Manila Times Chairman Emeritus Dante Arevalo Ang (DAA). “I join the country in grieving the passing of Mr. Dante Ang. The country lost a civic giant in Mr. Ang, a man who firmly believed in the role of journalism in nation-building and lived by his devotion to the truth,” said the senator, Valenzuela’s former long-time mayor. Beyond the newsroom, he said, DAA displayed his dedication to public service when he served as special envoy for international public relations and chair of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas and through his philanthropic work. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) chief described DAA as a distinguished journalist and public servant whose leadership in the Philippine media helped shape public discourse and upheld a resolute commitment to truth and service. “His legacy is one of dedication, influence, and meaningful contribution to the nation,” said Secretary Rex, also a former long-time Valenzuela mayor and lawmaker. “On behalf of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, I convey my heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the bereaved family and to the entire Manila Times community on the passing of Dante Arevalo Ang, DBA, Chairman Emeritus of The Manila Times,” he added. Mayor Wes, meanwhile, said DAA played a vital role in upholding the country’s oldest and most respected newspaper – The Manila Times. “Mr. Ang’s contributions to public discourse and nation-building helped shape an informed citizenry, an essential foundation for responsive and accountable governance,” he said. From the perspective of the Valenzuela City government, the former lawmaker-turned-mayor stressed that institutions like The Manila Times serve as indispensable partners in communicating truth, amplifying the voices of communities and fostering transparency in public service. “Mr. Ang’s leadership in media strengthened these ideals, reinforcing the crucial role of a free and responsible press in nation-building,” the city chief executive emphasized. May Mr. Ang find solace in the enduring impact of his life and in values he championed throughout his journey, the Gatchalian brothers said.

- [Italy seeks thousands of Filipino nurses, eyes labor agreement on health workers with PH government](#) (2026-05-07 13:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Italy intends to recruit thousands of Filipino nurses to address healthcare workforce gap as it identified the Philippines as a key partner in meeting this demand, the Philippine Embassy in Rome said. Philippine Ambassador to Rome Neal Imperial said he met with Italian Health Minister Orazio Schillaci on April 24 at the Ministry of Health in Rome where they discussed the possibility of expanding cooperation on healthcare workforce mobility. Italy currently faces a shortage of 15,000 to 20,000 nurses and expressed strong interest in tapping into the Philippines’ pool of highly qualified healthcare professionals, the embassy said. “Filipino nurses were noted to be highly regarded in Italy for their competence, professionalism, and quality of care,” Imperial said in a statement on Wednesday. “We welcome Italy’s recognition of the value that Filipino nurses bring to its healthcare system,” the ambassador said. Schillaci confirmed to Imperial the extension of the work validity for Filipino nurses currently employed in Italy for an additional two years, from 2027 to 2029. They were allowed to work in Italy during the Covid-19 (Coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic on exceptional basis without going through stringent requirements but their contracts were set to

expire on Dec. 31, 2027. “This is a very positive and practical outcome for our Filipino nurses already in Italy. The extension ensures continuity while providing greater security in their employment,” Imperial said. The embassy said the Italian side conveyed openness to negotiating a government-to-government labor agreement on health professionals, which would establish a structured, transparent, and regulated mechanism for the recruitment and deployment of Filipino nurses to Italian hospitals and clinics. “A formal bilateral framework will help ensure that recruitment is orderly, fair, and responsive to the needs of both countries, while safeguarding the welfare of our healthcare professionals,” Imperial said. Italian authorities, however, stressed that employment would be subject to national regulatory requirements. Filipino nurses must meet qualifications including a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, recognition of credentials, registration with professional bodies, Italian language proficiency (at least B2 level), and completion of required professional training.

• [Gov’t moving full speed for Barmm polls — Marcos](#) (2026-05-07 13:13)

MANILA, Philippines—President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday said that the national government is moving “full speed” toward the conduct of the first regular parliamentary elections in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Barmm) on Sept. 14. Speaking during the 16th Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit and related Asean meetings in Cebu, Marcos underscored the importance of sustaining political stability, democratic transition, and economic development in the Bangsamoro region. The President’s statements came amid pending matters before the Supreme Court involving Barmm territorial and electoral concerns, although preparations by the Commission on Elections, security agencies, and Bangsamoro institutions have continued simultaneously. Special Assistant to the President Anton Lagdameo Jr. said Marcos’ remarks reflected a “whole-of-government” approach to ensuring the successful holding of the parliamentary elections as mandated under the Bangsamoro Organic Law. “The government continues preparing on all fronts. The direction is to move forward and ensure readiness for the Sept. 14 elections,” Lagdameo said. During the summit, Marcos emphasized that Barmm occupied a strategic position within the BIMP-EAGA growth corridor and should become a major center for trade, halal industries, fisheries, tourism, and maritime connectivity in the southern Philippines. He said that economic development in Barmm was directly tied to peace and institutional stability, saying investments and regional cooperation are essential in preserving gains achieved under the Bangsamoro peace process. The President also highlighted the need for “people-centered development,” emphasizing that government programs must produce tangible benefits for communities in historically underserved and conflict-affected areas in Mindanao. Marcos’ repeated emphasis on continuity, stability, and regional integration was reportedly viewed as an indirect affirmation that Malacañang remained optimistic the Barmm parliamentary elections would push through as scheduled despite unresolved legal questions. The Sept. 14 parliamentary election will be the first regular polls conducted under the Bangsamoro Organic Law and is widely regarded as a crucial phase in the transition toward a permanent parliamentary government in the Bangsamoro region following

decades of armed conflict in southern Philippines. Apart from the Bangsamoro elections, Marcos also pushed broader Asean and BIMP-EAGA priorities, including food security, digital transformation, infrastructure modernization, maritime sustainability, and energy cooperation among Southeast Asian economies. The President particularly cited the importance of improving transport and logistics links connecting Mindanao, Palawan, Sabah, Brunei, and eastern Indonesia to accelerate trade, tourism, and investments across the subregional bloc. He reiterated the Philippines' commitment to strengthening Asean centrality amid global economic and geopolitical uncertainties, stressing that regional cooperation remains vital to maintaining economic resilience and stability. "As we gather today, we look forward with purpose guided by the BIMP-EAGA Vision 2035 and its strong alignment with the broader aspirations of Asean. This vision is not merely a roadmap for economic integration, it is a promise to our people that development will be meaningful, sustainable, and felt in their daily lives," Marcos said. "Together, let us continue building a more connected, resilient, and prosperous BIMP-EAGA for present and future generations," he added.

- [Pangilinan, Hontiveros seek review of coco levy fund, press for more benefits for coconut farmers](#) (2026-05-07 13:13)

MANILA, Philippines — Senators sought a review of the implementation of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund (CFITF) law or "coco levy fund" amid reports that coconut farmers have yet to benefit from the law. Senators Francis Pangilinan and Risa Hontiveros made the call during the Senate Committee on Agriculture public hearing on the coconut industry woes. They said the law should be responsive to the needs of coconut farmers. Pangilinan, the committee chairman, pushed for a review of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) and the utilization of the coco levy fund. Signed into law in February 2021, the CFITF Act introduced reforms to the coconut industry aimed at ensuring the efficient utilization of the trust fund in line with the CFIDP which aims to benefit coconut farmers. The senator said coconut farmers are among the "poorest in the Philippines, and the poorest among our farmers are our coconut farmers." "They are looking for clear data, real conditions, and concrete accountability in the coconut industry," Pangilinan said in Filipino. "We want to establish the Philippines as the world's leading coconut exporter but that will not happen if the lives of small coconut farmers do not improve," Hontiveros said. She said neighboring countries such as Indonesia, Vietnam, and Thailand have outpaced the Philippines in farm yield, exports, and value creation in the coconut industry. "They are the ones planting but they should also be the ones reaping the benefits," Hontiveros said. She said that certain provisions and implementation mechanisms of the law "may need to be revisited and amended, especially those in diversification and replanting programs." "This is especially true if income and opportunities are still not immediately felt by our coconut farmers," Hontiveros said. She raised concerns over the unequal sharing of income in the sector, saying farmers continue to shoulder additional work and investment while landowners receive a larger share of the earnings. Hontiveros pressed for more support for farmers affected by coconut replanting programs while waiting for newly planted trees to bear fruit.

- [CHR marks 39th anniversary](#) (2026-05-07 13:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) vowed to remain committed to its mandate as it celebrates its 39th founding anniversary. CHR Chairman Richard Palpal-latoc cited Thursday the agency's role in advancing civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights both in moments of urgency and in the everyday lives of Filipinos. Palpal-latoc reported that in a bid to broaden access to justice, the CHR has partnered with the Supreme Court in launching the Unified Legal Aid Service, a digital platform linking marginalized Filipinos with free legal support. He added that the CHR, being the protector and promoter of gender equality, has ramped up campaigns on inclusivity. The CHR has represented the Philippines at the United Nations, where it discussed obstacles to justice for women and girls at the 70th Commission on the Status of Women session, defending Indigenous lands at the UN Expert Mechanism, and advocating for a legally binding treaty for older persons in Geneva. "The work of the CHR under the 6th Commission en banc has since diversified, spanning sustained efforts on food security through multi-stakeholder dialogues, climate justice, emerging technologies and their human rights implications, and business and human rights, including the promotion of corporate accountability and responsible conduct that respects human dignity," Palpal-latoc said. He added that the CHR has identified concrete measures against red-tagging. "These include clarifying the definition and elements of red-tagging, and addressing fragmented protection, weak accountability, and barriers to justice," Palpal-latoc said. Palpal-latoc stressed that the agency's work on press freedom and media safety is continuing, noting journalists, as human rights defenders, must be protected from both online and offline threats.

- [4Ps not to blame for power bill shock — Gatchalian](#) (2026-05-07 12:58)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said that the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) should not be blamed for the recent spike in electricity rates. DSWD Secretary Rexlon "Rex" Gatchalian said the increase in April electricity bills was not caused by 4Ps households but by higher generation charges of Meralco. "4Ps is not the reason why the charges increased in April, as the bill shock came from their own generation expenses," Gatchalian said. He stressed that beneficiaries of the government's flagship poverty alleviation program consume minimal electricity due to limited appliance use. Gatchalian explained that most 4Ps households only use basic utilities such as electric fans and light bulbs, resulting in negligible power consumption. He added that the share of 4Ps households in the Lifeline Rate Subsidy Program remains very small compared to Meralco's millions of customers. The DSWD chief also expressed openness to reviewing the Expanded Lifeline Rate Law, provided that any adjustments will not be passed on to consumers. He suggested that the subsidy be absorbed by the power distributor as part of its corporate social responsibility. Gatchalian thanked taxpayers, particularly the middle class, for continuously funding the government's social protection programs. He underscored that the 4Ps program has helped millions of Filipino families produce graduates and professionals, contributing to the administration's goal of reducing poverty to single-digit levels by 2028.

- [400 law students apply for Ombudsman internship](#) (2026-05-07 12:51)

MANILA, Philippines — About 400 law students applied for the Office of the Ombudsman's legal internship program. The applicants, who came from different law schools in Metro Manila, applied for a total of 30 slots in the program, which will start in June. "It is a deliberate investment in shaping the country's next generation of public servants. This is nation-building. We're honing their idealism, showing them that government can actually do something right, that there is hope," Assistant Ombudsman for Internal Affairs Luigi Bonoan said in a statement Thursday. The Office of the Ombudsman said Wednesday that it was sifting through over 3,500 applications to join it. These applications were for 114 permanent posts in the anti-graft body's central office as well as its offices in the Visayas and Mindanao. "It says that a lot of people believe in what we're doing here. People want to be part of the good fight," Bonoan said. The Office of the Ombudsman opened posts for lawyers and non-lawyers for, it said, a multidisciplinary approach against corruption. "It can't just be legal and purely investigatory. We want specialized people. We want engineers, accountants, even medical professionals," Bonoan said. "We're not just looking to fill positions. We're looking to build a strong organization. The best way to do that is to get the best people." The program included mentorship from experienced investigators and prosecutors. "We're demonstrating that they have the power to make this country better. These students are going to remember this internship for the rest of their careers. They'll remember that the government did something right, that there were people fighting the good fight," Bonoan said.

- [New stamps celebrate plazas](#) (2026-05-07 12:03)

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) has released a new set of stamps featuring some of the country's historic plazas in observance of National Heritage Month. PHLPost said the stamp collection pays tribute to town plazas that have long served as centers of community life, culture, and history in the Philippines. Featured in the collection are the Sta. Barbara Plaza in Iloilo, Bacolod City Plaza in Negros Occidental, Tabaco Plaza in Albay, Vigan Plaza in Ilocos Sur, Zamboanga Plaza in Zamboanga del Sur, San Carlos Plaza in Pangasinan, and Plaza Roma in Intramuros, Manila. PHLPost said the stamps aim to highlight the architectural beauty and historical significance of these public spaces, which have traditionally functioned as venues for social, religious, political, and cultural activities. It noted that Philippine plazas, often surrounded by churches, municipal halls, and heritage structures, reflect the country's layered history and the blend of indigenous and colonial influences that continue to shape Filipino communities. The stamps were designed by PHLPost in-house artist Jose Antonio Jayme in coordination with Judith Neric of the Filipino Heritage Festival Inc. The photographs used in the stamp series were credited to landscape architect and urban planner Paulo Alcazaren, who is known for his advocacy for public spaces and his research on the history of Philippine plazas across the country.

- [DOJ: Complaint vs Leviste, solar power firm executives still under evaluation](#) (2026-05-07 10:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Justice (DOJ) on Thursday said the criminal complaint filed by Energy Secretary Sharon Garin against Batangas 1st District Rep. Leandro Antonio Leviste and several officials of the Solar Para Sa Bayan Corporation (SPBC) has not yet been docketed and remains under evaluation. DOJ spokesman Polo Martinez said the complaint was still being assessed to determine whether the evidence was sufficient to proceed with a preliminary investigation. “At present, the complaint has not yet been docketed as it is still under evaluation,” Martinez said in an interview. “If the evidence is found sufficient, it will be docketed for preliminary investigation.” The filing, submitted to the DOJ on Wednesday named Leviste—who serves as SPBC chairman, president, chief executive officer, and director—as well as other corporate officials Antonio Legarda Sr., Benjamin Legarda, Antonio B. Legarda Jr., Irma Flaminiano, and Hazel Iris Lafuente, who also holds the posts of corporate secretary and treasurer. In her complaint-affidavit, Garin accused the respondents of violating Commonwealth Act 146 or the Public Service Act, as amended, in connection with their alleged failure to comply with the obligations of their legislative franchise under Republic Act 11357. Garin alleged that SPBC failed to implement its mandated electrification projects for remote and underserved communities despite being granted a 25-year franchise in 2019. She said the Department of Energy (DOE) has no record of any application for permits, licenses, or other regulatory approvals submitted by the company to implement its obligations. Citing DOE certification, Garin said the agency had no record of SPBC applications for permits or approvals, except for an application related to a Solar Energy Contract for the Paluan Solar Project in Occidental Mindoro. However, she said there was no record of a signed Solar Energy Service Contract or any evidence that the project had been implemented. The DOE likewise reportedly found no submissions from SPBC of required reportorial compliance under its policies and under Republic Act 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA). Garin also cited Section 4 of Republic Act 11357, which authorizes the DOE to identify remote and underserved areas to be served under the franchise and requires SPBC to secure permits and licenses prior to operation. She stressed that such regulatory clearances from the DOE, Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), and other agencies are a prerequisite to lawful operation. She further argued that under the franchise law, SPBC may be deemed ipso facto revoked if it fails to operate continuously for two years. “Clearly, there is no gainsaying that SPBC, through its board of directors and corporate officers, knowingly and willfully neglected, failed, and omitted to perform the services it is obligated to render under RA 11357,” Garin said in her complaint. She added that the alleged failure to operate may give rise to liability under the Public Service Act, independent of any franchise revocation. Garin also noted that while SPBC remained inactive in its franchise obligations, another firm linked to Leviste—Solar Philippines Power Project Holdings—has continued to engage in renewable energy operations.

- [Court junks petition of Sara's lawyer-husband to stop disclosure of tax records 'for lack of jurisdiction'](#) (2026-05-07 08:52)

MANILA, Philippines — A local court junked a petition filed by Vice President Sara Duterte's husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, to stop a committee of the House of Representatives from

acquiring tax records and other documents that can be used as evidence in its impeachment case against the vice president. The Quezon City (QC) Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 81 dismissed Carpio's petition "for lack of jurisdiction." "In the case at bench, the respondents are acting in the official capacity as part of the [House Committee on Justice], a co-equal branch of the government hence, the case at bench should have been filed with the Supreme Court," the Quezon City court said in its ruling. "Accordingly, the petition for prohibition is dismissed for lack of jurisdiction. The prayer for issuance of a writ of preliminary injunction is denied," the court order said. The court said that in the amended petition, Carpio cited that the committee had no jurisdiction over him and his law firm, Carpio Lawyers, GPP. The court said "prohibition cannot lie against" the committee "which is a validly constituted body exercising jurisdiction vested by law." It also said that the subpoena was issued "in the valid exercise of" the committee's "inherent power" to issue compulsory processes for the production of documents.

- [Solidum top earner among department chiefs for 2025](#) (2026-05-07 07:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum was the top earner among department chiefs for 2025, based on the Commission on Audit (CoA). A list on CoA's Report on Salaries and Allowances for Calendar Year 2025 showed that Solidum had P6.66 million in gross tax. The others are: -Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma, P5.966 million; -Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., P5.201 million; -Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa, P5.163 million; -Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella 3rd, P5.146; -Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., P4.98 million; -former Tourism secretary Maria Christina Esperanza Frasco, P4.899 million; -Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan P4.882 million; -Trade Secretary Ma. Christina Roque, P4.857 million; -Migrant Workers Secretary Hans Leo Caddac, P4.836 million.

- [PH Coast Guard challenges illegal Chinese research activities in economic zone](#) (2026-05-07 07:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said it challenged illegal Chinese marine scientific research (MSR) activities and the continued swarming of Chinese maritime militia vessels in the Kalayaan Island Group (KIG) during a maritime domain awareness (MDA) flight on Wednesday. In a statement issued on Thursday, the PCG said its Islander 4177 aircraft monitored the Chinese oceanographic research vessel Xiang Yang Hong 33 about 7.34 nautical miles west of Rozul Reef, where it was seen deploying a service boat toward the reef. The PCG said the activity confirmed "ongoing unauthorized MSR operations" within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Also monitored in the area were Chinese Coast Guard vessel CCGV 5309 loitering west of Rozul Reef and 13 Chinese Maritime Militia vessels anchored nearby. Citing data from Canada's Dark Vessel Detection system, the PCG said Xiang Yang Hong 33 departed China on April 15 and had since conducted survey operations across several maritime features within the Philippine EEZ. According to the PCG, the vessel operated near Ayungin Shoal from April 20 to 22 with support vessels Yue Xia Yu Zhi 20027 and 20026. It later moved to Escoda Shoal from April 22 to 28 before conducting activities near Arellano Reef and

Bulig Shoal from April 28 to May 1. The PCG added that the vessel was also monitored inside Panganiban Reef from May 1 to 3 and near Quirino Atoll and Rozul Reef from May 3 to 6. Since May 6, it has reportedly been tracked through the Automatic Identification System while moving from Jacinto Reef toward Diego Silang Reef. During the same flight, the PCG aircraft also spotted 28 Chinese Maritime Militia vessels anchored near Cay 1 and Cay 2 close to Pag-asa Island. One Chinese Coast Guard vessel, CCG 5101, was also observed about two nautical miles west of Pag-asa Island. The PCG said the activities violated the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which requires foreign states to secure the consent of a coastal state before conducting marine scientific research within its EEZ. “The Philippines has not granted such consent to the PRC for any MSR activities in these waters,” the agency said. PCG Commandant Admiral Ronnie Gil Gavan said the agency would continue conducting lawful maritime patrols in the West Philippine Sea. “We will continue to conduct lawful MDA operations and will continue to challenge any illegal activities that undermine our sovereignty and sovereign rights,” Gavan said.

- [DOLE activates ₱110M assistance for ashfall-hit communities](#) (2026-05-07 07:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The government is rolling out ₱110 million in emergency aid to support workers hit by the latest unrest of Mayon Volcano, with more than 20,000 Albay residents set to benefit. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) aims to provide immediate income opportunities while helping communities recover from heavy ashfall. The move follows a directive from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for a full-scale government response to the ongoing volcanic activity. Undersecretary Benedicto Ernesto R. Bitonio, Jr., officer-in-charge of the Office of the Secretary, said that the DOLE Bicol Regional Office has activated its emergency employment program to quickly reach displaced and affected workers across Albay. At the center of the response is the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged Workers (TUPAD), which offers short-term jobs and financial relief. Through TUPAD, the labor department committed to continuously assisting disaster-affected workers toward recovery, livelihood restoration, and their continued progress. The TUPAD program offers emergency employment for disadvantaged workers, enabling them to engage in community work for 10 to 30 days. Regional Director Imelda F. Gatinao said the agency was fast-tracking the profiling of affected residents to ensure aid is delivered without delay.

- [Govt issues one-month moratorium on housing payments for Mayon-affected residents in Bicol](#) (2026-05-07 07:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The government on Thursday announced that it would be implementing a month-long moratorium on housing amortizations and lease payments for beneficiaries in Region V (Bicol Region). National Housing Authority (NHA) General Manager Joeben Tai told The Manila Times that the May 1-31, 2026 moratorium was “in compliance with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr to provide immediate financial relief to the families in Bicol Region affected by the volcanic activity.” Under the moratorium, no delinquency interest or additional charges would be imposed, the NHA said. Regular amortization and lease payments

will resume on June 1, 2026. Any penalties or interest charges incurred prior to May 1, 2026, will also resume on this date, the NHA said. Affected beneficiaries do not need to apply, as their accounts will be automatically adjusted, Tai said. The NHA chief cited the agency's responsibility that extended beyond housing infrastructure projects. "More than our commitment to providing homes and building communities, the NHA remains sensitive to the needs of our beneficiaries. We want to ensure that we give them necessary support to recover from calamities such as this," he said. He said the NHA would continue to monitor the situation in the region to ensure the needs of the affected families, particularly the housing beneficiaries, are prioritized. Amid evacuation of thousands of families, especially in the towns around Mayon Volcano in Albay province, the leadership of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) clarified that it was not undergoing an explosive eruption. Phivolcs Director Teresito Bacolcol said the volcano was only exhibiting lava effusion, a non-explosive type of volcanic activity.

- [Southeast Asian leaders will reaffirm core values in veiled Mideast war rebuke](#) (2026-05-07 07:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Southeast Asian leaders plan to issue a contingency plan that upholds international law, sovereignty and freedom of navigation in what could be seen as a veiled rebuke to the United States, Israel and Iran over the Middle East war which has impacted their region, according to a draft declaration seen Thursday by The Associated Press. The declaration is set to be issued by the leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations when they meet in an annual summit on Friday in the central Philippine island province of Cebu. It also outlines a crisis plan to deal with the energy shortages and other global problems caused by the war. This year's host, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., has said the summit with 10 other national leaders and a lower-level representative from Myanmar will focus on the region's energy security, food supply and the protection of its people, including more than a million Southeast Asian workers and seafarers in the Middle East. Marcos has ordered the gathering to be stripped of its traditional pomp in recognition of economic headwinds worldwide. A volatile but economically fast-growing region of about 680 million people, Southeast Asia has its share of major flash points, including decades-long territorial disputes involving China, a five-year civil war in Myanmar and a recent border conflict between Thailand and Cambodia. But its leaders have expressed serious concern over a war that has caused global economic fallout and endangered many citizens of their nations. Several workers in the Middle East, including two from the Philippines, have been killed in the current fighting, and thousands of workers from Southeast Asia have either flown home or were evacuated by their governments from the troubled region. The Asian Development Bank warned in March, about a month after the hostilities in the Middle East broke out, that prolonged disruptions from the war could choke growth and spur inflation in Asia and the Pacific region, which are heavily dependent on oil and gas from the Middle East. "We emphasized the importance of upholding international law and ensuring that regional cooperation remains anchored in dialogue, trust and respect for sovereignty," the draft statement says. Southeast Asia will "maintain open, transparent and

predictable markets as well as secure and open sea lanes, and ensure freedom of navigation, the safe, unimpeded and continuous transit passage of vessels and aircraft in straits used for international navigation,” it says. That will “preserve the unimpeded flow of essential goods, including food, energy and key inputs, in accordance with international law, particularly the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,” it says. The Asean leaders will affirm “shared resolve” to fortify regional resilience. The contingency plan calls for actions including the ratification possibly this year of an agreement that will pave the way for coordinated emergency fuel sharing, planning a regional power grid, diversifying the region’s sources of crude oil, promoting the use of electric vehicles and studying the use of new technologies, including civilian nuclear energy. They are also seeking “a possible Asean crisis communication and coordination protocol to ensure a coherent, timely and coordinated regional response to crises.” Aside from the Philippines, Asean consists of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam. East Timor was accepted as a full member in October last year.

- [Historic Philippine plazas honored in special stamps](#) (2026-05-07 07:06)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) released a new set of special stamps featuring some of the country’s historic plazas in line with the observance of National Heritage Month. In a statement, PHLPost said the stamp collection paid tribute to town plazas that have long served as centers of community life, culture, and history in the Philippines. Featured in the collection are the Sta. Barbara Plaza in Iloilo, Bacolod City Plaza in Negros Occidental, Tabaco Plaza in Albay, Vigan Plaza in Ilocos Sur, Zamboanga Plaza in Zamboanga del Sur, San Carlos Plaza in Pangasinan, and Plaza Roma in Intramuros, Manila. According to PHLPost, the stamps aim to highlight the architectural beauty and historical significance of these public spaces, which have traditionally functioned as venues for social, religious, political, and cultural activities. The postal corporation noted that Philippine plazas, often surrounded by churches, municipal halls, and heritage structures, reflect the country’s layered history and the blend of indigenous and colonial influences that continue to shape Filipino communities. The stamps were designed by PHLPost in-house artist Jose Antonio Jayme in coordination with Judith Neric of the Filipino Heritage Festival Inc. The photographs used in the stamp series were credited to landscape architect and urban planner Paulo Alcazaren, known for his advocacy for public spaces and his research on the history of Philippine plazas across the country. PHLPost said the release forms part of its efforts to use philately as a platform for promoting Filipino identity and cultural heritage through collectible and educational postage stamps. The agency added that the stamps were expected to attract collectors, historians, and the general public while encouraging greater appreciation of the country’s cultural landmarks.

- [First Lady leads final walkthrough of 48th Asean Summit opening](#) (2026-05-07 07:00)

MANILA, Philippines — First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos led the final walkthrough for the opening of the 48th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit and Related Meetings in

Cebu. “After months of planning and preparation, it was truly fulfilling to see everything coming together. From the venue setup to the cultural performances prepared for our guests every detail was thoughtfully arranged to give our sean guests a warm and meaningful Filipino experience,” Marcos said in a post on her social media accounts. “Very grateful to everyone who worked behind the scenes — the organizers, staff, performers and volunteers — whose hard work and heart made all of this possible,” she added. With the theme “Navigating the Future Together,” the Summit will officially begin on May 8 with an opening ceremony at the newly constructed Mactan Expo located within Mactan Newtown in Lapu-Lapu City. Leaders will hold their meetings and working lunch there before proceeding to Shangri-La Mactan for the Retreat Session. This will be followed by a press conference by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. at the International Media Center (IMC), while a gala dinner hosted by the first couple will cap the Summit. Meanwhile, Senior Officials’ and Ministerial Preparatory Meetings have simultaneously opened last May 6 at the Dusit Thani Mactan and Shangri-La Mactan. A Special Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit will also take place on the afternoon of May 7 at Shangri-La Mactan.

- [Sara: 'Laptop-throwing' claim 'trashy gossip'](#) (2026-05-07 04:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte described as “trash” the claim that she threw a laptop at one of her impeachment counsels, saying that it is one of those campaigns to destroy her credibility. Her response comes after several social media posts, amplified by lawyers Lorna Kapunan and Jesus Falcis, claim that Duterte threw a fit to defense counsel and spokesman Michael Wesley Poa out of “frustration.” Poa has denied the allegations, calling them “creative but false.” Speaking to blogger Alvin Zarzate at The Hague, Duterte addressed the issue and described it as “trashy gossip” that should not be given any attention. “I’ll just answer it: never in the history of my career have I ever thrown a laptop at a colleague, an employee, or a lawyer. Because first and foremost, there are no... if you throw a laptop or a cellphone, there are no benefits for you. And, of course, there are no benefits for the person who gets hit by that laptop or cellphone,” Duterte said in Filipino on Wednesday afternoon (Thursday morning Manila time). She also said that she did not know how to use a computer and relies on her office colleagues for her documents, and that she would not just “throw away carelessly” her personal laptop. Duterte further described the issue as one of those misinformation campaigns peddled by her detractors to “muddle the story and favor the narrative they want to push.” “And what kind of narrative are they trying to push? That I’m crazy, I’m stupid, I’m pro-China... ‘incompetent’ also came from them. Before, they used to call me a brat, but I don’t know, they seem to have stopped that now. ‘Crazy’ or ‘unstable’—that’s what I’m saying; it’s trash, but of course, it gets consumed on social media to favor the narrative the enemies want,” Duterte said.

- [P60B funds returned to PhilHealth](#) (2026-05-07 03:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) said the P60 billion funds were returned to the state-insurer from the national treasury. In a statement on

Thursday, PhilHealth said the move was a “clear statement of the President's (Ferdinand Marcos Jr.) confidence that it would fulfill its mandate to be a partner to every Filipino in their health needs.” In December 2025, the Supreme Court ordered the government to return the funds that were transferred to the national treasury back to PhilHealth through the 2026 General Appropriations Act (GAA).

- [Energy security high on the agenda](#) (2026-05-07 02:39)

- [US military strike on alleged drug boat kills 3 in the eastern Pacific](#) (2026-05-06 18:25)

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military launched another strike Tuesday on a vessel suspected of transporting drugs in the eastern Pacific Ocean, killing three men. The attack came a day after U.S. forces struck an alleged drug boat in the Caribbean Sea, killing two people. The Trump administration's campaign of blowing up alleged drug-trafficking vessels in Latin American waters has persisted since early September and killed at least 191 people in total. Despite the Iran war, the strikes have ramped up again in recent weeks, showing that the administration's aggressive measures to stop what it calls “narcoterrorism” in the Western Hemisphere are not letting up. The military has not provided evidence that any of the vessels were carrying drugs. The attacks began as the U.S. built up its largest military presence in the region in generations and came months ahead of the raid in January that captured then-Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. He was brought to New York to face drug trafficking charges and has pleaded not guilty. In the attack Tuesday, U.S. Southern Command once again said it had targeted the alleged drug traffickers along known smuggling routes. It posted a video on X showing a boat cruising along the water before a huge explosion left the vessel in flames. President Donald Trump has said the U.S. is in “armed conflict” with cartels in Latin America and has justified the attacks as a necessary escalation to stem the flow of drugs into the United States and fatal overdoses claiming American lives. But his administration has offered little evidence to support its claims of killing “narcoterrorists.”

- [Fire at a shopping center in Iran kills 8 people and injures dozens](#) (2026-05-06 17:59)

TEHRAN, Iran — A fire in a shopping center near Iran's capital killed eight people and injured 40, Tehran's emergency service department said Wednesday. The fire started Tuesday in the Arghavan shopping center in Andisheh town in Tehran province. It was not clear what caused the blaze. Iran's state television IRIB said authorities were investigating. Television footage showed firefighters battling the flames as large plumes of black smoke billowed from the multistory building. There was no indication the blaze was linked to the U.S. war against Iran. A shaky ceasefire with the United States has been holding for around three weeks.

- [Japan fires Type 88 missile, sinks PH Navy ship](#) (2026-05-06 17:39)

PAOAY, Ilocos Norte — Japanese forces for the first time fired its Type 88 surface-to-ship missile (SSM-1) in the Philippines - a highlight of the Joint Task Force Maritime Strike (Marstrike) activity held off the coast of Paoay, Ilocos Norte on Wednesday (May 6) as part of Exercise Balikatan

41-2026. Together with the Philippines, United States and Canada, the allied forces simultaneously struck and sunk decommissioned Philippine Navy ship BRP Quezon (PS70) simulated as a enemy vessel during the Marstrike - a coordinated military operation designed to detect, track, and destroy enemy warships or coastal targets using combined air, land, and sea assets. The Type 88 missile, a truck-mounted, land-based anti-ship cruise missile with an operational range of approximately 180 - 200 kilometers, released two warheads launched in two minute intervals. According to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (APF), the warheads reached the target situated 75 kilometers from the launch point in only six minutes. All participating nations deployed capabilities that simultaneously struck the target vessel to sink it. The Philippine Navy (PN) deployed two frigates (medium-sized warships): the BRP Miguel Malvar and BRP Antonio Luna whereas the Philippine Air Force brought the Super Tucanos (light attack and counter-insurgency aircraft) and the FA-50 fighter jets. The US showcased the Boeing P-8A Poseidon (multi-mission maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft), the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (Himars) and Navy Marine Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System (NMESIS) positioned in strategic launch points. Canada meanwhile brought the HMCS Charlottetown (FFH 339) Halifax-class frigate. The exercises will continue on Thursday with BRP Magat Salamat (PS-20), decommissioned in 2021, as the target. Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. and Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi witnessed the activity while President Ferdinand Marcos monitored from AFP headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

- [Antarctica's tourism boom raises concerns about contamination and disease](#) (2026-05-06 17:24)

BRUSSELS — Driven in part by fears that the frozen landscapes of Antarctica may be irreversibly melting away because of climate change, tourism to the bottom of the world is soaring. And experts warn that with more visitors comes an increased risk of contamination, illness and other damage to the continent. While visitor numbers are still small — in part due to the high costs and time it can take — they are growing so fast that scientists and environmentalists are sounding alarms. A deadly outbreak of the rare hantavirus aboard a Dutch ship on a weekslong polar cruise has brought attention to the growing tourism trend. Most expeditions head to the Antarctic Peninsula, one of the fastest-warming places in the world. From 2002 to 2020, roughly 149 billion metric tons (164 billion tons) of Antarctic ice melted per year, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. A common route is to voyage south from Argentina toward Antarctica before heading north up the coast of Africa — the same route taken by the cruise ship MV Hondius. “The sites you will see in Antarctica are extremely unique and not replicable anywhere else on the planet — the whales, the seals, the penguins, the icebergs — it’s all really stunning and it makes a huge impression on people,” said Claire Christian, executive director of the environmental group Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition. Explosive growth of trips to the southern continent In 2024, more than 80,000 tourists touched down on the vast ice-cloaked continent and 36,000 viewed from the safety of ships, according to data collected by the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators. The International Union of Concerned Scientists estimates that tourism to Antarctica has grown

tenfold in the past 30 years. That number could rise further in the next decade as costs fall with more ice-capable hulls hitting the water and technological advances, said Hanne Nielsen, a senior lecturer of Antarctic law at the University of Tasmania. Her colleagues at the university estimate the annual figure could triple or quadruple to over 400,000 visits in that time. Some tourists come to Antarctica for “last chance tourism,” knowing the melting landscape is rapidly changing, Nielsen said. Risks of contamination Officials have not indicated any evidence of contamination from the MV *Hondius*. However, flocks of migratory birds brought avian flu from South America to Antarctica in recent years, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That outbreak prompted the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators and others to harden rules for tourists’ conduct and hygiene to protect visitors from being contaminated. To protect the fragile ecosystem from invasive species large and microscopic, visitors are told to stay away from animals and to avoid touching the ground with anything but their feet. “There are rules that people are bound by when they’re heading south,” Nielsen said, describing her five voyages as a former guide. Crews and passengers use vacuums, disinfectants and brushes to scrub shoes and equipment clear of bugs, feathers, seeds and microbe-carrying dirt. “Between the tongues and the laces of the boots you can find a lot of things,” she said. Cruise ships have been struck by outbreaks of diseases like norovirus, which can spread quickly in a ship’s close quarters. In 2020, a COVID-19 outbreak on the *Diamond Princess* turned the cruise ship into an incubator for the then-mysterious virus. Hantavirus usually spreads by inhaling contaminated rodent droppings. The *Hondius* island hopping cruise The World Health Organization said Tuesday that MV *Hondius* left Ushuaia, Argentina, on April 1 and visited Antarctica and several isolated islands. WHO is investigating possible human-to-human transmission on the cruise ship, said Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO’s director of epidemic and pandemic preparedness. Officials suspect the first infected person likely contracted the virus before boarding, she said, and officials have been told there are no rats on board. Antarctica is governed by the Antarctic Treaty, which in 1959 enshrined the territory as a scientific preserve used only for peaceful purposes. A series of rules that followed “aim to ensure that all visits, regardless of location, do not adversely impact the Antarctic environment or its scientific and aesthetic values,” according to the treaty’s secretariat. Companies and scientific ventures voluntarily comply with biosecurity guidelines and submit environmental impact assessments for Antarctic operations. The treaty was written when tourism numbers were much lower, Christian said. “Activity needs to be regulated appropriately, as you would with any of the world’s sensitive and precious ecological sites,” Christian said from Hiroshima, Japan, where she was preparing for an Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting. There she’ll join calls to strengthen protections for Antarctica’s penguins, whales, seabirds, seals and krill — tiny creatures at the base of the food chain. For now, the lure of the frozen frontier continues to draw visitors. “You can put a footprint in Antarctica and it’s still there 50 years later,” Christian said.

- [82% want Sara present at her impeachment trial](#) (2026-05-06 16:12)

(UPDATE) A LARGE majority of Filipinos want Vice President Sara Duterte to be present at a Senate impeachment trial over the allegations against her, according to the results of a noncommissioned survey released on Wednesday. The poll, conducted by Tangere from May 5 to 6, found that 90 percent of respondents want the vice president to appear before the Senate, signaling what the firm described as a rare cross-party consensus on the issue. Of those surveyed, 82 percent said Duterte should personally attend the proceedings rather than rely solely on legal representation. Only 8 percent believed a lawyer's appearance would suffice, while 7 percent said she should not face the Senate at all. Support for Duterte's personal appearance cut across political affiliations, the survey showed. Among respondents identifying with the Marcos administration, 94 percent favored her attendance, followed by 92 percent of those aligned with the Liberal Party, 90 percent of unaffiliated respondents and 70 percent of Duterte's own supporters. The findings also pointed to calls for broader accountability beyond the vice president. About 60 percent of respondents said her husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, should also face Senate scrutiny, citing concerns over conjugal assets and shared legal interests. Tangere Chief Executive Officer Martin Peñaflor said the results indicate a shift in public expectations. He noted that even within Duterte's support base, there is a growing demand for direct answers rather than reliance on legal intermediaries. The survey polled 1,200 respondents nationwide using a mobile-based application and a stratified random sampling method, with a margin of error of ± 2.77 percent at a 95-percent confidence level. Participants included 45 percent Duterte supporters, 20 percent unaffiliated respondents, 20 percent Liberal Party supporters and 15 percent aligned with the Marcos administration. Respondents were drawn from across the country, with representation from Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, the firm said. NUP's 'yes' vote

Meanwhile, House Deputy Speaker and National Unity Party (NUP) chairman Ronaldo Puno of Antipolo said on Wednesday that roughly 60 percent of the NUP bloc, the second-largest political party in Congress, is expected to vote in favor of transmitting the impeachment case of Vice President Duterte to the Senate. Speaking to reporters, Puno said that while discussions within the 55-member party show some lawmakers still opposed to the impeachment, majority of its members are leaning toward a "yes" vote. He added, however, that positions may still shift after members complete their district consultations ahead of the May 11 plenary vote. "We have a hard core that is still negative to the proposal. There is a middle ground of some people who want to abstain. But the last conversation we had yesterday (Tuesday) at our meeting was that we would all go back to our constituents and have one more round of conversations with them to see how we would vote finally on this matter," Puno said. "But right now, the situation in NUP is, I think there's a majority that are favoring the sending of these articles of impeachment to the Senate," he added. Asked to quantify the majority, Puno estimated that of the 55 members, "I would say maybe 60 percent, a little over half." He added that this translates to "at least 30 members" currently inclined to vote yes, but still subject to final consultations with constituents, considering NUP also has members representing districts in Mindanao — which is also known as the Dutertes' political stronghold. "Of course, in Mindanao, our members have a hard time because when they ask around, everybody says no. I mean that's just the fact of the matter. They will call their barangay and everybody is saying no," Puno said. The deputy speaker also

said some members are experiencing pressure from an influential religious group not to support the impeachment. “There are many districts where there’s a very high percentage of voters from that church. So, they, of course, have an important voice also in their districts,” Puno said. Despite internal divisions and external pressure, Puno expressed confidence that Duterte’s impeachment would secure the required one-third vote, or 106 members, noting that lawmakers from the largest political party, Lakas-CMD, have also demonstrated support for a Senate trial. “Lakas is still the biggest party, and Lakas is the father party of this impeachment complaint. So maybe almost all, I think all Lakas, will vote for impeachment. If you combine the votes of Lakas alone and the 55 who voted in committee, you will already get your 106,” he said. Puno estimates that at least 180 lawmakers in the 318-member House will vote to transmit the articles of impeachment to the Senate for trial. On Tuesday night, the plenary referred the committee on justice’s report on the impeachment resolution against Duterte to the committee on rules. The resolution is expected to be calendared by the committee on rules and returned to the plenary, where members will be given copies and time to review the articles and supporting evidence ahead of the May 11 vote. WITH PNA

- [No overall mastermind in flood control scandal, Lacson says](#) (2026-05-06 16:11)

(UPDATE) SEN. Panfilo Lacson on Wednesday said he believed there is “no overall mastermind” in the flood control fund mess, which he earlier described as the largest corruption scandal in Philippine history. Lacson’s remarks ran counter to critics of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and former House speaker Martin Romualdez, who tagged them as the masterminds of the bribery scandal. “There’s no overall mastermind. I don’t think there is an overall mastermind because as I said, this was driven by greed,” Lacson said in a media forum. “I think that there is a mastermind in every region, in every [Department of Public Works and Highways] district engineering office (DEO),” the Senate president pro tempore said in Filipino. “There is an organized group within a certain agency, within a certain DEO. That qualifies as a syndicate,” added Lacson, chairman of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, which investigated ghost flood control projects. In a privilege speech on Tuesday, Lacson raised the need to finally curb the “systemic and parasitic” greed behind anomalous flood control projects. The senator also debunked repeated accusations that he does not want to invite Romualdez to the panel’s hearings, noting this was already done, but Romualdez did not attend. He said the invitations to incumbent lawmakers were extended through the Office of the Speaker, in accordance with the established inter-chamber courtesy, to maintain the balance and mutual respect that define bicameral relations. In his privilege speech where he detailed the progress of the panel’s investigation, Lacson also turned the tables on those who insisted on disregarding inter-parliamentary or inter-chamber courtesy in summoning lawmakers to the hearings. “Whoever has information, or if they can name these ‘cong-tractors’ like Ombudsman Remulla is doing, name them. If you have the evidence, present it. If you know the perpetrators, expose them,” Lacson said. “The committee will provide the platform for you,” he said. Lacson set the record straight anew, saying he never claimed to have the list of such cong-tractors (congressmen-contractors), saying a then lawmaker merely mentioned the matter

to him, without details. If inter-parliamentary courtesy is disregarded, he said the Senate may need to be prepared to allow its members to face investigations by the House of Representatives. “For example, if Sen. Rodante Marcoleta were hypothetically invited or subpoenaed by the House Committee on Justice over alleged anomalies in his statement of contributions and expenditures, will the Senate leadership or Sen[ator] Marcoleta be prepared to disregard inter-parliamentary courtesy?” Lacson asked. He noted that in June 2024, the House invited Sen. Ronald Dela Rosa to its hearing on the Duterte administration’s “war on drugs,” but he did not attend on the advice of then-Senate president Francis Escudero as a matter of inter-chamber courtesy. “That is why I always emphasize that this is not merely a matter of practice — it is grounded in principle,” Lacson said.

- [Batangas lass is PMAClass 2026 valedictorian](#) (2026-05-06 16:10)

(UPDATE) FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City — A female cadet from Lipa City, Batangas, has emerged as the valedictorian of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) “Talang Dala” Class of 2026, who will graduate on May 16. Cadet First Class Christine Kaye Demisana Librada, 23, a member of Delta Company and a future officer of the Philippine Army, led the 207 members of the graduating class through exemplary academic performance, leadership, military aptitude and character. Librada, a recipient of the Presidential Saber, Philippine Army Saber, JUSMAR Saber, Information Technology plaque, Australian Defense Best Overall and Army Performance Award, is the daughter of a retired military officer and an entrepreneur. Before entering the PMA, Librada studied at De La Salle University Manila and graduated with high honors. Librada is the eighth female cadet to graduate as valedictorian since the academy opened its doors to female applicants in 1993. Ranked second is Cadet 1CL Mark John Vincent Catacutan of Zamboanga del Sur, who will graduate magna cum laude and recipient of the Vice Presidential Saber, Philippine Air Force Saber, General Antonio Luna Award, Spanish Armed Forces Award, Alejandro Melchor Award and several academic distinctions. Completing the top 10 graduates are Cadets 1CL Thomas Edgar Isla Sepulchre of Pampanga; Ian Harold Durana Hubilla of Sorsogon; Maeg Adriene Pajarillo Bermudez of Tarlac; Cherry Mae Panag Geco of Capiz; Elixia Anya Lumbang Hernandez of Batangas; Catherine Liesha Beloa De Chavez of Batangas; Cedric Cyril Guinguing Polizon of Surigao del Sur; and Mark Clement Dequinto Centina of Negros Occidental. The academy also recognized other outstanding cadets for excellence in journalism, athletics, leadership, mathematics, tactical performance and character development. Among the special awardees are Cadet 1CL Iway Inchan Ateo-an of Mountain Province for the Journalism Award; Cadet 1CL Adriane Faith Pe San Jose of Benguet for the Superintendent’s Saber; and Cadet 1CL Elaine Ruth Sunico Go of Leyte and Cadet 1CL Kairan Shem Flor Resurreccion of Bukidnon for the Athletic Sabers in the female and male categories, respectively. The 207 graduating cadets is composed of 142 males and 65 females, of which 76 will join the Army; 62, the Air Force; and 69, the Navy. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, is expected to grace the graduation ceremony as guest of honor and speaker, together with ranking military officials, police leaders and foreign defense attaches.

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- [Fast Times receives prize for automotive journalism](#) (2026-05-06 16:09)

THE Manila Times motoring section Fast Times received the Silver Luminary Award at the 25th Henry Ford Awards for excellence in automotive journalism at the Atrium at Enderun, Taguig, on May 5. Three other publications received recognition for their respective motoring sections. Fast Times was given the award, solidly establishing its place in the local motoring beat after winning the Best Motoring Section award five times. It won Best Motoring Section at the Henry Ford Awards in 2011 and 2012 under then-section editor Brian Afuang. The section returned to the top in 2015 and 2016 under Anjo Perez, whose tenure maintained the balance between technical reporting and broader lifestyle coverage. Perez received the Silver Luminary trophy on behalf of The Manila Times. Fast Times traces its beginnings to 2003 as a small, once-a-month insert centered on motorsports. The motoring section run separately was then led by Vernon Sarne, who laid its initial editorial foundation at a time when sustained motoring

coverage in daily newspapers was still limited. In 2006, Afuang took over and expanded the section's scope beyond cars to include motorcycles, a move that set it apart from its peers by adding two-wheelers into the mix as a core subject rather than a side feature. By 2010, the section had formally adopted the Fast Times name and moved to a weekly, full-color format. Editorial leadership in the succeeding years included Armin Amio, columnist and Le Mans race driver Ben Kritz, whose experience in motorsport added depth to the section's technical voice, and current deputy motoring editor Conrad Cariño. In 2018, Dino Ray Directo assumed the editorship and introduced refinements that aligned the section with a changing transport landscape. Coverage widened to include new technologies and evolving patterns in mobility, helping secure another Best Motoring Section win at the Henry Ford Awards in 2019. Perez returned to lead Fast Times, introducing his own passion for motorsports, specifically rallying and bringing in new material in the evolution of mobility which includes aviation and maritime stories. As the section builds on two decades of continuous development, it now includes a weekly travel story from Joseph Bautista, who calls himself the "Senior Backpacker." Ira Panganiban writes "From the Dashboard," a witty and hard-hitting column on issues ranging from personalities to policy. The writing pool includes Issac Atienza, also of GoFlatOut, whose expertise revolves around mostly European cars. Mika Fernandez of IgnitionPH is responsible for most of the coverage of local and international motoring events. John Rey San Diego, himself a race driver, navigates many motorsports stories alongside Perez, who is also an accomplished rally driver. Rounding up the team is Straight Torque 2.0 columnist Raymond Tribdino, whose piece "When my 87-year-old mother rates the 2025 Mitsubishi Xpander," was recognized as a finalist in the 25th Henry Ford Awards industry feature category.

- [Marcos observes Balikatan, welcomes Japan's entry](#) (2026-05-06 16:08)

(UPDATE) PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. monitored on Wednesday this year's Balikatan exercise between the Philippines and the United States, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said in a statement. The president observed via live feed at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City the joint military drill, including the Joint Task Force Maritime Strike, the largest and most complex drill in simulated operations against maritime threats of Philippine troops and allied forces. The PCO said Balikatan highlighted the Armed Forces of the Philippines' growing capability to conduct military operations alongside international partners when it comes to promoting regional security and freedom of navigation." Balikatan 41-2026 also carries added significance as the Philippines and the United States commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Mutual Defense Treaty," it added. The maritime strike component forms part of the broader Balikatan drills, an annual exercise between the Philippines and the US aimed at strengthening interoperability and enhancing military readiness. During the activity, participating forces integrated various assets, including naval platforms, aircraft and ground-based systems, to execute synchronized maritime strike scenarios. The drills emphasized joint planning, and command and control processes, enabling participating units to coordinate actions in complex and dynamic operational environments. Besides maritime strike operations, the exercise includes a range of activities such as humanitarian assistance and disaster response, air and

missile defense, and cyber defense training. Meanwhile, Marcos welcomed Japan's participation in the Balikatan, in which 1,400 personnel of the Japan Self-Defense Forces joined expanded multilateral drills alongside Filipino and American troops." It is a very, very good signal for the solidarity, [and] the exercises have been going very well," Marcos said during his meeting with Japanese Defense Minister Koizumi Shinjiro in Malacañang on Tuesday. Marcos told Japanese officials that the Philippines would continue to build on the trilateral ties it established with Japan and the US." Now, the United States has other concerns right now, but I think between Japan and the Philippines, we continue to strengthen that relationship and to add on to what we have initially discussed in terms of the arrangement," he said. The president noted that the agreement deals not only with defense and security but also with other aspects. Marcos, then-US president Joe Biden and former Japanese prime minister Fumio Kishida participated in a trilateral summit in Washington, D.C., on April 11, 2024. During the summit, they reaffirmed their commitment to a peaceful, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific, guided by the values of democracy, the rule of law and human rights. Present during the meeting were Executive Secretary Ralph Recto, Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., Armed Forces Chief of Staff Romeo Brawner Jr., National Security Adviser Secretary Eduardo Oban Jr. and PCO Undersecretary for Strategic Media Campaigns Ramon Ilagan. Joining Minister Shinjiro Koizumi were Japan Ambassador Endo Kazuya, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Adm. Saito Akira, Ministry of Defense-Bureau of Defense Policy Director General Mannami Manabu and Director General for International Affairs Arima Takanori.

- [OCTA: 60% of Filipinos satisfied with police force performance](#) (2026-05-06 16:07)

SIX out of 10 Filipinos continue to express trust and satisfaction with the Philippine National Police, according to an independent survey conducted by OCTA Research. In its Tugon ng Masa poll conducted from March 19 to 25, 2026, 63 percent expressed trust in the PNP. The highest trust was recorded in Mindanao at 74 percent, followed by the Visayas region at 66 percent, Balance Luzon at 59 percent, and the National Capital Region at 54 percent. By socioeconomic class, the PNP enjoys high trust ratings among members of Class E at 83 percent, followed by Class D at 66 percent and Class ABC at 42 percent. While distrust of the PNP was lower, it varied across areas: the highest was in the Visayas at 22 percent, followed by Balance Luzon at 18 percent, and the lowest in the National Capital Region at 16 percent and in Mindanao at 15 percent. Meanwhile, 61 percent of respondents were satisfied with the PNP's job in the first quarter of 2026. Mindanao respondents showed the highest satisfaction with the PNP's performance at 69 percent, followed by Visayas at 63 percent, Balanced Luzon at 59 percent, and NCR at 52 percent. Socioeconomic Class D had the highest satisfaction rating for the PNP at 65 percent, followed by Class E at 62 percent and Class ABC at 42 percent. The survey had 1,200 respondents and a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

- [Govt, LGUs urged: Shift to micro data centers](#) (2026-05-06 16:06)

LOCAL government units (LGUs) and national agencies should consider shifting to micro data centers to improve service delivery and IT system management, an industry expert said during

the launch of Canovate Micro Data Center in Makati City on Tuesday evening, May 5. Paul Jason Lapus, director for Smart and Secure Infrastructure Group at Microgenesis Business Systems, said micro data centers offer a standardized, all-in-one solution that enables faster, more efficient implementation of digital infrastructure. “Micro data center, such as Canovate, is something that they need to look at... it empowers them to deliver services and allows them to manage systems better,” Lapus said. He said adopting the technology could help government systems become more responsive, particularly in delivering frontline and digital services across multiple locations. Lapus said micro data centers provide advantages in cost efficiency, simplified management, and rapid deployment, which are critical in public sector operations. “In terms of cost, standardized... in terms of management, standardized... and at the end of the day, very quick, faster implementation, the LGU gets the benefit,” he said. He added that the shift is particularly relevant in the Philippines, where government operations are spread across islands and require flexible and scalable infrastructure. Lapus said micro data centers are designed as roll-in systems that can run on existing power and be deployed without complex infrastructure requirements. “They are all-in-one systems... something that you can roll in much quicker and much faster,” he said. Moreover, he said the technology can also support operations in rural and off-grid areas, where traditional data centers are difficult to maintain. “Micro data centers are something that can be delivered as a whole system, plugged in, and, at the end of the day, you get the benefit,” Lapus said. Lapus added that built-in features such as power protection, cooling, fire safety, and security allow continuous operations even during power interruptions, making them a practical option for government agencies seeking to modernize their IT infrastructure nationwide. The Canovate micro data center showcased during the launch integrates key infrastructure components into a single rack-based system, including uninterruptible power supply (UPS), precision cooling, intelligent monitoring, and physical security controls. Company representatives said the solution is designed for rapid deployment, enabling organizations to install operational IT infrastructure in a significantly shorter timeframe compared to traditional data center builds. They added that the system supports scalability, enabling agencies to expand capacity as demand grows without requiring major facility upgrades. Canovate also highlighted that its micro data center solutions are designed to support edge computing environments, which are increasingly used by organizations that require real-time data processing and localized system control. The company said these features position micro data centers as a practical option for both urban and remote deployments, particularly in countries with geographically distributed operations, such as the Philippines.

- [Villanueva bill targets platforms in online safety push](#) (2026-05-06 16:05)

SEN. Joel Villanueva filed Senate Bill (SB) 2071, seeking to regulate youth access to social media platforms and requiring digital media firms to be responsible in making the online environment safe for young users. The senator on Wednesday sought a firm, but balanced approach to protecting young internet users, shifting the responsibility from users to the companies that run digital services. He said it is “high time to place responsibility on the platform operators who

design, manage and profit from digital services, rather than on the minors who use them."He said SB 2071, or the proposed Safe Media Access and Responsible Technology for Kids in Digital Spaces (Smart Kids) Act, aims to establish a clear and enforceable framework that prioritizes the safety and well-being of children below 15 years old or those age-restricted users. The measure mandates online media platform operators to prohibit age-restricted users from creating accounts. SB 2071 establishes a system to detect, verify, suspend, deactivate, or remove prohibited accounts and periodically update mechanisms that prevent the circumvention of the law. "As a parent, we want to make sure that the welfare and safety of our children remain a top priority, and this includes what they are exposed to on online media platforms," Villanueva said. "Rather than penalizing young users, their parents or legal guardians, the measure ensures that those who design, operate and profit from digital platforms are held accountable for maintaining a safe environment," he said. Villanueva said that the bill is anchored on "a simple but vital principle: those who shape the digital environment must also be responsible for making it safe." Online media platform operators are also required to establish and implement age-assurance mechanisms, content moderation, safety-by-design features, and continuous risk management processes. For example, platforms must have parental or guardian controls, content filtering systems, interaction restrictions, and reasonable usage or time management tools. They must also have a system to identify, limit, or disable addictive or engagement-driven features and algorithmic amplification that promotes prolonged or compulsive use. The bill also mandates transparency obligations and strengthens protections on personal data, ensuring that compliance does not come at the expense of privacy or fundamental rights. Violators would be fined up to P20 million.

- [Contractor says she did not deliver cash to Revilla](#) (2026-05-06 16:04)

PROSECUTORS on Wednesday presented SYMS Construction owner Sally Santos, a state witness, in the trial of the graft case filed against former senator Bong Revilla and other people in connection with the alleged ghost project in Pandi, Bulacan. On cross-examination by the defense, however, Santos told the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division she did not deliver money to Revilla in connection with the project. She also testified that she had no personal knowledge on whether he had conspired with anyone to create a ghost project. Revilla's lawyer Reody Anthony Balisi said they are hoping for the best, reiterating that there was no evidence linking Revilla to the scam. In February 2026, the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division entered a not guilty plea for Revilla after he refused to enter a plea in the arraignment for the graft case. Arjay Domasig and Juanito Mendoza pleaded not guilty. On Jan. 28, Brice Hernandez, Jaypee Mendoza and Christina Mae Pineda pleaded not guilty. Emelita Juat pleaded not guilty on Jan. 23. The same accused are facing a malversation through falsification case in connection with the same alleged ghost project. This case is pending before the Sandiganbayan Third Division, which started the trial on Tuesday.

- [Poa belies VP's 'laptop-throwing' fits](#) (2026-05-06 16:03)

MICHAEL Poa, spokesman of the legal team of Vice President Sara Duterte, denied that the vice president threw a laptop at him due to frustrations over her impeachment case.” Fake news. Creative but completely false,” Poa said in a statement sent to The Manila Times. Lorna Kapunan, one of the most vocal critics of Duterte, said in a radio interview on Tuesday that trolls were claiming that Poa was hit on the head by the laptop. Another lawyer, Jesus Falcis, was quoted saying: “If Sara Duterte’s defense is weak on both the facts and the law, throw a laptop on your lawyer or pound on the table.” Poa belied the claims, noting that while Duterte is decisive in her actions, he never saw her temper flare during the time he worked with her at the Department of Education. Duterte has yet to comment on the issue. The vice president is currently at The Hague to visit her father, former president Rodrigo Duterte, who is awaiting trial before the International Criminal Court for alleged crimes against humanity connected to his drug war. Duterte said that she does not want to talk about her case, noting her father does not want to hear bad news from her.” I didn’t mention the impeachment to him, and I didn’t mention what happened in the House of Representatives. So he does not know that there is a second possible impeachment happening. I think he doesn’t need to know that kind of bad news anymore, because it wouldn’t have any value to him anyway,” Duterte said in Filipino, speaking to supporters outside the Scheveningen prison at The Hague after visiting her father on Tuesday afternoon (Wednesday morning Manila time).” Filipinos need to learn — they need to learn how to discern what they see on social media, particularly because the information appearing there can be manipulated,” Duterte said. She said it is “unfair” for her critics to involve her family with her impeachment case, stressing that the spouses and children of lawmakers have the right to privacy.” Well, I think it’s unfair because they aren’t the vice president, and they aren’t being impeached. And just like the spouses and children of congressmen, they have the right to privacy, being ordinary individuals and private citizens,” Duterte said.

- [Diesel excise tax suspension pushed](#) (2026-05-06 16:02)

SEN. Sherwin Gatchalian renewed Wednesday his call for a suspension of the diesel excise tax, citing the need to cushion vulnerable sectors from the impact of rising fuel prices due to the war in the Middle East. Inflation reached a three-year high of 7.2 percent in April. Gatchalian warned that accelerating inflation continues to erode household purchasing power, with low-income families bearing the brunt of rising prices. He noted that poorer households allocate a larger share of their income to essential goods such as food, transportation and utilities, making them more susceptible to economic shocks.” The purchasing power of our poor countrymen is being severely reduced due to the high cost of goods. Instead of letting inflation spiral even further, it is time to remove the excise tax on diesel,” Gatchalian said. The senator described diesel as the “fuel of the masses,” emphasizing its critical role in powering public utility vehicles, agricultural operations, and the transport of food and other basic commodities. Any increase in diesel prices, he said, directly affects transport fares and the overall cost of goods. The excise tax on petroleum products was implemented under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion Law, which sought to generate revenue for infrastructure

and social services but has drawn criticism during periods of high global oil prices and inflation. Gatchalian reiterated the need for longer-term solutions, including the institutionalization of an automatic, inflation-triggered support mechanism for social assistance programs. The proposal aims to provide immediate and targeted financial aid to vulnerable households whenever inflation breaches a certain threshold. The initiative forms part of the recommendations of the Senate PROTECT ad hoc panel, which Gatchalian chairs. The panel has been studying measures to mitigate the effects of rising fuel prices and inflation on consumers and key sectors. Economic managers have previously weighed the potential revenue losses from suspending fuel excise taxes against the need to provide relief, with concerns that such a move could impact funding for government programs. However, Gatchalian maintained that immediate intervention is necessary to protect the most affected sectors.” As inflation rises, we must act decisively to shield those who are least able to cope,” he said. The Department of Finance and other economic agencies have yet to issue a formal response to the renewed call.

- [Marcos leads situation briefing on Mayon](#) (2026-05-06 15:57)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday convened the heads of different agencies in Malacañang for a situation briefing on the ongoing unrest of Mayon Volcano. He reiterated his directive for a coordinated response to the impact of ashfall, pyroclastic density currents, and the threat of lahar in some parts of Albay. According to the Presidential Communications Office (PCO), frontline agencies have conducted evacuation, relief and medical operations, distribution of masks and clean water, and deployment of mobile clinics, Starlink units, and water purification systems for affected communities. “The DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways), PCG (Philippine Coast Guard), and BFP (Bureau of Fire Protection) also continued their clearing operations and strictly enforced a 6-kilometer danger zone, while PHIVOLCS monitored the situation. Government agencies will ensure continuous assistance and speedy recovery of affected areas,” the PCO said.

- [Lone bettor wins P15M in Mega Lotto 6/45 draw for May 6](#) (2026-05-06 15:37)

A lone bettor won the ₱15,000,000.00 jackpot prize in the Mega Lotto 6/45 draw on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office announced. The winning combination was 01-03-24-18-11-10. Meanwhile, the Grand Lotto 6/55 draw yielded the combination 05-40-27-24-55-22, with a jackpot prize of ₱85,767,922.62.

- [Amputee football players in Rwanda find healing and a sense of community](#) (2026-05-06 15:33)

KIGALI, Rwanda — The players struck their crutches against each other as they chased a soccer ball, as well as a larger dream of competing at the global level. Children shrieked in joy as they watched a goalie dive to block an attempt with her remaining hand. Amputee football, a seven-a-side version of the game in which players roam the field on crutches and goalkeepers have one arm, has grown steadily in Rwanda over the past decade. Players say they have found a community on the field after embracing a sport some never imagined they could play. For

many, it offers not only physical rehabilitation but also a sense of belonging. In the capital Kigali, amputees play to foster healing and social cohesion after traumas that include the country's darkest period: the 1994 genocide, in which about 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were massacred by the majority Hutu population over a 100-day period. Nyiraneza Solange was born two years after the genocide and lost her leg at the age of 5 after falling and developing an infection. She said the resilience shown by people who lost limbs during the genocide attracted her to amputee football. She was encouraged by the former coach of the country's first amputee football team, who told her she could use her crutches to play. She quickly left any fear behind. "I don't even think about I don't have a leg," said Solange, explaining that she feels free while playing and has overcome the stigma that accompanies being an amputee. Rwanda is estimated to have more than 3,000 lower-limb amputees. Some are victims of the genocide. Others are survivors of road accidents or illness. Louise Kwizera, the vice president of the Rwanda Amputee Football Federation, said the sport enables players to learn to trust again, building unity in a society that "was once divided." "In communities affected by conflict or trauma, the playing field becomes a place of peace. People who may have different pasts come together as teammates," Kwizera told The Associated Press. Rwanda hopes to take part next year in the second women's amputee football World Cup, an invitational event expected to be held in Poland or Brazil. Rwanda was represented by only a single player at the first edition of the competition in 2024. The sport, governed by the World Amputee Football Federation, is played in more than 50 countries. Rwanda now has five women's professional teams and 10 for men. Haitian women's amputee football team manager Fred Sorrels, who visited Rwanda to help develop the local program, said he was rooting for the East African country to host a World Cup. But the country's sports ministry said it has yet to make a formal bid. Sorrels said he has seen the benefits of the sport. "It's a win psychologically and mentally for these ladies to have an opportunity to experience wholeness and wellness again," he said. Gilbert Muvunyi Manier, the Rwandan sports ministry's director general of sports development, called the sport a "powerful tool" for healing, reconciliation and social cohesion. Players acknowledged limitations in strategy. "It's hard to save the ball when it goes to the side with the receding hand," goalkeeper Nikuze Angelique said. Like Solange, she described a sense of community found on the field. As players took selfies after a game, Angelique said she is hopeful they will reach the World Cup. "It will be a dream come true," she said.

- [Musk to spend \\$55 bn on SpaceX AI chip project in Texas - notice](#) (2026-05-06 15:22)

WASHINGTON, United States — Elon Musk's SpaceX plans to invest at least \$55 billion to build a semiconductor manufacturing facility in Texas, according to a public notice Wednesday, producing chips for artificial intelligence, robotics and data centers in space. The world's richest person has said the facility, dubbed Terafab, would be run jointly by his electric-vehicle firm Tesla and his rocket company SpaceX. Initial investment would be "\$55 billion, with an estimated total capital investment (if additional phases are constructed) of \$119 billion", according to a notice of public hearing in Grimes County, Texas, where the facility will be located, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) northwest of Houston. Terafab "would represent a transformative

investment in domestic semiconductor manufacturing capacity", according to a description of the project in the notice. Musk, who has no prior experience in semiconductors, has said Terafab is necessary because Tesla and SpaceX's demand for computing power is expected to far exceed that of global chip suppliers. Eventually, the project aims to make chips to support 100 to 200 gigawatts of computing power on Earth, and a terawatt in space. The Grimes County commissioners court was set to meet on June 3 to discuss approving a property tax abatement for the project, according to the notice.

- [Marcos brings “Bawat Bayan Makikinabang” to Muntinlupa](#) (2026-05-06 15:13)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday led the launch of his administration's ‘Bawat Bayan Makikinabang’ flagship social initiative to Muntinlupa which benefited more than 31,000 families. The event was held at the Muntinlupa Sports Center where the chief executive distributed 10 kilos of rice to families from nine villages as well as allowances to selected scholars. "This program was not created because of the oil crisis. We are definitely going to roll it out, just do it. So there is a little bit of luck that the program is still there while the needs of our countrymen have really grown and become more serious," Marcos said in Filipino. "We did this so that the people can immediately feel that whatever the program is, whatever the assistance, whatever the funds that the national government is providing, we will pass it on to the local government," he added. The rice allocation will be given to indigent and vulnerable households every two months, he further stated. Beneficiaries of the program were from the city's nine villages — Alabang, Ayala Alabang, Bayanan, Buli, Cupang, Poblacion, Putatan, Sucat, and Tunasan—highlighting the initiative's aim of delivering inclusive assistance across communities. “We used the fund called LGSF, Local Government Support Fund. During my time as governor, I did not see the LGSF given to local governments. And I was surprised. I said it was a local government support fund but we don't feel it. I said now, we have an opportunity and let's do it right and let's use that fund for our local government,” Marcos said.

- [Disney shares jump after results top expectations](#) (2026-05-06 14:51)

NEW YORK, United States — Disney shares jumped in pre-market trading Wednesday as the entertainment giant reported better than expected revenues and profits, thanks in part to growth in its streaming business. Newly installed CEO Josh D'Amaro described demand at the company's US amusement parks as "healthy," but said the company is "mindful of the macroeconomic uncertainty consumers are facing today," according to a letter to shareholders also signed by Chief Financial Officer Hugh Johnston. Profits in Disney's second quarter ending March 28 were \$2.5 billion, down 27 percent from the year-ago level while revenues rose 6.5 percent to \$25.12 billion. The results translated into \$1.57 per share compared with analyst forecasts for \$1.50 per share. Disney in February named D'Amaro, then the parks chief, as CEO to replace longterm chief Bob Iger. During a conference call with analysts, D'Amaro said his longterm goals include strengthening the links between streaming and experiences. "In the longterm what you'll see is those pieces increasingly connected," leading to growth, said D'Amaro. A standout in the period was Disney's streaming division, which saw revenues surge 14

percent to \$7.8 billion. Disney also pointed to strength in theatrical movies, particularly "Avatar: Fire and Ash," "Zootopia 2" and "Hoppers." Disney's parks division scored higher operating profit on increased guest spending at theme parks and on the launch of new cruise ships that sail the Caribbean and Southeast Asia. However, these launches also resulted in higher costs, which was also a factor in Disney's entertainment and sports divisions. In their shareholder letter, D'Amaro and Johnston highlighted investments in Disney + and sports network ESPN, while also pointing to efforts to grow its presence in pursuits such as gaming, "areas that are not yet significant revenue drivers but are strategically important." The company is pressing on in efforts to build a new cruise ship to Japan and a theme park resort in Abu Dhabi, saying of the latter, "the strategic logic of our Abu Dhabi plans is unchanged." In an earnings conference call with analysts, Johnston said the company hasn't seen impact on consumer behavior from higher gasoline prices so far. But "we're not immune to the packages, including how a significant further rise in fuel prices from current levels could eventually lead to changes in consumer behavior," Johnston said, adding that Disney's businesses have "levers" to pull if this scenario unfolds. Shares were up 6.6 percent in pre-market trading after earlier rising more than seven percent.

- [Impeachment articles seek Sara Duterte's removal as VP, lifetime ban from public office](#)
(2026-05-06 14:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The removal of Vice President Sara Duterte from office was sought in the impeachment articles sent by the House Committee on Justice to the plenary of the House of Representatives. The House is expected to vote on Monday, May 11, on whether to send the articles to the Senate for trial. "Wherefore, it is respectfully prayed that after trial, the Senate, sitting as an Impeachment Court, render judgment" declaring her guilty on all the articles; imposing upon her "the penalty of removal from office as Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines and perpetual disqualification from holding any office under the Republic of the Philippines"; and declaring that she "shall further be liable to prosecution, trial, and punishment, according to law." Article I alleged that Duterte committed culpable violation of the Constitution, graft and corruption, and betrayed public trust "through the systematic misuse, misappropriation, and irregular liquidation of confidential funds amounting to" P500 million "released to the Office of the Vice President and" P112.5 million "released to the Department of Education." Duterte served as Education secretary before she resigned from that post in 2024. Article II alleged that she committed culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayed public trust when "she: allegedly amassed "unexplained wealth manifestly disproportionate to her lawful income and earnings during her incumbency as a public official;" allegedly failed "to fully and truthfully disclose all her and her spouse's assets, liabilities, and net worth in her Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth ('SALN'), including in her SALN for the years 2022, 2023, and 2024;" and allegedly failed "to divest, and instead, willfully continued, all her business interests during her tenure as" vice president "for the years 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025." Article III alleged that she "committed bribery, graft and corruption, culpable violation of the Constitution, and betrayed public trust when she gave monetary gifts or payments to"

certain people "to induce the violation and circumvention of procurement and other related laws."The last article, Article IV, alleged that Duterte "committed culpable violation of the Constitution, high crimes, and betrayed public trust by contracting for the assassination of" President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, and Leyte 1st District Rep. and former speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez "by making grave threats, and by actively inciting sedition against the" republic.Duterte has denied making an assassination threat.In her answer to the complaints, she said that the complaints failed to show "any shred of proof" that a contract to kill ever existed. "Instead, complainants rely on exaggerated conclusions dressed up as fact", it read."Absent any statement of ultimate facts in any of these Impeachment Complaints, there is nothing for respondent to answer. Respondent thus only admits averments therein insofar as they allege her election, assumption to the Office of the Vice President, appointment as Secretary of Education, and her prior offices as Mayor and Vice Mayor of Davao City", Duterte's answer to the complaints read."The rest of the allegations, including the annexes and so-called evidence attached to the Impeachment Complaints, are specifically denied for being false, misleading, impertinent, and mere conclusions of fact and law", it read.

- [Air ambulances for suspected hantavirus patients leave Cape Verde](#) (2026-05-06 14:36)

PRAIA, Cape Verde — Two air ambulances sent to retrieve three people believed infected with hantavirus on a cruise ship off Cape Verde left the archipelago nation's airport on Wednesday, an AFP journalist witnessed.The three were evacuated from the boat earlier, according to WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who said they were being taken to the Netherlands.The two airplanes left one after the other, the first and larger headed to the Netherlands, according to flight tracker Flightradar24. Landing is scheduled for around 7:30 pm local time (1730 GMT).The MV Hondius cruise ship has been at the centre of an international alert since Saturday, when the WHO was informed that three passengers had died and the suspected cause was hantavirus.The Dutch-flagged ship set sail from Ushuaia in Argentina on April 1 on a voyage through the Atlantic Ocean. It has been anchored off Cape Verde since Sunday.It counted 88 passengers and 59 crew members, with 23 nationalities onboard, the WHO said.

- [Ghana artist's billboard campaign takes aim at fast fashion fallout](#) (2026-05-06 14:18)

ACCRA, Ghana — On a busy roadside in Accra, a billboard that would normally advertise soft drinks is draped in a cascade of worn shirts -- frayed collars, faded blues and greys and a striking circular pattern stitched at its centre.Below, traffic slows as drivers crane their necks and pedestrians stop to look up, some asking questions.For Ghanaian artist Emmanuel Aggrey Tieku, that pause is the point.His project, "Baleboard", replaces advertising with textile waste, confronting passers-by with the scale of fast fashion's footprint in a country that receives an estimated 15 million second-hand garments each week, many of which end up unsold in markets or dumped into landfills and waterways."We use the billboard to sell reality," Tieku told AFP. "If you don't see waste, it stays out of mind. This brings it back into view."Ghana is one of Africa's largest importers of used clothing and the overflow -- an estimated 40 percent deemed unsellable -- clogs drains and pollutes beach lagoons.At the latest installation, in Accra's Madina

suburb, five workers hoisted pre-stitched panels of discarded clothing onto the towering metal frame of a billboard, releasing them from above so they fell into place like a patchwork curtain, layers of fabric rippling in the wind. A taxi driver initially mistook the display for a clothing giveaway. A bus conductor, who gave his name as John Kofi Sackey, said he had seen earlier installations elsewhere in the city but "never understood" them, until the team explained the message. Motorist Samuel Yeboah Ofori reacted more sharply. Angered after learning about the volume of waste, he called for stricter controls on second-hand imports -- known locally as "obroni wawu", or "dead white man's clothes". Working between Accra and Paris, Tiekou, 31, has spent years transforming discarded textiles into large-scale installations. But "Baleboard" -- named after the bales of bundled second-hand clothes shipped to the country -- marks a shift in both scale and audience. "Galleries keep conversations inside," he said. "The billboard lets them breathe outside." From Europe to Africa, he argued, consumers are disconnected from fast fashion's supply chains and consequences. "Places like Paris generate the waste, but here is where you feel the weight," he said. "Baleboard" is planned as a long-term, travelling exhibition spanning multiple countries, including Nigeria and Kenya, before moving to European cities. As the sun dipped and the fabric caught the evening light, the billboard in Madina drew another small crowd. "If people stop and ask, 'What is this?'" Tiekou said, "then the conversation has already begun."

- [Revilla defense hopes for the best on bail petition](#) (2026-05-06 13:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The defense for former senator Ramon Revilla Jr. hoped for the best as it waited for the court ruling on his petition for bail. "We said, ... hope for the best, just pray", lawyer Reody Anthony Balisi said in Filipino and English in an interview with reporters on Wednesday. Revilla and six other people are facing a malversation through falsification case before the Sandiganbayan Third Division. It was filed by the Office of the Ombudsman in connection with the alleged ghost project in Pandi, Bulacan. Most of the accused filed bail petitions. Aside from Revilla, those who sought bail were Juanito Mendoza, Brice Hernandez, Arjay Domasig, Emelita Juat, and Christina Mae Pineda. The court conducted a bail hearing on several dates starting Apr. 6, 2026. The hearing ended on Apr. 24, 2026 and the court's ruling was expected to be out soon. The defense had said that there was no evidence that could link Revilla.

- [Trump threatens 'higher level' bombing of Iran if deal not agreed](#) (2026-05-06 13:49)

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump issued an ultimatum Wednesday for Iran to accept a deal to end the war or face renewed, more intense US bombing, in the latest of a series of abrupt policy shifts. "Assuming Iran agrees to give what has been agreed to, which is perhaps a big assumption, the already legendary Epic Fury will be at an end," Trump posted on his Truth Social platform, "using the US name for its campaign against Iran." "If they don't agree, the bombing starts, and it will be, sadly, at a much higher level and intensity than it was before," he added. Trump's post came after US news outlet Axios reported that Washington and Tehran were close to agreeing on a one-page memorandum of understanding to end the war and set a

framework for more detailed nuclear negotiations. Trump late Tuesday announced a pause in a US military operation to guide stranded commercial ships through the Strait of Hormuz -- after only a day -- citing a chance to seal a deal to end the war. The US leader said Washington's blockade of Iranian ports would remain in place as Tehran kept up its own closure of the vital trade route, which has rocked markets and spiked fuel prices. Trump wrote on social media that the decision to halt his so-called "Project Freedom" a day after it began came after requests from "mediator Pakistan and other countries", saying "Great Progress has been made toward a Complete and Final Agreement" with Tehran. "We have mutually agreed that, while the Blockade will remain in full force and effect, Project Freedom... will be paused for a short period of time to see whether or not the Agreement can be finalized and signed," Trump wrote late Tuesday.

- [House lawmakers given copies of impeach articles vs VP Duterte](#) (2026-05-06 13:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawmakers of the House of Representatives have been provided with copies of the impeachment articles against Vice President Sara Duterte ahead of the expected vote on whether to send the matter to the Senate for trial. House Deputy Majority Leader and Manila 1st District Rep. Ernesto Dionisio Jr. said on Wednesday evening during plenary session that "we have been informed by the secretary general that as earlier directed by the House, the following have been accomplished: Number one, furnishing the members with electronic copies of Committee Report No. 261 containing House Resolution No. 989 including its annexes through their respective registered e-mail addresses; Number 2, posting of electronic copies in downloadable form of Committee Report No. 261 containing House Resolution No. 989 including its annexes in the House website; and number three, distribution of the printed copies of Committee Report No. 261 containing House Resolution No. 989." The resolution sets forth the impeachment articles. Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro, the chairman of the House's Justice committee, had said in an interview on ANC's "Headstart" that the Supreme Court required that House members be provided with a copy of the articles of impeachment with the evidence. "They should be given reasonable time to read and study the same before the plenary vote. That's part of due process, that it is studied", Luistro said in Filipino and English in that interview.

- [PNP welcomes latest OCTA survey](#) (2026-05-06 13:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Wednesday welcomed the results of OCTA Research's latest Tugon ng Masa nationwide survey which showed that the public yields high trust levels to the police department. The latest survey revealed that the PNP has 63% trust ratings and 61% satisfaction ratings for the first part of 2026. In a statement, the PNP expressed gratitude for the trust and confidence of the Filipino people in their work. The said results, the PNP said, mirrors the perseverance of the police force in maintaining peace and order, enforcing laws and protecting the community. Along with this, the PNP also pushes for safer communities through more police visibility, faster response to emergencies and wider coordination with local government units and communities. "The PNP remains true to humane and prompt enforcement of the law while intensifying the campaign against criminality," the

PNP said in a statement. “Again, the PNP is thankful to the public for the support and vows to continue serving the public,” it added.

- [Navotas landfill fire 79.6% contained, says Metro Manila disaster agency](#) (2026-05-06 12:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The fire at the Navotas Sanitary Landfill is now 79.6 percent contained, the Metro Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MMDRRMC) said Wednesday, nearly a month after it broke out. The council met at the MMDA head office in Pasig City to assess response operations and conditions at the site. Navotas City Mayor John Rey Tiangco said air quality across Metro Manila remained within acceptable levels, based on monitoring by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Authorities are using drones with thermal imaging to detect possible ignition points within the 44-hectare landfill, he added. The Navotas Sanitary Landfill Task Group continues fire suppression operations through soil covering, smothering, and misting, with support from national agencies, including the Office of Civil Defense, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Transportation, DENR-Environmental Management Bureau, and the MMDA. Tiangco also said the landfill operator failed to implement its closure and rehabilitation plan, in violation of its Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC). The MMDA said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has ordered the Department of National Defense to seek technical assistance from foreign partners, including Japan and the United States, to help address the fire. The fire began on April 10 and remains under active management.

- [62 Chinese vessels spotted in West Philippine Sea during 'Balikatan' drills — AFP](#) (2026-05-06 12:35)

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 62 Chinese vessels were spotted in parts of the West Philippine Sea (WPS) in April, coinciding with military activities for this year’s Exercise Balikatan, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said on Wednesday. The following are the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Navy ships and Chinese Coast Guard (CCG) vessels in the following areas: Bajo de Masinloc: 24 vessels (9 PLA-N, 15 CCG) Ayungin Shoal: 12 vessels (2 PLA-N, 10 CCG) Escoda Shoal: 17 vessels (9 PLA-N, 8 CCG) Pagasa Islands: 9 vessels (1 PLA-N, 8 CCG) “These figures underscore the continued ICAD (illegal, coercive, aggressive, depressive) activities that undermine the rules-based international order and constitute a blatant attempt to erode the Philippines’ territorial integrity, sovereignty, and sovereign rights,” Rear Admiral Roy Vincent Trinidad, AFP spokesman for the WPS, said in a statement. Despite these actions, the Philippine Navy and the AFP remain steadfast in fulfilling their respective mandates to uphold maritime security, maintaining a sustained focus on operational readiness, enhanced maritime domain awareness, and strengthened inter-agency coordination in addressing developments in the WPS, Trinidad said.

- [ERC orders suspension of power disconnections from May-July](#) (2026-05-06 10:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) ordered the suspension of power disconnections nationwide from May to July because of the continued implementation of the State of National Energy Emergency. In an advisory, the regulator also ordered the distribution utilities (DUs) to implement staggered or deferred payment schemes to ease financial burden on customers. It noted that customers with a monthly consumption not exceeding 200 kilowatt-hours (kWh) were allowed to defer payment of their bills for the May-July period, which may be spread out over three months from receipt of the bill, with installments reflected in subsequent billing statements. The ERC also ordered generation companies, the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation, National Power Corporation, National Transmission Corporation, National Grid Corporation of the Philippines, independent power producers, independent power administrators, and the Independent Electricity Market Operator of the Philippines to extend the same payment scheme to the DUs.

- [Sara's lawyer denies 'laptop-throwing' claim, says it's 'creative but false'](#) (2026-05-06 09:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The spokesman and defense counsel has described as "fake news" and "pure fiction" allegations that her client, Vice President Sara Duterte, threw a laptop at him over her alleged frustrations on her impeachment case. The rumor was spread on social media and amplified by lawyer Lorna Kapunan in a radio interview on Tuesday. "Siguro tinamaan ng laptop sa ulo, yun ang sinasabi ng mga trolls eh (Maybe he was hit at the head by the laptop, that was what the trolls are saying)," Kapunan said. Another lawyer, Jesus Falcis, also said that if "Sara Duterte's defense is weak on both the facts and the law: mag bato ka ng laptop sa abogado mo, este, pound on the table! (throw the laptop on your lawyer or pound on the table)," But in a statement to The Manila Times, Poa dismissed these claims. "Fake news. Creative but completely false," Poa said. He also further said in an interview that he never saw Duterte having a "temper" but that the Vice President was "decisive" in her actions during his time as part of the Department of Education. Duterte has yet to comment on the issue. The vice president is currently at The Hague to visit her father, former President Rodrigo Duterte, who is currently jailed at the International Criminal Court.

- [Lacson: There is 'no overall mastermind' in flood control fund scandal](#) (2026-05-06 08:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo Lacson said there was "no overall mastermind" of the flood control fund mess which he described as the largest corruption scandal in Philippine history. Critics of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and former speaker Martin Romualdez tagged them as the masterminds of anomalous flood control projects. "There's no overall mastermind. I don't think there is an overall mastermind because as I said, this was driven by greed," Lacson said in a briefing. "I think that there is a mastermind in every region, in every [Department of Public Works and Highways] district engineering office (DEO)," the Senate president pro tempore said in Filipino. Lacson added, "There is an organized group within a certain agency, within certain DEO. That qualifies as a syndicate." In a privilege speech Tuesday, Lacson raised the need to finally curb the "systemic and parasitic" greed behind anomalous flood control projects. Lacson also debunked repeated accusations that he did not want to Romualdez to

attend the panel's hearings, noting that it had invited the congressman who did not attend. He said the invitations to incumbent lawmakers were extended through the Office of the Speaker, in accordance with the established inter-chamber courtesy, to maintain the balance and mutual respect that define bicameral relations.

- [90% of Filipinos want Sara Duterte to face Senate trial, survey finds](#) (2026-05-06 08:35)

MANILA, Philippines — A large majority of Filipinos want Vice President Sara Duterte to personally face a Senate trial over allegations against her, according to the results of a non-commissioned survey released Wednesday. The poll, conducted by Tangere from May 5 to 6, finds that 90 percent of respondents support the vice president appearing before the Senate, signaling what the firm described as a rare cross-party consensus on the issue. Of those surveyed, 82 percent said Duterte should personally attend the proceedings rather than rely solely on legal representation. Only 8 percent believed a lawyer's appearance would suffice, while 7 percent said she should not face the Senate at all. Support for Duterte's personal appearance cut across political affiliations, the survey showed. Among respondents identifying with the Marcos administration, 94 percent favored her attendance, followed by 92 percent of those aligned with the Liberal Party, 90 percent of unaffiliated respondents, and 70 percent of Duterte's own supporters. The findings also pointed to calls for broader accountability beyond the vice president. Around 60 percent of respondents said her husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, should also face Senate scrutiny, citing concerns over conjugal assets and shared legal interests. Tangere chief executive officer Martin Peñaflor said the results indicated a shift in public expectations. He noted that even within Duterte's support base, there was a growing demand for direct answers rather than reliance on legal intermediaries. The survey polled 1,200 respondents nationwide using a mobile-based application and a stratified random sampling method, with a margin of error of ± 2.77 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. Participants included 45 percent Duterte supporters, 20 percent unaffiliated respondents, 20 percent Liberal Party supporters, and 15 percent aligned with the Marcos administration. Respondents were drawn from across the country, with representation from Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, the firm said.

- [NBI arrests social media personality for extortion try against Romualdez](#) (2026-05-06 08:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation – Organized and Transnational Crime Division (NBI-OTCD) on Wednesday said it arrested five people, including an alleged social media personality, for alleged extortion on Leyte 1st District Rep. Martin Romualdez. Roberto Ma. Franco Cruz Mabanta, known founder and chairman of the Peanut Gallery Media Network, was arrested in an entrapment operation on Tuesday at a country club in Pasig City. Mabanta and his alleged accomplices who were identified as Ericson James Pacaba, John Alexander Vasquez Gomez, Jardine Christian Requio Serrano, and Franco Jose Gallardo, were charged with alleged robbery (extortion) in violation of Republic Act 10175 or the “Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012” following a complaint filed by Leyte 1st District Rep.

Martin Romualdez who claimed that Mabanta tried to extort P300 million from him in exchange for the non-release of evidence linking the former speaker to the flood control scam. “Investigation disclosed that Mabanta allegedly threatened the complainant through an intermediary with the release of online content purportedly linking Rep. Romualdez to corruption in the House of Representatives,” the NBI’s statement read. “In exchange for withholding the publication of the alleged exposé, Mabanta allegedly demanded P300 million, payable in four tranches of P75 million each. A portion of the purported video material was allegedly sent to lend credence to the threat,” the agency added. NBI Director Melvin Matibag confirmed the development, saying Mabanta was taken into custody. Mabanta rose to prominence as the creator of PGMN, a platform known for publishing political commentary content on social media, particularly on YouTube.

- [Sara skips 'bad news' of impeachment in talk with father, slams inclusion of family in case](#) (2026-05-06 05:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte said that she did not want to talk about her second impeachment case with her father, former president Rodrigo Duterte, as she did not want him to hear "bad news" from her. She also said that it was "unfair" for her critics to focus on her family in her impeachment case and reminded that the spouses and children of lawmakers were covered by the right of privacy. Speaking to supporters outside the Scheveningen prison at The Hague after visiting her father on Tuesday afternoon (Wednesday morning Manila time), Duterte was asked if her father knew about the second impeachment case against her that was now up for voting at the plenary. "I didn't mention the impeachment to him, and I didn't mention what happened in the House of Representatives. So he does not know that there is a second possible impeachment happening. I think he doesn't need to know that kind of bad news anymore, because it wouldn't have any value to him anyway," Duterte said in Filipino. She added that her father should only know "happy thoughts" instead of the problems and corruption of lawmakers and other politicians allied with the Marcos administration. She also believes that many politicians would "paint their enemies black so that they appear white" in describing the attacks against her. "Filipinos need to learn—they need to learn how to discern what they see on social media, particularly because the information appearing there can be manipulated," Duterte said. She said that it was unfair for her detractors to include her family in her impeachment complaint. "Well, I think it's unfair because they aren't the vice president and they aren't being impeached. And just like the spouses and children of congressmen, they have the right to privacy, being ordinary individuals and private citizens," Duterte said.

- [Vico Sotto joins global city leaders in Bloomberg event but won't receive \\$1M grant directly](#) (2026-05-06 05:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto joined more than 100 global city leaders at the Bloomberg CityLab 2026 held from April 27 to 29 in Madrid, Spain, where Pasig was also recognized as one of the winners of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayors Challenge

2025-2026. In a statement released on Wednesday, the city government said the summit—organized by Bloomberg Philanthropies in partnership with the Aspen Institute—featured discussions and collaborative sessions on addressing urban challenges. Pasig was among 24 cities selected from over 630 entries worldwide for its proposal to develop co-designed and co-managed floating parks aimed at addressing the lack of open and green spaces. The city said the project came with a \$1 million grant, as well as technical assistance and dedicated personnel to support implementation. However, city officials clarified that the grant would not be directly received in cash by the local government or the mayor. “Technically, we won’t be able to handle the grant directly. It will go through the UNDP system, so it will come to us in kind,” the city government told The Manila Times, referring to the United Nations Development Programme. The clarification comes amid reports that Mayor Sotto went to Madrid to claim the million-dollar grant. The local government added that participation in CityLab also gave its representatives access to global experts and innovation platforms, including discussions on river-focused solutions under the summit’s programming.

- [Marcos witnesses PH-US Balikatan exercise](#) (2026-05-06 05:31)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday witnessed the Joint Task Force Maritime Strike, the largest and most complex drill in this year’s Balikatan exercise between the Philippines and the United States. The President observed the joint military exercise via live feed at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City. “The exercise showcased coordinated maritime strike operations among allied forces and highlighted the AFP’s growing capability to operate alongside international partners in promoting regional security and freedom of navigation,” the Presidential Communications Office said in a statement. “Balikatan 41-2026 also carries added significance as the Philippines and the United States commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Mutual Defense Treaty,” it added.

- [Six out of 10 Filipinos trust, satisfied with PNP performance — survey](#) (2026-05-06 05:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Six out of 10 Filipinos continue to express trust and satisfaction with the Philippine National Police, according to an independent survey conducted by OCTA Research. In its Tugon ng Masa poll conducted from March 19-25, 2026, 63 percent expressed trust to the PNP, while 61 percent said that they were satisfied with the PNP’s job in the first quarter of 2026. The PNP is most trusted in Mindanao at 74 percent, followed by the Visayas region at 66 percent, Balanced Luzon at 59 percent, and the National Capital Region at 54 percent. Mindanao respondents were also the highest among those who were satisfied with the performance of the PNP at 69 percent, followed by Visayas at 63 percent, Balanced Luzon at 59 percent and NCR at 52 percent. The survey had 1,200 respondents and a margin of error of plus or minus three percent.

- [Govt officials, friends mourn passing of Times Chairman Emeritus Dante Ang](#) (2026-05-06 04:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Many government officials as well as those from the private and business sectors expressed sadness over the passing of The Manila Times Chairman Emeritus Dante Arevalo Ang (DAA). Public Attorney's Office (PAO) chief Persida Rueda-Acosta said that she could not help break down in tears after learning about the death of DAA "who would be a great loss to me and the PAO." "He is like a father to me...my adviser and ardent supporter. He let me be a legal columnist of The Manila Times for more than two decades in full support of PAO's mission for justice and rule of law," the chief public attorney said. Condoling with his loved ones, Presidential Adviser on Poverty Alleviation Larry Gadon said that DAA was a long-time and ever-reliable friend. "He is a great man who had helped shape the destiny of our country by his vision and passion for truthful public information which is an important tool for governance and national development," the anti-poverty presidential adviser said. Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte extended her "heartfelt condolences" to the family and loved ones of DAA. "Mr. Ang was a fixture in Philippine public life for decades, with a career that spanned journalism and government service," Belmonte said. "Under his stewardship, The Manila Times helped define the national conversation for many years, and in his passing, it is our hope that it will continue to uphold integrity in truth-telling," she added. Navotas City Mayor John Rey Tiangco and Rep. Toby Tiangco conveyed their "deepest sympathies and condolences to the family and loved ones of Dr. Dante Ang Sr." Malabon City Mayor Jeannie Sandoval and husband, Rep. Ricky Sandoval, likewise said that they were deeply devastated upon learning the sad news over DAA's death. Offering their deepest condolences, the Sandovals described him as "the genuine pillar of journalism, a truly respected publisher and undeniably, a worth-emulating public servant." "Ang kanyang dedikasyon sa pagbibigay ng tapat at makabuluhang balita ay nag-iwan ng malalim na ambag sa ating lipunan at sa patuloy na pagpapalakas ng ating demokrasya," the Sandovals said. Victor Lim, Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCII) president, said in a statement that they mourned the passing of a true titan of Philippine journalism, and "a dear friend to our organization—Dante Arevalo Ang, DBA, Chairman Emeritus of The Manila Times." "Our nation lost a pillar, and we also lost a brother," Lim said. "Dante was more than an accomplished newspaperman, he was a guardian of truth. But his greatness was not confined to newsprint," he said. "He was the embodiment of the self-made man. Starting from humble beginnings who had lost his father in his youth, he built businesses on sweat, high intellect, resourcefulness, and an unshakable work ethic," the FFCCCII head said. An outstanding Filipino of Chinese heritage, DAA never forgot what truly mattered: country, Lim said. "More than an advocate of Philippine progress, he was its active exponent—using his influence, his resources, and his voice to champion economic development, social harmony, and good governance," he stressed. "To us at FFCCCII, Dante was more than a respected media figure. He was a confidant, a partner in economic and civic causes, and a genuine friend," Lim added. The Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) said Ang Sr. would be "remembered for his excellence, spirit, and dedication to uplifting the lives of Filipinos across the globe." Ang served as CFO chairman from 2005 to 2010 under the administration of then president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and as Special Envoy for International Public Relations from 2017 to 2020 under former president Rodrigo Duterte. "Under his stewardship, the CFO took on the challenge of establishing a secure and

accessible overseas licensure for Filipino Nurses through the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) testing center in the Philippines. Through tireless negotiation with the U.S. National Council of State Boards of Nursing, coordination with Philippine agencies, and unwavering advocacy, Executive Order 550 was signed and Manila became an official NCLEX testing site in 2007, significantly lowering costs, improving access, and enhancing the global competitiveness of Filipino nurses,” the CFO said. The commission is currently headed by his son, Dante Ang II, who was previously chairman and CEO of the Times.

- [Tighter licensing for vendors sought in Manila after bacteria found in juice stalls](#) (2026-05-06 03:58)

MANILA, Philippines — The Manila city government said it would strengthen its licensing system for street vendors after a University of the Philippines Manila study found drug-resistant bacteria in juice stalls sold by vendors in Tondo. In a statement Wednesday, the Manila Health Department said the issue was a “high-priority public health concern,” noting that they have rolled out a multi-point action plan to combat the reported contamination. Dr. Grace Padilla, Manila City health officer, said they planned to offer free water potability testing for vendors and required the submission of updated water potability certifications in addition to existing sanitary permit requirements. Padilla added that they aimed to make the certification process “as accessible as possible” for small vendors and was seeking the mayor’s approval to waive associated fees.

- [Sotto to reply soon on indirect contempt case filed against him](#) (2026-05-05 19:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Vicente Sotto III would reply soon to the Supreme Court's order directing the senator to reply on the indirect contempt case filed against. "I will give my comment to the SC (Supreme Court) not to media. [It's] Not ethical to do so," Sotto said in a text message when sought for comment on the high court's directive. Lawyers Manuelito Luna, Harold Respicio, Mary Catherine Binag, Ferdinand Topacio, and Virgilio Garcia cited Sotto's comment on the decision of the Supreme Court declaring void the articles of impeachment (AI) against Vice President Sara Duterte in 2025. The Supreme Court en banc in January denied with finality the motion for reconsideration filed by the House of Representatives, which sought to reverse the Court's July 25, 2025 decision that declared the AI against Duterte unconstitutional. Sotto said the Supreme Court ruling was a "clear encroachment" on the power of the legislative branch, which the Constitution tasks with initiating and trying impeachment cases. Sotto said the Supreme Court ruling was a misinterpretation of the law that he said amends the Constitution "through Supreme Court overreach." Election lawyer Romulo Macalintal on Tuesday described the case filed against Sotto as a "publicity stunt in a nuisance suit." He said the "alleged contemptuous words were never intended by Sotto to belittle or embarrass nor degrade the Court, but rather to defend the independence of the legislature." "It was part of free speech and a legitimate exercise of his right to criticize public institutions," Macalintal said. "The act does not in any way pose clear and present danger to the administration of justice. It was a fair commentary which is part of his

duty to to the public to inform them," he added.

- [US stocks climb toward records as oil prices fall and earnings beat forecasts](#) (2026-05-05 18:59)

NEW YORK — The U.S. stock market is rising toward records Tuesday after an easing of oil prices let Wall Street turn its focus back to the big profits that companies keep producing. The S&P 500 rose 0.9% and was on track to top its all-time high set at the end of last week. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 300 points, or 0.6%, as of 2:06 p.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was heading toward its own record after climbing 1.1%. Stocks got a boost after oil prices gave back some of their big jumps from Monday. The price for a barrel of Brent crude, the international standard, fell 3.7% to \$110.19 after briefly topping \$115 on Monday, though it's still well above its roughly \$70 price from before the war with Iran. U.S. military leaders said Tuesday that a ceasefire with Iran remains in effect, even though Iran was blamed for attacks against the United Arab Emirates the day before. The U.S. military is meanwhile trying to force open a path in the Strait of Hormuz, which would allow oil tankers to resume shipments from the Persian Gulf and hopefully bring down the price of crude. Even with the war ongoing, the U.S. stock market has remained remarkably resilient on its record-setting run. That's in large part due to the strong profits that U.S. companies have reported for the start of 2026 despite the rise in oil prices since the end of February. "This has been a 'why ask why' market," according to Scott Wren, senior global market strategist at Wells Fargo Investment Institute. "You just have to go with it." Even though many risks are still weighing on the market, "investors are looking at earnings" and how much companies are spending on AI data centers and other investments, he said. DuPont's stock rallied 7.6% after the chemical giant led another cavalcade of companies reporting better-than-expected profits for the latest quarter. DuPont said its water technologies business felt some impact from the war due to logistics disruptions in the Middle East. But it nevertheless raised its forecasts for financial results over the full year. Other winners included American Electric Power Co., which rose 3.1%, and Cummins, which added 2.2%, after they likewise made more money during the first three months of the year than analysts expected. Pinterest soared 9.2% after the online bulletin board topped Wall Street's first-quarter sales and profit targets as its number of active monthly users jumped 11% to 631 million. AB InBev likewise topped analysts' profit forecasts, and it credited growth for its Corona, Stella Artois and Michelob Ultra brands outside of their home markets. "Cheers to beer," CEO Michel Doukeris said, as the company's stock that trades in the United States jumped 9.2%. They helped offset a drop for Palantir Technologies, which fell 6.6% even though it reported stronger results for the latest quarter than analysts expected. Its stock has struggled this year with worries about increased competition, like many software companies have. Its stock is also coming off a huge run where it more than doubled in each of the last three years. In stock markets abroad, indexes were mixed in Europe. The CAC 40 rose 1.1% in Paris, but the FTSE 100 fell 1.4% in London. Many Asian markets were closed for holidays, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.8%. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 slipped 0.2% after the central bank raised its benchmark interest rate to 4.35%, saying conflict in the Middle East

had sharply increased fuel and commodity prices that were already adding to inflation. In the U.S. bond market, Treasury yields eased after oil prices gave back some of Monday's gains and reports on the U.S. economy came in mixed. One said that growth for U.S. services businesses unexpectedly decelerated last month, with some companies saying the war is slowing spending. A separate report said U.S. employers were advertising slightly more job openings at the end of March than economists expected, an encouraging signal for the job market. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 4.42% from 4.45% late Monday. That's still well above its 3.97% level from just before the war began. That rise has made mortgages and other kinds of loans for U.S. households and businesses more expensive.

- [Palace: Sara's 2028 polls prayer 'baseless, intrigue'](#) (2026-05-05 18:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday likened Vice President Sara Duterte to her father, former president Rodrigo Duterte, saying both were experts in sowing intrigues. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro issued the statement after the vice president prayed that the presidential elections would push through in 2028, as she reaffirmed her intention to run for the country's top post. In a press conference, Castro described Duterte's remarks about 2028 elections as baseless and mere intrigue. "And the vice president is also a lawyer, so is this a case of 'like father, like daughter'? We know that former president Duterte admitted that he was an expert in creating intrigue and planting evidence," Castro said. "So statements like these from the vice president, we can say, are merely intrigue and stories without basis, and hopefully she reviews again, as a lawyer, what is actually in the Constitution, so she can also answer for her own words," she added.

- [US says two dead in strike on alleged drug-trafficking boat](#) (2026-05-05 18:48)

WASHINGTON — The US military says it killed two people in a strike on an alleged drug trafficking boat in the Caribbean, bringing the death toll from the contentious campaign to at least 187. US Southern Command, which is responsible for Washington's forces in the region, said in a post on X that "the vessel was transiting along known narco-trafficking routes in the Caribbean and was engaged in narco-trafficking operations" when the strike was carried out on Monday. President Donald Trump's administration insists it is effectively at war with what it calls "narco-terrorists" operating in Latin America. But it has provided no definitive evidence that the vessels it targets are involved in drug trafficking, prompting heated debate about the legality of the operations.

- [House okays bill further protecting women vs discrimination in employment](#) (2026-05-05 18:06)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives on Tuesday approved House Bill 7704 which aimed to further protect women against discrimination in employment. If passed into law, the measure would keep the prohibition against paying women less than males for work equal in value. The bill aimed to add assignment and employment benefits to covered areas, expanding the ban on favoring males over females in promotion. It also bars employers from

favoring males over females in dismissal or in implementing retrenchment policies. It also bars dismissal because of pregnancy or possible subsequent pregnancy. The protection for women against dismissal meant to prevent them from getting benefits under the Labor Code is kept in the bill.

- [Leviste accuses Executive Secretary Recto of spending billions for campaign of wife](#) (2026-05-05 17:08)

MANILA, Philippines - Batangas Rep. Leandro Leviste has accused Executive Secretary Ralph Recto of receiving P2 billion pesos from CWS (Construction Workers Solidarity) Partylist Rep. Edwin Gardiola to fund the campaign of her wife, Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto and her son, defeated Vice Gubernatorial bet Luis Manzano. Gardiola is among the "cong-tractors" or congressmen-contractors who are accused of receiving kickbacks from flood control projects. In his privilege speech at the House on Tuesday, he revealed that Recto and Gardiola spent P1 billion for the campaign of Santos and Manzano, noting that in the first district, they spent P150 million, while in other districts, around P200 to P300 million was spent. Leviste also said Gardiola also convinced him to endorse the Santos-Manzano tandem in the presence of Recto, which he did. "After the meetings, I received reports that cash was distributed to campaign for Vilma and Lucky, which allegedly came from Congressman Gardiola. It appears that Congressman Gardiola was the one who funded the ViLucky campaign, based on what I saw in my district, as well as the meetings and materials featuring Vilma Santos-Recto, Lucky Manzano, and CWS Partylist," Leviste said. He also said that during their meeting, Gardiola offered him to partner together with Recto in "doing business" with the Department of Public Works and Highways in his district using the system being done in the city of Lipa and other towns in Batangas. "Identify the areas for 'road openings'; I was told to inform them if I see any so they can participate in purchasing the land; Secretary Recto can help fund the projects because he is in the Cabinet; and Cong. Gardiola also has strong influence within the DPWH, and he might also be the one to take care of the contractor," Leviste said. Leviste said that he "feels sad" for Batangas and for the Philippines for what he described as "what top officials are doing with the people's money," "It would be best if they explain: Is it true that Gardiola spent a massive amount for their campaign? What was in exchange for it, and is Gardiola just a friend, or also a funder?" Leviste said. Speaking after Leviste's speech, Batangas 6th District Rep. Ryan Recto defended his parents from the allegations. "The plenary should not be used to spread rumors that have no basis," Recto said.

- [UN says reports of extrajudicial killings in Mali 'gravely concerning'](#) (2026-05-05 16:54)

GENEVA, Switzerland — The United Nations voiced grave concern Tuesday over reports of extrajudicial killings allegedly conducted by the security forces in Mali, now plunged into crisis following an assault on ruling junta strongholds. The April 25-26 attacks by Tuareg separatists and Al-Qaeda-linked jihadists saw the groups capture the key northern town of Kidal as they launched numerous assaults in the largest offensive in the west African country in nearly 15 years. Defence minister Sadio Camara was killed by a car bomb at his residence. "We are deeply

troubled by the worsening human rights situation across Mali" following the attacks, UN human rights office spokesman Seif Magango told reporters in Geneva. Speaking from Nairobi, he said the attacks reportedly resulted in heavy casualties among civilians, with many more forced to flee their homes. Subsequent clashes between the Malian security forces and the separatists and jihadists were reported over the weekend, "with yet more disastrous consequences for civilians", he added. Militants from Al-Qaeda's branch in the Sahel region -- the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM) -- joined forces with the Azawad Liberation Front (FLA), an ethnic Tuareg separatist movement, in the attacks against the junta and its Russian mercenaries. "There have been gravely concerning reports of extrajudicial killings and abductions, allegedly carried out by members of the security forces following the April 25 and 26 attacks," said Magango. On Saturday, Mohamed Elmaouloud Ramadane, a spokesman for the separatists, stated that "mass graves containing several bodies were discovered today in the Amchach camp, located in Tessalit, which the FLA took control of the previous day, following the withdrawal of the Malian army and the Russian mercenaries." "Initial findings suggest that these civilians were taken to this base before being executed there," he said on Facebook. AFP was unable to verify this information independently. - Abductions - Mountaga Tall, a well-known Malian lawyer and politician critical of the ruling junta, was abducted overnight Saturday by masked men in the capital Bamako, members of his family told AFP. "His wife was physically assaulted as she tried to record the abduction on her mobile phone and her phone confiscated," Magango said. "Three relatives of the exiled politician Oumar Mariko were also reportedly abducted a day earlier. Their whereabouts remain unknown," the spokesman added. The UN rights office is calling for the Malian authorities' announced investigation into the April 25-26 attacks to be comprehensive, addressing "all allegations of related violations and abuses -- undertaken in full compliance with international human rights law", the spokesman said. "Arrest and detention of suspects must be in line with rule of due process, and without discrimination," he added. UN rights chief Volker Turk is calling for an immediate end to the fighting, the spokesman said, and urges all parties to ensure the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure. Turk is also calling on the Malian authorities and all non-state armed groups to allow and facilitate "safe, sustainable and unfettered humanitarian access" to all those in need, Magango added. The spokesman said there had been "worrying reports of hunger", adding that blockades on cities and villages "have unacceptable consequences for civilians and must end immediately".

- [LPA enters PAR](#) (2026-05-05 16:34)

MANILA, Philippines — A low pressure area (LPA) has entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), the state-run weather agency said on Tuesday. Weather specialist Benison Estareja of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said in a briefing that the LPA was estimated to be some 910 kilometers east of northeastern Mindanao. He said there would be no immediate threat from the latest weather disturbance but it was forecast to bring rains especially its trough or extension in areas over the Visayas, Caraga and Davao Region by Wednesday night. By Thursday until Saturday, the LPA

would likely cross Mindanao areas and southern Palawan where it would eventually dissipate, according to the Pagasa forecaster. Meanwhile, the other LPA, which remains outside PAR, has also intensified into a tropical depression while moving north-northwestward slowly, the national weather bureau said. "This was forecast to enter PAR either on Saturday or Sunday and once inside, it would be called 'Caloy,' the third storm to hit the country this year," Estareja said. He said Pagasa would be closely monitoring the movements of the two weather disturbances.

- [Lacson lays out evidence, recommendations vs 'systemic, parasitic' greed in flood control anomalies](#) (2026-05-05 16:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo Lacson has recommended measures to enhance accountability of public officials and anti-corruption campaign amid the flood control fund mess which he described as the "largest corruption" scandal in Philippine history. Lacson, Senate Blue Ribbon Committee chairman, on Tuesday presented the chairman's report containing key evidence and policy recommendations drawn from seven public hearings on the scandal. He said the panel recommended preliminary investigation or "case build up" for violation of the anti-graft law on several incumbent and former lawmakers linked to the ghost flood control projects. Lacson did not identify them but he showed their names through a series of slides. They include fellow senators Francis Escudero, Jinggoy Estrada, Joel Villanueva, former public works secretary Manuel Bonoan, former representative Zaldy Co, and former House speaker Martin Romualdez. The committee report contains a "menu" for possible criminal charges that may be filed against those involved, including malversation of public funds, direct bribery, falsification of public documents, corruption, money laundering, and plunder. Lacson said the committee will invite Romualdez, through the Office of the Speaker, to attend the next public hearing "so he can give his side on the issue." He also underscored the need to bring back Co to the country so he could also shed light on his alleged involvement in the scandal. The committee recommended amendment of the Ombudsman law and stricter penalties against government employees gambling in casinos. The panel also proposed "defining beneficial ownership and conflict of interest so that no legislator can hide behind a corporate veil." In a privilege speech, Lacson raised the need to finally curb the "systematic and parasitic" greed behind anomalous flood control projects. He said the panel proposed the removal of "allocables" and "leadership funds" proposed by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). "This is a pork barrel incarnate and it clouds our fiscal transparency," the Senate president pro tempore said.

- [ICC won't drop case vs Duterte – VP Sara](#) (2026-05-05 16:11)

VICE President Sara Duterte has already accepted that the case against her father, former president Rodrigo Duterte, will continue at the International Criminal Court (ICC). Duterte is jailed at The Hague for three counts of crimes against humanity due to his war on drugs. The trial has been raffled off to Trial Chamber III and is expected to begin by October at the earliest. In an interview with vlogger Alvin & Tourism on Monday after her visit to her father, Duterte said they have accepted that the case will go into trial soon after the jurisdiction was

reached. “We don’t see any way that the ICC will let go of the case of President Duterte since it is only one of two ICC cases. So we don’t think that they will let this go,” the vice president said. She added that “the best way to move forward” is to prepare for time. Duterte said her father “looked well and healthy” and does not have any problems, but she suggested to him to go into physiotherapy. “He refused physiotherapy, so we’ll see tomorrow if we can convince him to do physiotherapy in lieu of his supposed everyday exercise,” Duterte said. She also thanked the supporters of her father for their “undying love” for him and keeping the faith. Duterte returned to The Hague for the first time since the confirmation of charges of the former president held last March. This week, prosecutors and lawyers representing victims at the ICC pressed judges to reject a defense bid to appeal the confirmation of charges against Duterte, arguing the application is legally deficient and risks delaying proceedings. In separate filings before Pre-Trial Chamber I, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Common Legal Representatives of the Victims (CLRV) said the defense failed to satisfy the cumulative requirements for interlocutory appeal under Article 82(1)(d) of the Rome Statute. Both submissions maintained that the issues raised do not significantly affect the fair and expeditious conduct of the case, nor would immediate resolution by the Appeals Chamber materially advance proceedings. The prosecution, in a 12-page response, said the defense “misrepresents” the chamber’s confirmation decision and merely expresses disagreement with its reasoning. The filing challenged the defense’s objections to the chamber’s so-called “flexible approach” in defining the scope of the charges and its alleged failure to provide a reasoned evidentiary basis. Prosecutors said the chamber properly delineated the case using temporal and geographic parameters, consistent with Appeals Chamber jurisprudence, including rulings in large-scale cases such as *Bosco Ntaganda*. They noted that the chamber had determined a “broad approach... through illustrative examples of relevant incidents may indeed be necessary,” given the scale of the alleged crimes — described as a widespread attack involving numerous killings over an extended period across a large territory. On the evidentiary issue, prosecutors said the confirmation decision explicitly cited witnesses and supporting material, stressing that the purpose of confirmation proceedings is to determine whether there are “substantial grounds to believe” the accused committed the crimes, not to resolve every evidentiary matter. “The defense thus expresses its mere disagreement with the Chamber’s approach,” the prosecution said. The Office of the Prosecutor also took aim at public remarks by Duterte’s counsel, accusing the defense team of attempting to undermine the court’s legitimacy. It cited statements made in multiple media interviews on April 22, 2026 — before the confirmation ruling was issued — in which counsel described the ICC as a “partisan political body” and suggested its judges were motivated by a desire to “generate work for themselves and justify the court’s budget.” Counsel was also quoted as saying that appearing before the court felt like “banging your head against the wall,” and that proceedings were shaped by “political dimensions... beyond your control.” Prosecutors called the remarks “offensive and categorically false,” saying they violate Article 24(1) of the Code of Professional Conduct for Counsel. The filing added that the same defense team had already been reminded twice by the chamber of its professional obligations. “These comments undermine the legitimacy of the court and contribute to the significant disinformation

campaign surrounding this case in the Philippines,” the prosecution said, warning that such statements could discourage witnesses and victims from participating. In a separate submission dated May 4, 2026, the CLRV echoed the prosecution’s position, describing the defense application as a repetition of arguments already raised and dismissed during confirmation proceedings. “The defense fails to identify any issue that satisfies the requirements of article 82(1)(d) of the Rome Statute,” the victims’ lawyers said. “Rather than raising a discrete legal question warranting interlocutory review, the request reiterates arguments already fully considered and rejected... and reflects nothing more than the defense’s disagreement.” The defense had filed its request for leave to appeal on April 29, seeking review of two issues: whether the chamber erred in law by adopting a broad or “flexible” approach in defining the charges, and whether it failed to articulate a reasoned evidentiary basis for confirming them. Victims’ representatives argued that neither issue meets the statutory threshold. On the first, they said the defense “does not identify any error of law,” noting that established jurisprudence recognizes that specificity in charges is “context-dependent,” particularly in cases involving large-scale criminality and indirect liability such as co-perpetration. The CLRV also said the chamber correctly distinguished between the prompt-notice requirement under Article 67(1)(a) and the delineation of charges for trial under Article 74(2), rejecting the defense’s attempt to conflate the two standards. On the second issue, the victims’ lawyers said the defense “mischaracterizes both the confirmation decision and the applicable legal standard,” emphasizing that confirmation proceedings involve a holistic assessment rather than an exhaustive accounting of every piece of evidence. “The defense’s assertion that the chamber was required to link each factual finding to specific items of evidence reflects an incorrect understanding,” the filing stated. The CLRV further rejected claims that the chamber failed to consider arguments on the absence of a common plan, noting that judges had expressly assessed the contextual and organizational elements of the alleged crimes. Both the prosecution and victims’ lawyers said the defense failed to demonstrate any prejudice that would affect the fairness or outcome of the trial. They pointed out that mechanisms remain in place — including disclosure obligations and pre-trial and trial briefs — to ensure the defense can fully challenge the case. They also warned that granting leave to appeal could fragment proceedings and cause unnecessary delay. “Granting leave to appeal at this stage would... risk fragmenting the proceedings and causing unnecessary delay, contrary to the principle of expeditiousness,” the CLRV said. Duterte faces charges of crimes against humanity linked to killings carried out during his anti-drug campaign, both as president and earlier as mayor of Davao City. In its confirmation decision, the chamber found substantial grounds to believe he is criminally responsible, as an indirect co-perpetrator, for murders committed under a common plan to “neutralize” individuals suspected of involvement in illegal drugs. No timeline has been set for the chamber’s ruling on the defense request.

- [President, Imee have not spoken for almost 3 years](#) (2026-05-05 16:09)

(UPDATE) PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has confirmed his estrangement from older sister Sen. Imee Marcos, Malacañang said on Tuesday. In a press briefing, Presidential

Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said the chief executive reacted to the lawmaker's earlier pronouncement that their relationship is "nonexistent" with the latter distancing herself from her brother and his family. "Yes, they haven't spoken for almost three years. She has not been attending family gatherings, family events," Castro said, citing her earlier conversation with Marcos. At a press conference in Cebu over the weekend, the senator said she has not seen her brother for over a year and has not been attending reunions as it is "not comfortable" for her. Despite this, she said she continues to care for her brother and hopes he prioritizes his health. The Palace, on the other hand, has repeatedly dismissed her and the president's critics' claims that he has fallen seriously ill with Marcos even going as far as tagging as "liars" those who have been spreading misinformation about his medical condition. Castro further noted that although the president has not been vocal about the state of his relationship with his sister, it is quite noticeable that he is dismayed by it, especially with the senators' criticisms about him, his family, and his administration. "Before he answered, he really thought about it, and from my perspective, his body language showed that he was disappointed with the words he heard from his sister," she said. Asked about the reason for the strained relationship between the siblings, Castro said only the senator can answer it. "Maybe you should ask Senator Imee, because the president has no ill feelings towards his older sister," she said.

- [FIFA invites Iran to headquarters for World Cup talks](#) (2026-05-05 16:08)

PARIS, France — FIFA has invited the Iranian football federation (FFIRI) to its headquarters for talks over the country's participation at this year's World Cup, a source told AFP on Tuesday. Iran's presence at the tournament, held in the United States, Canada and Mexico between June 11 and July 19, has been shrouded in uncertainty since the eruption of war in the Middle East in February following strikes by the United States and Israel. The source said FIFA had asked the FFIRI to visit its Zurich base "by May 20 to prepare for the World Cup". Last week, FIFA president Gianni Infantino reiterated Iran will play their World Cup games in the United States as scheduled. "Let me start by the outset, confirming straightaway that of course Iran will be participating at the FIFA World Cup 2026," Infantino said as he addressed delegates at the FIFA Congress in Vancouver. "And of course, Iran will play (in) the United States of America." Iran's delegation was the only absentee from the 211-member congress after a clash with Canadian border officials. Iranian media said FFIRI president Mehdi Taj -- a former member of Tehran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) -- and two colleagues flew home after being "insulted" by Canadian immigration officers. Canada, which designated the IRGC a terrorist organisation in 2024, said individuals linked to the force were "inadmissible". On his return home, Taj told local media he wanted a meeting with FIFA to discuss a variety of subjects. Iran, who are due to be based in Tucson, Arizona, during the World Cup, face New Zealand, Belgium and Egypt in Group G. The Iranians open their World Cup campaign against New Zealand in Los Angeles on June 15.

- [38 Filipinos on cruise ship with hantavirus not sick -- DOH](#) (2026-05-05 16:08)

THE Department of Health (DOH) on Tuesday said the 38 Filipinos aboard the cruise ship where there was a hantavirus outbreak are not sick. In an interview on Tuesday, DOH spokesman Albert Domingo said there were Filipino crew members on board among more than 100 people on the vessel, which is currently docked in Cabo Verde off the coast of Africa. “We have 38 fellow Filipinos, 38 crew members. The good news is, according to the WHO and the International Health Regulations, they are not sick,” Domingo said in Filipino. Reports said three people were confirmed dead onboard the ship. Domingo said that DOH is closely coordinating with international governing bodies to monitor the situation. According to the World Health Organization, hantavirus is a zoonotic disease that naturally infects rodents and is transmitted to humans. Domingo said no cases of the virus have been detected in the country so far, stressing that other diseases — such as tuberculosis and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) — are more troublesome than the hantavirus. Domingo also clarified that hantavirus is not a new disease, describing it as a rare viral infection typically transmitted through exposure to infected rodents or their droppings — not through casual human-to-human contact. He noted that the Philippines has not recorded confirmed hantavirus cases in recent years, adding that some past reports even required further verification. Symptoms of hantavirus infection may include fever, body aches, and, in severe cases, respiratory complications. Despite the reported incident abroad, Domingo said there is no cause for alarm in the Philippines.

- [Malversation trial vs Revilla begins; bail decision expected soon](#) (2026-05-05 16:07)

(UPDATE) THE trial of the malversation through falsification case filed against former senator Bong Revilla and six other people before the Sandiganbayan started on Tuesday. The case stemmed from the alleged ghost project in Pandi, Bulacan. The prosecution presented Myra Torio and Jose Jayson Cruz as witnesses before the Sandiganbayan’s Third Division where the case was raffled off. The court’s ruling on the bail petitions, including that of Revilla, is expected to be out soon. Most of the accused filed bail petitions and the court conducted a bail hearing on several dates starting April 6, 2026. The court’s ruling on bail was expected soon. “We will not preempt what the court’s assessment will be but we are very confident in our position,” Reedy Anthony Balisi, one of Revilla’s lawyers, said in an interview with reporters in April, saying no evidence linked his client to the alleged ghost project. Aside from Revilla, those with bail petitions were Juanito Mendoza, Brice Hernandez, Arjay Domasig, Emelita Juat, and Christina Mae Pineda. Meanwhile, the trial of the graft case resumed on Tuesday afternoon. The prosecution presented as witness Monica Louis Ocampo-Santos, liaison officer of SYMS Construction. In February 2026, the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division entered a not guilty plea for Revilla after he refused to enter a plea in the arraignment in the graft case. Domasig and Juanito Mendoza pleaded not guilty. On Jan. 28, 2026, Hernandez, Jaypee Mendoza and Pineda pleaded not guilty. Juat pleaded not guilty on Jan. 23, 2026.

- [Risa Hontiveros is 'ready' to offer herself for continued public service](#) (2026-05-05 16:06)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Risa Hontiveros on Tuesday said surveys would not decide election results as she remains "open to offer" herself for public service. The senator did not elaborate

on which capacity she could serve Filipinos or whether she would seek the presidency in 2028. Hontiveros said the opposition group wanted to have a "fighting chance to present the best alternative to voters" in the 2028 national elections. "I respect surveys but surveys would not be the ones to decide the election. It's not yet over," Hontiveros said in Filipino in a chance interview. Asked whether former vice president and Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo is already out of the 2028 presidential race, Hontiveros said, "I respect her last pronouncement and I believe, just like what she said, that there are many of us who can serve." "I am confident that we can reciprocate the trust and confidence that she extends to us. I remain that I am ready to offer myself in this kind of endeavor," Hontiveros said. She said the opposition group would be able to identify "within the end of the year" who among them are the "strongest" to be fielded to the 2028 national elections. "It is really my goal and intention for us to be united in supporting that person [for the 2028 presidential polls]," Hontiveros said. "We already discussed this principle to be united behind the strongest [possible presidential] contender among us," she said.

- [Marcos orders DA to lower rice prices](#) (2026-05-05 16:06)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has ordered the Department of Agriculture (DA) to do everything possible to lower the price of rice in the country amid global uncertainties, Malacañang said Tuesday. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said Marcos issued the directive to Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. during the sixth United Package for Livelihoods, Industry, Food, and Transport (Uplift) Committee meeting in Malacañang on Tuesday. During the meeting, Castro said that Marcos and other officials discussed measures to ensure an adequate supply of key commodities, including fuel, and to sustain government services amid the Middle East crisis. She said the president ordered authorities to go after hoarders and profiteers taking advantage of the economic instability resulting from the war in the Middle East. "Do not allow anyone to take advantage of the situation amid the Middle East crisis," Castro said during a press conference. "If collusion to increase rice prices is proven, the government will not hesitate to file cases and may impose a price cap," she added. Castro said the Uplift framework continued to guide a coordinated whole-of-government response to stabilize prices, safeguard consumers and strengthen the country's economic resilience. Following the meeting, Marcos was to convene the ninth Economy and Development Council meeting. He is expected to discuss broader strategies, including improving the country's mass transportation system through expanded railway networks. Meanwhile, Castro said the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has cited the Philippines as one of the countries with the most extensive and comprehensive responses to the global economic shocks brought by the war in the Middle East. Citing the April 2026 report "The Impact of the Middle East Conflict on Asia and the Pacific," Malacañang said the ADB has lowered regional growth expectations to 4.7 percent and projected inflation at 5.2 percent due to disruptions in global energy supply. The study indicated that the Philippines implemented policy responses across seven of eight categories, reflecting a broad and coordinated approach in addressing the impact of the global crisis, the Palace said. The categories include fuel subsidies, targeted assistance, staggered oil price increases, demand

reduction, supply-side actions, and energy diversification measures. The study emphasized that the Philippines was one of only two countries, alongside India, that adopted measures to diversify fuel sources. The response was carried out by the administration under a strategic whole-of-government framework that was anchored on the Uplift, established under Executive Order 110. Marcos issued an executive order in March declaring a state of national energy emergency so that the government can carry out a mix of fiscal, social protection, and energy-related measures to mitigate the impact of the oil price shocks. Among the measures implemented were fuel subsidies benefiting nearly one million public utility vehicle drivers, assistance for farmers and fisherfolk, as well as the expanded cash transfer programs, reaching over four million low-income households affected by rising prices. These measures were complemented by monetary actions from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to help manage inflation and stabilize the economy. The ADB, meanwhile, noted that while risks remained due to continued global uncertainty, the Philippines' policy mix helped cushion the impact of the shock.

- [30 ride-hailing firms under probe – LTFRB](#) (2026-05-05 16:05)

THE Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has issued show-cause orders against nine additional motorcycle taxi platform providers, widening its investigation into discrepancies in the number of authorized ride-hailing units. The latest orders brought to 30 transport network companies (TNCs) and motorcycle taxi platform providers (MTPPs) under scrutiny for allegedly onboarding units beyond those authorized by the agency. The LTFRB said the probe stemmed from irregularities uncovered during the distribution of fuel subsidies, when several firms submitted vehicle lists that exceeded the figures recorded in the agency's official database. Under existing rules, only vehicles with a valid authority to operate from the LTFRB are allowed on ride-hailing platforms. LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said the firms must account for the discrepancies. "They have a lot of explaining to do on this matter, and we will make sure that those who defied our regulations will pay the price," Mendoza said. The agency has been pushing for greater transparency among ride-hailing firms, including seeking access to their platform databases to strengthen regulatory oversight. It noted, however, that legal constraints have so far limited full access. According to the LTFRB, the inconsistencies flagged during the fuel subsidy rollout raised concerns that some companies may have misrepresented the number of active transport network vehicle service (TNVS) units and motorcycle taxis operating on their platforms. In the show-cause orders, the nine motorcycle taxi firms were directed to explain why their authority to operate should not be suspended or revoked. Among the violations cited were onboarding riders and vehicles beyond the authorized cap and failing to maintain originally accredited units, which either shifted to other platforms or ceased operations, disrupting service to commuters. A hearing on the matter has been set for May 15. Earlier, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) ordered the immediate suspension of onboarding for new TNVS and motorcycle taxi drivers after regulators uncovered widespread breaches of fleet caps. The directive came after discrepancies surfaced during the distribution of government cash aid to transport workers, when the number of individuals claiming benefits

exceeded the official lists submitted by companies. Subsequent checks revealed deeper irregularities, including the presence of so-called “ghost riders” — unregistered drivers included in subsidy records. The DOTr estimated around 30,000 questionable entries in four-wheel services and more than 200,000 in motorcycle taxi operations. The DOTr said some firms continued onboarding drivers despite already reaching their authorized caps, effectively bypassing LTFRB rules. It also flagged reports that applicants were being charged onboarding fees ranging from P25,000 to P90,000 despite the absence of proper permits. The agency has also prohibited on-the-spot or same-day onboarding conducted without prior LTFRB approval, citing weak screening processes and compliance lapses. Officials said regulators are evaluating possible sanctions, including fines and other penalties, against firms found to have violated the rules. The review also covers potential accountability among regulators who may have allowed the practices to persist. Meanwhile, DOTr and LTFRB are studying a possible amnesty program for so-called “tempo drivers” — those operating without full authorization — to help them regularize their status and continue earning a livelihood.

- [Go visits fire-hit families](#) (2026-05-05 16:04)

SEN. Bong Go visited Barangay 264 in Tondo, Manila, on Sunday, May 3, to check on families affected by the April 30 fire. Accompanied by Barangay Chairman Teresita Sta. Maria Yambao and local officials, Go met with residents, listened to their concerns, and provided assistance to support their recovery. About 555 families received relief assistance during the visit. The senator distributed financial assistance, grocery packs, snacks, shirts, balls, and other necessities. Some beneficiaries were also given additional items such as bicycles, mobile phones, shoes and watches. Go underscored the importance of fire prevention and safety awareness, reminding residents that while material losses can be replaced, lives lost in such incidents cannot. He said that visiting disaster-stricken communities will make disaster victims feel they are supported. He also thanked residents for their trust and reaffirmed his commitment to continue serving Filipinos. Also, the senator expressed appreciation for barangay officials, noting their crucial role as first responders during emergencies. Go assured residents that his office remains accessible and ready to provide continued assistance as they rebuild their lives. As vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, he also highlighted the availability of medical assistance for those in need, particularly individuals recovering from disasters. He reiterated the role of Malasakit Centers, which provide streamlined access to medical aid for indigent patients. Go authored and sponsored Republic Act (RA) 11463, which institutionalized the program. According to the Department of Health, 167 centers are now operational nationwide, benefiting more than 17 million Filipinos. In Manila, Malasakit Centers are available in several government hospitals, including Tondo Medical Center, Philippine General Hospital, Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital, Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center, and San Lazaro Hospital. Go continues to advocate for stronger disaster preparedness measures. He is a principal author and co-sponsor of RA 12076, which mandates the establishment of permanent, disaster-resilient evacuation centers in all cities and municipalities. He also cited RA 11589, another measure he principally authored and co-sponsored, aimed at enhancing the response capabilities of fire personnel. As

affected families continue to recover, Go assured them that his support will extend beyond immediate aid, particularly for communities facing calamities and urgent needs.

- [LTO most complained-about govt agency – ARTA](#) (2026-05-05 16:03)

THE Land Transportation Office (LTO) emerged as the agency with the most public complaints based on March 2026 data, the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) said Tuesday. Most complaints against the agency were logged in Metro Manila. “But most of these cases that were filed against us, almost more than 90 percent, are resolved, meaning closed. Because in ARTA, whenever we receive a complaint, we immediately refer it to the Committee on Anti-Red Tape, and when they know that ARTA is already onboard most of the time, they resolve it even before a hearing is started, and not elevated into a formal complaint,” ARTA Secretary Ernesto Perez said in a Palace briefing. The LTO was third among the Top 10 agencies with the most complaints in 2025. Perez cited delays in processes, imposition of additional requirements, violation of the Citizen’s Charter, and fixers as reasons LTO moved to the top of the list. Other agencies on the list are the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Food and Drug Administration, Land Registration Authority, Philippine Statistics Authority, Department of Education, National Telecommunications Commission, Department of Migrant Workers, Professional Regulations Commission, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, and Department of Science and Technology. “We look forward to more engagement with the LTO and those other complaint agencies to reduce the complaints. Our message is that we continuously engage with these government agencies. We consider them partners, not our enemies. Our objective is not to sue them if the service is not good for people,” Perez said. Meanwhile, for government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), the Social Security System (SSS) emerged with the largest number of call-outs from the public. It was followed by the Home Development Mutual Fund, Philippine Health Insurance Corp., Philippine Postal Corp., Land Bank of the Philippines, Government Service Insurance System, National Irrigation Administration, Laguna Lake Development Authority, Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., and National Food Authority.

- [Zamora stakes name on San Juan hospital upgrade amid scrutiny](#) (2026-05-05 16:02)

SAN JUAN CITY Mayor Francis Zamora on Tuesday, May 5, said he is staking his name and credibility on the completion of long-planned upgrades to the San Juan Medical Center. Zamora said the city government is working through a checklist of needed equipment, services and facilities for the hospital, with procurement already underway. “We are completing these one by one. You can expect that my name is on the line here,” he said. The issue gained renewed attention after Sen. JV Ejercito expressed concern over the condition and capacity of the San Juan Medical Center, prompting public discussion on the state of the city-run hospital. Zamora acknowledged that the project cannot be completed immediately, citing the scale of improvements and procurement processes involved. “There is no magic wand. No mayor can complete everything overnight,” he said, noting that some equipment and facilities require time to acquire and install. Despite this, Zamora assured residents that the city has a clear

roadmap for the hospital's development and urged patience as upgrades continue. He emphasized that the medical center remains a top priority of his administration. Zamora said he is committed to delivering a fully equipped and modernized San Juan Medical Center by the end of his term. "Give me until my last day, and I will make sure we complete what is needed for our hospital," he said.

- [German car-ramming suspect was treated in psychiatric hospital](#) (2026-05-05 15:49)

LEIPZIG, Germany — A man suspected of ploughing a car into a crowd in the German city of Leipzig, killing two people, recently underwent treatment at a psychiatric hospital, the authorities said Tuesday. The German national allegedly drove the vehicle Monday at high speed down a main street in the historic centre of the eastern city, leaving two people dead and several others wounded. Germany has been shaken by a series of car-ramming attacks in recent years, including one targeting a Christmas market in 2024 in Magdeburg, and others in Berlin and Munich. The 33-year-old suspect in the Leipzig incident was arrested at the scene and officials have said they do not believe he had any political or religious motive for the act. But he was treated in a specialist psychiatric hospital from April 17 to 29, "due to his mental condition and with his consent", police and prosecutors said in a statement. He had already come to the police's attention this year for "making threats and for defamation-related offences," they said, without elaborating. Regional health officials said in a separate statement to AFP that during his stay at the hospital he did not present a danger to himself or others. "There were therefore no medical grounds to prevent the patient, who was in the clinic of his own free will, from leaving the clinic or to detain him there against his will," they said. Authorities declined to give further details about his condition, citing patient confidentiality. A 63-year-old woman and a 77-year-old man, both German citizens, were killed in the car-ramming. Six other people aged between 21 and 87 were injured, two of them seriously, police said. More than 80 people also received care "due to the psychological impact of what they experienced," they said. - 'Deeply affected' - The suspect is being investigated on suspicion of double murder and multiple counts of attempted murder, according to the police, who believe he acted alone. He was expected to appear in court later Tuesday. On Tuesday, the street where the deadly incident happened was still cordoned off as police searched the area. At a church in the grounds of a nearby university, Heidi Rheinsdorf said she had travelled to Leipzig to show support to the local community. Wiping back tears, the 32-year-old told AFP she was "shocked" when she heard about the car-ramming, adding: "I just don't understand why (the alleged perpetrator) did it." "I just feel so sorry for the people." University student Dalyan Unland, 20, said he was "deeply affected by the fact that people died... in a place where I walk every day". Lynn Sue Leiste said she had to muster all her courage to come and lay two white roses and a candle at a makeshift memorial at the church. The 25-year-old said she had been "extremely worried" by the car-ramming, as her sister was in the street at the time. The perpetrator of the rampage "must be locked up forever", she said, adding that "security measures really could have been strengthened". Many of the deadly car rampages Germany has seen in recent years were carried out by people who were found to have psychological problems. The deadliest involved a Tunisian man with jihadist

motives who ploughed a stolen truck through a Christmas market in Berlin in 2016, claiming 13 lives. In 2024, a Christmas market in Magdeburg was targeted by a Saudi man, who drove a car into the crowd, killing six people and injuring more than 300.

- [House okays proposed Nat'l Land Use Act](#) (2026-05-05 15:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives on Tuesday approved the proposed National Land Use Act, a priority bill of the Marcos administration. House Bill 8466 hurdled third and final reading with over 220 lawmakers voting for it and three against. There was no abstention. The bill sought to create the National Land Use Commission under the Office of the President. The proposed body would prepare a 30-year National Physical Framework Plan which would be updated every 10 years and guide planning for, among others, settlements, production areas, infrastructure. "This is one of those bills that people may not talk about every day, but they will feel it when farms are protected, homes are built in safer places, roads are planned better and communities are spared from avoidable disasters," House Majority Leader and Ilocos Norte 1st District Rep. Ferdinand Alexander Marcos said in a statement. Leyte 1st District Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, one of the authors of the bill, said, "Land use sounds technical, but at its heart it is about fairness: where people can live safely, where farmers can keep producing food, where businesses can invest responsibly and where government can build without creating new problems". "We have to push development that is planned, useful and felt by the people, not development that fixes one problem while creating another," Romualdez said. Under the bill, land use was classified into these major categories: protection, production, settlements development; and infrastructure development. The bill protects prime agricultural lands from getting unnecessarily or improperly converted. It also protects, among others, forests and heritage areas. The bill requires the use of, among others, hazard maps in deciding land use.

- [US threatens 'devastating' response to any Iran attack on shipping](#) (2026-05-05 15:37)

WASHINGTON — The United States is "not looking for a fight" over the Strait of Hormuz and its ceasefire with Iran still holds, but any attack on commercial shipping will be met with a "devastating" response, the Pentagon chief said Tuesday. The warning from Pete Hegseth came on the second day of a US effort to facilitate the transit of commercial ships through the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran had closed in response to the US-Israeli war against the Islamic republic. "We're not looking for a fight. But Iran also cannot be allowed to block innocent countries and their goods from an international waterway," Hegseth told reporters. "If you attack American troops or innocent commercial shipping, you will face overwhelming and devastating American firepower," the Pentagon chief said. Top US military officer General Dan Caine meanwhile said US forces are ready to resume major combat operations against Iran if ordered to do so. "No adversary should mistake our current restraint with a lack of resolve," said Caine, who spoke alongside Hegseth. Admiral Brad Cooper, the commander responsible for US troops in the Middle East, said Monday that Washington's forces had intercepted missiles and drones fired by Iran and also destroyed six small Iranian boats that threatened shipping. But

both Caine and Hegseth downplayed those hostilities, with the general describing it as "low harassing fire" and the Pentagon chief saying that "right now, the ceasefire certainly holds." US and Israeli forces launched the war against Iran on February 28, after which the Islamic republic closed the Strait of Hormuz -- a vital route for oil and gas exports -- while American forces later launched a blockade of Iranian ports. President Donald Trump has indefinitely extended what was initially a two-week ceasefire, but the conflict -- and its widespread economic fallout -- remains unresolved. Caine said there are currently "22,500 mariners embarked on more than 1,550 commercial vessels trapped in the Arabian Gulf, unable to transit." Cooper said Monday that the United States is not directly escorting ships but rather had cleared a safe path through the Strait of Hormuz and then put in place multi-layered defenses including ships, aircraft and electronic warfare to respond to any threats. Hegseth made clear in his remarks that the operation will not be open-ended. "We're stabilizing the situation so commerce can flow again, but we expect the world to step up. At the appropriate time, and soon, we will hand responsibility back to you," he said.

• [Japan and Philippines agree to weapons pact talks as China's 'coercive activities' cause alarm](#) (2026-05-05 15:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Defense chiefs from Japan and the Philippines expressed renewed alarm on Tuesday over what they say is China's intensifying coercive actions in disputed waters, and agreed to start talks on a weapons transfer pact that will allow Tokyo to provide used destroyers to Manila's navy. Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi held separate talks with his Philippine counterpart, Gilberto Teodoro Jr., and President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in Manila to broaden defense ties between the two nations, which are both treaty allies of the United States. On Wednesday, Koizumi will be among representatives from 17 countries, including India and Australia, who will travel to Paoay, in northwestern Philippines, for an annual combat exercise called Balikatan in which U.S., Philippine, Japanese and Canadian firepower will be used in a mock allied assault to sink a ship about 40 kilometers (25 miles) off the coast. The location for the live-fire drill faces the disputed South China Sea, which has been claimed virtually in its entirety by Beijing. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have also been involved in the long-simmering territorial standoffs, but confrontations have spiked in recent years between Chinese and Filipino coast guard and naval forces. Japan and China have separate disputes over uninhabited East China Sea islands known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China. "Secretary Teodoro and I reaffirmed our strong opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion in the East China Sea and the South China Sea," Koizumi told a press conference with Teodoro after their closed-door talks in Manila. In a joint statement, Koizumi and Teodoro expressed their serious concern over China's intensifying "coercive activities" in both disputed offshore areas. Chinese officials did not immediately comment on their remarks, but have previously accused the Philippines of allowing countries led by the U.S. to "gang up" against China and contain its rise. The Philippines and Japan signed a pact in 2024 allowing their forces to stage large-scale combat drills. The Reciprocal Access Agreement paved the way for Japan to deploy 1,400 military

personnel to become regular participants in the exercises called Balikatan. U.S., Filipino and other allied forces annually take part in Balikatan — the Tagalog word for shoulder-to-shoulder — to brace for security contingencies and deter China's increasing assertiveness in the region. During the Paoay drills, Japanese forces will fire two volleys of Type 88 missiles to sink a decommissioned World War II-era Philippine navy warship, Philippine marine Col. Dennis Hernandez told The Associated Press, adding that Marcos plans to watch the live-fire maneuvers via video in Manila. Before reaching the Philippines, Koizumi visited the Indonesian capital Jakarta and signed a defense cooperation agreement Monday with Indonesia's Defense Secretary Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin. Japan has bolstered its offensive capability with long-range missiles to attack enemy targets from a distance, a major break from its post-World War II principle limiting the use of force to self-defense. Japan scrapped a ban on lethal weapons exports on April 21, another major change in its postwar pacifist policy as Japan seeks to build up its arms industry in response to growing Chinese aggression in the region. Lifting the ban allows Japan to consider the transfer to the Philippines of up to six used Japanese destroyers of the Abukuma-class, which can be utilized for patrols and detecting aerial, sea surface and undersea threats, Hernandez said. The details of the potential exchange have yet to be negotiated. While allies led by the U.S. and Australia welcomed Japan's updated policy, China criticized the change. China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said last month that the global community, including China, will "resolutely resist Japan's reckless moves toward a new type of militarism." Aaron Favila in Manila, Philippines and Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo contributed to this report.

- [No winners in Ultra Lotto 6/58, 6/49 Lotto, 6/42 Lotto draws for May 5, 2026](#) (2026-05-05 15:08)

There were no winners in the Ultra Lotto 6/58 on Tuesday night, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said. The winning combination for the Ultra Lotto 6/58 was 1-58-25-43-26-16, with a jackpot prize of P76,305,973,15. There were no winners in the 6/49 Lotto on Tuesday night, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said. The winning combination for the 6/49 Lotto was 44-3-8-31-6-49, with a jackpot prize of P40,607,323,57. There were no winners in the 6/42 Lotto on Tuesday night, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said. The winning combination for the 6/42 Lotto was 31-28-19-3-2-4, with a jackpot prize of P10,000,000,00.

- [Recto hits back at "bitter brat" Leviste](#) (2026-05-05 15:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The verbal tussle between Executive Secretary Ralph Recto and Batangas 1st District Rep. Leandro Leviste continues as the former unloaded one accusation after another against the neophyte lawmaker. In a lengthy social media post, Recto noted how, amid the problems the country is facing, he wanted to hold back from reacting to Leviste's claim but felt compelled to speak up to debunk his so-called lies. "But you can only fight a natural born liar with truth. And in relentless baseless slander, there is also a limit to restraint," he said in English and Filipino. Recto alleged that Leviste had offered P400 million

during an initial meeting to help persuade a political rival to withdraw from the election race, followed by a separate offer of up to P1 billion for his wife, Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto to give way to him. The Palace official said he rejected this as this is wrong and “insulting”. What prevented him from exposing Leviste was his respect for his mother and former colleague in the upper house, Senator Loren Legarda. “His mother knows that I didn’t like this conversation, so please apologize to me. In his twisted mind, everything is for sale: people, honor, position,” Recto said, and also claimed that Leviste had a massive vote-buying spree which propelled him to victory in last year’s polls. Apart from the alleged bribery, Leviste is also said to be the mastermind behind a campaign to discredit him. “He is reportedly giving away money to discredit me because of his lust for power and attention. He is also reportedly running AI operations, using a factory of lies, and running troll farms, and doing crowd business – to discredit members of the Cabinet and the administration,” Recto said. Leviste’s public tirades against him, Recto asserted, is a ploy to divert the public’s attention from the P24 billion he owes the government for failed and undelivered solar power projects. “This is a bitter brat. Prone to tantrums, even badmouthing the woman who gave birth to him in front of many people. In my thirty years of service, I have only now encountered someone like this—more savage, more cunning, more deceitful, and more willing to set aside the truth for personal gain,” Recto said. He is a deranged and dangerous person who will even skin his loved ones, and use their skin to drumbeat his empty achievements to feed his narcissism. He is the leading national inventor of lies, and in a desperate move to escape accountability, is resorting to lies to divert the issue from his misdeeds,” he added.

- [A father’s promise kept](#) (2026-05-05 14:58)

A father’s word is his bond. But a promise only becomes a legacy when it is kept through the years, and through every burden and test. For Dante Arevalo Ang, DAA, that promise began with The Manila Times. It was made on Aug. 8, 2001, when he took over as publisher and chairman of the country’s oldest existing English-language newspaper, by then a 102-year-old institution that had lived through war, dictatorship, closure, rebirth and political upheaval. It was not a stable acquisition, or a glittering prize waiting to be displayed. By the time DAA — as he was known across journalism and political circles — took over, the once-revered broadsheet had passed through turbulent years and shifting hands. The name still carried history, but The Manila Times itself needed saving. DAA knew all that. He also knew that in those years, every change in media ownership was read against the politics of the day. His long association with then-president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo — whose political ascent he helped shape as one of the country’s most formidable public relations minds — made his purchase of The Times easy to question from the outside. But those of us who saw him then knew that the promise he made mattered more than any speculation around him. He was in it for the long run; he would keep the paper going, never miss a payroll, and bring The Manila Times back to its former glory. For almost 25 years, until his death this week, that promise did not waver. DAA died at Manila Doctors Hospital, surrounded by family and love. He was 83. To the public, he was a publisher, journalist, public relations practitioner, educator, public servant and institution-builder. To his

children, he was their beloved father. To those of us who spent our professional lives with The Manila Times, he became one too. And like the best fathers, he was not a man of grand words alone. He kept his word in the only way that mattered. He stayed. The paper he chose to save DAA had never doubted the value of what he had taken on. “The Manila Times is priceless — it is the keeper of our Filipino heritage, a perpetual time capsule in plain sight,” he once said of what he called his “prime property.” But heritage alone could not pay salaries, print newspapers or restore trust. In a lecture to journalism students at The Manila Times College (TMTc) — the institution he would later found to help train the next generation of media practitioners — DAA recalled that the paper he bought had accumulated huge debts, including unpaid workers’ salaries. “My lawyer advised me to declare bankruptcy and close down the paper and revive it after two months just to avoid the payables,” he told the students. Instead, DAA chose to face the people the paper owed. “I talked to each employee and promised to pay each of them in installment,” he continued. One employee, he recalled, had collectibles amounting to P500,000, which DAA paid after a few months. The supplier of ink and paper had a bill of P60 million. He paid that too. Most important to him, the company never missed a payroll deadline under his management. For DAA, meeting payroll was never just about keeping a company running. He knew what a salary meant to the people who depended on it, because long before he became the man who could save The Times, he had known what it was to have very little. A Las Piñas boy through and through, DAA often looked back on those early years without shame or self-pity. “At 10 years old, I started to dream despite poverty,” he once said.

“I went to school without shoes, but I did not feel bad, never jealous of other children. I lived with our parish priest in the convent. I was awake as early as 5:30 a.m. for the morning Mass, and at 8 p.m., my only study time, I was studying how to type.” He would leave the convent and become a salesman before finding his way to The Manila Chronicle and ABS-CBN, where he took on whatever work came his way — coffee server, clerk, drama talent, disc jockey, newscaster and advertising salesman. When martial law was declared, he found himself jobless and later returned to work as an account executive, earning P600 a month. That discipline and that refusal to be defeated by circumstance never left him. “TMT is a triumph of the human spirit,” he told journalism students. “I dreamed. Dreaming is the start of success.” The making of a publisher DAA’s fascination with newspapers began long before he owned one. As a young boy, he would visit an uncle who worked at La Vanguardia, the Spanish-language newspaper owned by the Roces clan. His family needed help from relatives then, and those visits, born of necessity, left an impression that would follow him for the rest of his life. As his son Dante “Klink” Ang II, former Times chairman and president and now chairman of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, would recall, after his father began a career in radio and developed a flair for writing, “It seemed natural that he would gravitate toward publishing when he saved up enough money to be an entrepreneur.” That road first took him through smaller publications: a monthly tennis magazine, weekly tabloids and eventually Kabayan, a nationally circulated Filipino-language broadsheet. Unlike the more sensational tabloids of the time, Kabayan carried straightforward, incisive reporting, with no salacious photographs and no tabloid shortcuts. It was already a clue to the kind of publisher he wanted to be. When DAA later had to choose between sustaining Kabayan and The Manila Times, he chose The Times because

he understood the weight of its name. “I knew I cannot sustain two newspapers,” he said. “I wanted to continue with The Times because I am aware of its brand. It came to a point that I borrowed P100 million. I had the courage because I knew what I wanted to accomplish.” There was a full-circle quality to his return to Intramuros, too. In later years, DAA would acquire the building where The Times and TMTC shared space. Family recollection places it near the building tied to their patriarch’s early working years at the Chronicle and ABS-CBN, while others believe it is the very same one. Either way, the meaning is clear: he had come back to the old district not as the young man still finding his way, but as the publisher building something meant to last. A window and a door “A window on the past and a door to the future.” That was how DAA described The Manila Times, and it revealed the balance he wanted the paper to keep. He honored history, but he was never trapped by it. However distinguished its name, a newspaper still had to keep proving its reason to exist. “Our mission, then, is to inform clearly and accurately, to reflect on great decisions and events, to arouse the intellect, to excite curiosity and wonder, to honor the past and pave the way to the future, but always with the aim of sharing with our readers and advertisers the joys and sorrows, the triumphs and the defeats that are the stuff of our daily lives,” he said. For DAA, that mission began with truth. “Journalism is about truthful information,” he once wrote. “Journalism informs. It aims to move people to come to an informed decision or perception of ideas or events. It contributes to societal good. It provokes public discussion on the relevant issues of the day.” He was just as clear about press freedom. “Press freedom is the freedom to express one’s views or actions, either in agreement with or contrary to something,” he wrote. “Press freedom does not mean freedom to malign, freedom to write falsehoods, freedom to twist or bend the facts.” At The Times, he wanted enterprise-driven investigative stories, solid political and business reporting, and columns that did more than react to the news. He was especially proud of the paper’s Opinion pages, which he described as “ruminative and reflective,” going deeper into the meaning of the news and the motives of those who made it. He did not even mind when columnists locked horns with one another in print. “Let them fight!” he would say laughing, so long as they gave readers not noise, but arguments worth thinking about. His idea of the future also went beyond the daily paper. Through TMTC, he helped turn the newsroom into a training ground for young journalists. At one graduation, he said the college was founded on the belief that Journalism and Mass Communication could be taught through a modern, hands-on curriculum “in preparing students for the challenging profession of serving our countrymen.” His vision later moved into digital and broadcast. The Times strengthened its online platforms and eventually launched The Manila Times TV, a realization of a dream he had held since high school at St. Joseph’s Academy in Las Piñas. For a man who loved print and whose deep voice belonged naturally to radio, these were not departures from tradition. They were ways of carrying The Times beyond his own watch. A life of service Beyond The Times, DAA’s career moved through journalism, public relations, education, business and public service. He held a Journalism degree from Lyceum of the Philippines, earned his MBA magna cum laude from Colegio de San Juan de Letran, received his Doctorate in Business Administration from Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, and completed a short course in English for Journalism at the University of Pennsylvania in the United States. When public service

called, DAA entrusted the day-to-day leadership of The Times first to his son, Klink and now to his daughter, Anna Marie Ang-Thompson, as chief executive officer. Through these transitions, DAA remained chairman emeritus, even as his work continued across media, education, business and public life. Over the years, he also served as chairman of The Manila Times College, president and chief executive officer of Grande Realty Corp., and chairman and president of Dante A. Ang & Associates. His government service included his work as senior presidential consultant on public relations, chairman of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas with Cabinet rank, Consul A.H. for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and special envoy of the President for international public relations. His recognitions included the Presidential Award, “Order of Lakandula with a rank of Hero” by the Republic of the Philippines, the “Ulirang Ama” Award from the Ulirang Ama Foundation, Outstanding Alumnus of Colegio de San Juan de Letran and Outstanding Alumnus of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. Yet for a man who had achieved so much, DAA had long made clear that success could not be measured only by money, power or position. “Success is a sense of fulfillment, a feeling of happiness and satisfaction, that you have achieved something and that you have contributed something,” he once said. By that measure, his life was full. The family he built. For all the weight of his titles, DAA’s deepest identity remained that of a father. He was “Papa” to seven children, and he had great faith in each of them. That faith showed in the way he allowed each of his brood to find their place in the work he built — Klink and Anna Marie in leadership, Michael in the Honorary Consulate of Jordan in Manila, Monica in TMTC, Joanna in TMT Foods, Denise, who had also been part of The Times through marketing, and Claire, an aspiring engineer. But DAA’s idea of family was never limited to bloodline. Those who worked with him long enough understood that The Times was not only an office to him, nor even just the paper he had rescued. It was a house he had fought to keep standing, and everyone inside it had a responsibility to help keep it worthy of its name. That was why he could be both exacting and deeply kind. He expected accountability, especially from those entrusted with sections, stories and decisions. But those expectations did not come from distance. They came from a father’s way of forming people — firm when needed, generous when deserved and never careless with trust. Many years ago, when this writer was still a much younger editor, a mistake appeared in the section she handled. It was not necessarily hers in the direct sense, but DAA made clear in a meeting what every editor has to learn sooner or later: the buck stops with you. So she did what she knew he expected. She traced what had happened, wrote him a letter, owned the mistake all the same and apologized. She promised the section would do better. As DAA often did, he returned the letter in his distinct fountain pen handwriting. At the top, he had written only this: “Thank you, Tessa, you are my family.” Things like these did not go unnoticed by DAA. A letter of accountability, a promise to do better, a gesture that showed the work mattered — he saw them. And when he wrote back, even with a single line, it meant more than he probably knew. That was DAA. He could correct you without making you feel cast out. He expected accountability, but he did not withhold affection. He taught discipline without taking away dignity. For this writer and for so many who worked under him, that was DAA: exacting, watchful, but never without heart. He made you understand the weight of the work, and then, in his own hand, reminded you that you still belonged to the family he had promised to keep. A life to celebrate. DAA had told his children that

when the time came, he did not want people to be sad. He wanted a celebration of life. He even said he wanted Elvis Presley Christmas songs played at his wake — a request so wonderfully DAA that those who knew him can almost hear his deep voice making it, with that mix of authority, mischief and warmth. It is a beautiful final instruction from a man who loved laughter, music and family, and who knew how to make even goodbye carry his unmistakable spirit. And so the family he loved, and the Times family he built, will gather to honor him. His wake will be held today, Wednesday, May 6, from 10 a.m. onwards at Manila Memorial Park - Sucat, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Barangay BF Homes, Parañaque City, Metro Manila. The funeral Mass will be at 3 p.m. on Friday, May 8, 2026, at The Diocesan Shrine and Parish of Saint Joseph, also known as Bamboo Organ Church, in his hometown Las Piñas. Besides his children, DAA is survived by his daughters-in-law, Neth, wife of Klink, and Jazzy, wife of Michael; his sons-in-law, Ken, husband of Anna Marie, Christopher, husband of Monica; his grandchildren, Jose and Dana, Tres, Mija and Mei-Mei, and Linus; and his siblings, Resty, Pablo, Lito, Nene and Mercedes. But there is another family he leaves behind, too — the one that still walks into The Times every day, continuing the work he fought so hard to keep alive. He leaves behind a multimedia institution more committed than ever to uphold the principles he lived by, a school that still teaches, children who carry his work forward, and a promise that held to the very end. That is Dante Arevalo Ang's legacy. The Manila Times is still here and thriving. Thank you, DAA. Rest now, knowing that your promise is in the hands of the family you built. Sources: The Manila Times archives; Ang family; The Manila Times management; "Success is a sense of fulfilment," Nov. 10, 2015; "To honor the past and pave the way to the future," Oct. 10, 2016; "Visionary without pause," Oct. 11, 2019; "Reaffirming The Manila Times legacy amid innovation," Oct. 12, 2020; "Be good, analytical journalists, 22 TMTC grads challenged," April 26, 2015.

• [Kids' rights group decries socmed ban](#) (2026-05-05 14:43)

Child Rights Network (CRN) Philippines on Tuesday had urged lawmakers to "rethink" proposals that seek to ban the use of social media for children. In a statement, CRN cited growing skepticism in Australia, where the policy is being implemented for children below the age of 16 and that children need to be protected online and that banning the use of social media could create more problems than solve them.. "While we recognize the intention of the bills filed seeking to ban children's access to social media, we believe that a blanket social media ban is not the solution. CRN believes that what should be prioritized is making the online environment safer and the social media platforms less addictive by design," CRN Convener and Executive Director of the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) Au Quilala said. "These are features that directly shape how children experience social media, the same ones children themselves have expressed concerns about. By strengthening safeguards and focusing on these features, the law can stay effective even as new internet intermediaries emerge," she added. Citing opinion from stakeholders, CRN said that the government "could look into strengthening safeguards for children and regulating harmful social media features, such as visibility in public search results, infinite scroll, late-night notifications, and algorithms that push content designed to drive long engagement, such as

‘rage bait’ content.” “CRN shared that it recently held conversations with key experts in Australia who closely followed their law from proposal to enforcement. One major issue was that children were not consulted. Adults made decisions without hearing from the very group the law is meant to protect – the children,” the group shared. “CRN is firm in the recommendation that children from various sub-sectors in Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, and BARMM must be consulted, and that a ban or a prohibition-heavy approach may not serve the best interests of Filipino children,” it added. “As seen in Australia, children do not just stop using social media because of a ban. They find ways around the rules, sometimes with the help of their own parents, or just move to other platforms,” it also said. The group said in Australia, the ban removed 4.8 million accounts of those under the age of 16, while seven out of 10 children still have social media accounts. “What this shows is that the law is not fully working in practice. If the Philippines follows the same approach as Australia, it could end up with a law that looks strict on paper, but is widely ignored in reality,” Quilala said. “Children should not be blocked from the digital world. They should be able to access it safely in ways that are appropriate to their age,” she added. Quilala also said that as a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, “the Philippines is bound by law to uphold the rights of children to survival, development, protection, and – especially in case of the proposed social media ban – participation.” The children’s rights group called on lawmakers to focus and prevent internet abuse. “CRN encourages lawmakers to strengthen programs that teach children, young people, and parents how to use the internet safely. These programs help people make better choices online. Any regulation should be matched with digital safety education and training for parents,” the group said. Existing community programs from the government also include the Family Development Sessions, Parent Effectiveness Services, and the Parents-Teachers Associations in schools, which the CRN said will require the Department of Information and Communications Technology in coordinating with relevant agencies, which includes the Department of Social Welfare and Development for the integration with the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program. “This could help equip parents and caregivers with the tools they need to guide their children, and ensure that online safety starts at home,” Quilala said. Several countries have imposed bans or have pending legislation on social media use for children, including the Philippines. Australia began by implementing the ban in December of last year.

- [Zelenskyy slams Russia's ‘utter cynicism’ as strikes kill 5 in Ukraine before announced ceasefire](#) (2026-05-05 14:27)

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian drone and missile strikes targeting Ukraine’s power grid during the night killed at least five people and wounded 39 others, Ukrainian authorities said Tuesday, less than a day before Kyiv said that it would enact a ceasefire and three days before Moscow promised its own pause in hostilities. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy rebuked Moscow for what he said was its “utter cynicism” in launching the attacks after Russia announced a unilateral ceasefire over two days later this week while it marks the 81st anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II. “Russia could cease fire at any moment, and this would stop the war

and our responses,” Zelenskyy said in a post on X. “Peace is needed, and real steps are needed to achieve it. Ukraine will act in kind.” The proposal to stop fighting follows a familiar pattern of Russia declaring short unilateral ceasefires during the war timed to various holidays, most recently Orthodox Easter. Those suspensions of combat don’t produce any tangible results amid deep mistrust between Moscow and Kyiv more than four years after Russia launched an all-out invasion of its neighbor. U.S.-led diplomatic efforts to stop the war have come to nothing. The Russian Defense Ministry declared a unilateral ceasefire in Ukraine for Friday and Saturday, but said that it would strike back at the country, if it tries to disrupt the festivities on Victory Day, which Russia marks annually on May 9. Zelenskyy replied that Ukraine would observe a ceasefire beginning at the end of Tuesday and would respond in kind to Russia’s actions from that moment on. He didn’t put an end date on the move. Ukrainian leader expands Gulf cooperation Zelenskyy was in Bahrain on Tuesday where he met with King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, proposing a bilateral drone defense partnership amid the Iran war. The Ukrainian leader said that he offered to share Ukraine’s air defense expertise with Bahrain, drawing a parallel between Iranian attacks on Gulf states and Russia’s daily aerial strikes on Ukrainian territory, which often use Shahed drones initially developed by Iran. Zelenskyy said last month that Ukrainian officials are helping Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and Jordan with drone expertise and air defense. Ukraine’s power grid targeted again Russian forces fired 11 Iskander-M ballistic missiles and 164 strike drones at Ukraine overnight from Monday to Tuesday, including a jet-powered Shahed drone variant, the Ukrainian Air Force said. Air defense units stopped 149 drones and one missile, but others got through, it said. Two ballistic missiles failed to reach their targets, the air force said without elaborating. Russia has repeatedly hammered Ukraine’s energy infrastructure during the war, which began on Feb. 24, 2022. It hit natural gas production facilities in Ukraine’s central Poltava and northeastern Kharkiv regions, state energy company Naftogaz Group said. Since the start of the year, Naftogaz facilities have come under attack 107 times, the company said. Zelenskyy said that the Poltava attack was “especially vile,” because Russia launched a second missile at the same target when emergency rescuers were working at the scene. Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko said that Russia’s main targets were energy facilities, oil and gas infrastructure, railways and industrial sites, although the attacks also damaged homes, businesses and the transportation network. Russia’s ceasefire proposals “remain only statements,” Svyrydenko said. Russian territory hit by Ukrainian cruise missiles Ukraine also kept up the pace of its long-range attacks on Russian rear areas, apparently aiming at more oil facilities in an effort to further disrupt Moscow’s war economy. Russia’s Defense Ministry said that its forces destroyed 289 Ukrainian drones overnight in 18 Russian regions. Drones were also intercepted over the occupied Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014, and over the Azov Sea, it said. During the night, Ukraine launched its F-5 Flamingo cruise missiles at targets, including military-industrial complex facilities in Cheboksary, located more than 1,500 kilometers (900 miles) away, Zelenskyy said. The plant supplied navigation components for the Russian navy, the missile industry, aviation and armored vehicles, he said. The regional health ministry said that a Ukrainian drone attack wounded three people in the city of Cheboksary. Ukrainian drones also attacked the Kirishi oil refinery in the Leningrad region close to St. Petersburg, sparking a blaze

in the town's industrial zone, local Gov. Alexander Drozdenko said. Drozdenko said on social media that 29 Ukrainian drones had been shot down during the attack. No casualties were reported. Ground robot operations Ukraine doubled its midrange strikes on Russia in April compared with March and quadrupled them compared with February, according to a monthly battlefield report from Ukrainian Defense Minister Mykhailo Fedorov published Tuesday. The midrange attacks were focused on enemy warehouses, command posts, air defense systems and supply lines up to about 100 miles (160 kilometers) behind the front line. Also, Ukrainian ground robots completed 10,281 resupply and evacuation missions in April, an average of almost 343 per day, according to Fedorov. It wasn't possible to independently confirm the claims.

- [Philippines urged to boost Japan-led energy ties](#) (2026-05-05 14:24)

THE Philippines should accelerate its participation in the Japan-led Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) while steering clear of energy agreements with “coercive powers” that could undermine national interests, according to think tank Stratbase Institute. The institute issued the statement following the visit of Fumio Kishida, who served as special envoy of Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and as Supreme Adviser to the Parliamentary Association of AZEC. The visit coincided with efforts to deepen Philippines-Japan cooperation on energy transition and security. Stratbase Institute President Victor Andres Manhit urged the government to expedite energy projects under AZEC and strengthen partnerships with “like-minded” countries such as Japan, instead of entering into arrangements that could expose Manila to geopolitical pressure. “Any energy arrangement that comes with implicit or explicit concessions in the West Philippine Sea, or that turns a blind eye to ongoing coercion there, directly undermines the country's sovereign and national interests,” the institute said. Manhit was referring to discussions on possible joint energy exploration with China in the West Philippine Sea, which Beijing continues to claim despite a 2016 arbitral ruling invalidating its expansive claims in the South China Sea. AZEC, a regional initiative led by Japan, promotes cooperation on clean energy transition, energy security, and decarbonization. Manhit described it as a “credible and forward-looking framework” that supports energy security, economic growth, and climate goals simultaneously. The institute said the Philippines' participation in AZEC comes at a critical time as countries grapple with a global energy crunch driven by conflicts in the Middle East, prompting a shift toward more resilient and sustainable energy systems. Manhit also warned against proposals from “untrustworthy nations” that could carry geopolitical risks, citing continued Chinese activities in the West Philippine Sea, including reported harassment of Philippine vessels and disregard of international law. In contrast, he said Japan's approach to cooperation is anchored on transparency, respect for international law, and capacity-building — principles the Philippines should prioritize in its energy partnerships. During his visit, Kishida met with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Energy Secretary Sharon Garin to discuss deeper AZEC collaboration. The Philippines and Japan are also set to co-host the 4th AZEC Leaders' Meeting in November, which Manhit described as a recognition of Manila's growing strategic role in the Indo-Pacific. The meeting also coincided with the 70th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Japan.

- ‘The Lost Boys’ and ‘Schmigadoon’ earn 12 Tony nominations each to lead the field (2026-05-05 14:16)

NEW YORK — “The Lost Boys” and “Schmigadoon!” each earned a leading 12 Tony Award nominations Tuesday, as nominators also made June Squibb the oldest Tony-nominated actor in history at 96. Danny Burstein is now the most-nominated male actor in Tony history. “The Lost Boys,” an adaptation of a 1987 teen movie vampire thriller, and “Schmigadoon!,” an adaptation of an Apple TV series that gently mocks Broadway musicals, were followed by a revival of “Ragtime,” a big, soaring musical celebrating early 20th-century America, with 11 nominations, and “Death of a Salesman,” Arthur Miller’s masterpiece that looks at the unraveling of the American Dream, starring Nathan Lane, which nabbed nine nods. Twenty-four shows got at least one nomination across the 26 Tony categories, including “Cats: The Jellicle Ball,” which reimagines the 1980s classic feline musical into a celebration of queer ballroom culture, and a revival of “Chess,” the Cold War-set love triangle between two chess grand masters and the woman who loved both. The best new musical crown will be between “The Lost Boys,” “Schmigadoon!,” “Titanique,” a camp musical comedy that reimagines the 1997 megahit movie “Titanic,” and “Two Strangers (Carry a Cake Across New York),” an opposites-attract rom-com set during a New York City weekend. The best new play nominees are the John Lithgow-led “Giant,” which explores accusations of antisemitism against children’s author Roald Dahl; “Liberation,” about a consciousness-raising women’s group in 1970s Ohio that won the Pulitzer Prize for drama on Monday; “The Balusters,” a wry comedy about a small-town neighborhood association that descends into chaos over whether to install a stop sign; and “Little Bear Ridge Road,” about a struggling writer who returns to his rural hometown to settle his dead father’s estate. “The Fear of 13,” the true story of a man who spent more than two decades on death row, didn’t get any acting nods, despite starring Adrien Brody and Tessa Thompson in their Broadway debut. Lea Michele will still be seeking her first Tony nomination after having missed out for her work on “Chess.” Squibb is now the oldest Tony-nominated actor in history, besting the record set by Lois Smith, who was 89 when she was nominated in 2020 for “The Inheritance.” Squibb’s Broadway resume reaches back to a stint in the original production of “Gypsy” in 1960 with Ethel Merman. Burstein becomes the most-nominated male actor in Tony history with nine nods after his work in “Marjorie Prime,” beating the record set by Jason Robards. Kelli O’Hara got her ninth career nomination for a revival of the comedy “Fallen Angels,” tying her with Rosemary Harris for third on the all-time acting nominations list. A trio of actors from the hit TV series “The Bear” struck out in their Broadway debuts this season — Ayo Edebiri in a revival of “Proof” and Jon Bernthal and Ebon Moss-Bachrach who both appeared in “Dog Day Afternoon,” an adaptation of Sidney Lumet’s 1975 bank robbing drama. Daniel Radcliffe secured a nomination for “Every Brilliant Thing,” a one-person show that explores the antidotes to depression. The best play revival category is stacked with well-received work: “Every Brilliant Thing”; “Death of a Salesman”; “Oedipus,” a modern retelling of Sophocles’ classic tragedy set on election night in a modern campaign office; “Becky Shaw,” Gina Gionfriddo’s dark comedy about a newlywed couple who decide to play matchmaker; and “Fallen Angels,” Noël Coward’s alcohol-fueled

competition between two upper-crust ladies over the attention of a former lover. Lithgow, who has two Tonys already, will get his third if he beats leading actor in a play nominees Lane, Radcliffe, Mark Strong in “Oedipus” and Will Harrison from “Punch,” which looks at restorative justice following the death of a man from a physical punch. Rose Byrne, the “If I Had Legs I’d Kick You” star who plays one of those upper-crust ladies in “Fallen Angels,” secured a nomination for best actress in a play, becoming the 22nd actor in history to be Oscar- and Tony-nominated in the same year. Her co-star, Kelli O’ Hara, also secured a nod, as did Lesley Manville for “Oedipus,” Susannah Flood for “Liberation” and Carrie Coon for her work in her husband Tracy Letts’ play “Bug.” Best actor in a musical nominees include Joshua Henry and Brandon Uranowitz, both from “Ragtime,” Sam Tutty in “Two Strangers,” Nicholas Christopher in “Chess” and Luke Evans from “The Rocky Horror Show.” On the women’s side, the nominees are: Caissie Levy from “Ragtime,” Marla Mindelle for “Titanique,” Christiani Pitts from “Two Strangers,” Sara Chase from “Schmigadoon!” and Stephanie Hsu in “The Rocky Horror Show.” Others who missed out this year include Bobby Cannavale, Byrne’s partner, who starred in a revival of “Art” with Neil Patrick Harris and James Corden that was snubbed by the nominators. “Bill & Ted” stars Keanu Reeves and Alex Winters reuniting for a revival of “Waiting for Godot,” were also left off, although Brandon J. Dirden was nominated for a featured role. The Tony Awards will be handed out June 7 at Radio City Music Hall during a telecast hosted by Pink. The awards will air live on CBS and stream on Paramount+. Last year’s show — hosted by “Wicked” star Cynthia Erivo — drew 4.85 million viewers to CBS, its largest broadcast audience in six years, according to Nielsen.

- [House okays bill expanding 4Ps](#) (2026-05-05 13:23)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives approved on third and final reading House Bill 8647 which aimed to expand the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). “We are happy that as an author back then at the Senate of Republic Act No. 11310 which institutionalized the 4Ps, we were now able to pass at the House the strengthening and further expansion of this program which has already helped million of our countrymen”, Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima said in Filipino and English in a statement. “It is clear: With support for the education of our children and also the development of the skills of our parents, they are given enough ability to improve the quality of their lives even if they have already graduated from the program. We are confident that in strengthening and further expanding the program, our 4Ps beneficiaries will have more success stories ...”, de Lima said. A statement said the bill sought to expand the law’s policy goals by adding “socio-economic resilience, adult education through the Alternative Learning System, entrepreneurship training, livelihood support and a transition program for graduating beneficiaries.” House Majority Leader and Ilocos Norte 1st District Rep. Ferdinand Alexander Marcos said in the statement that under Speaker Faustino Dy III, “the House is making sure support reaches families in a way that is practical, humane and built for the long term”.

- [House refers impeachment articles to rules panel](#) (2026-05-05 13:23)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives on Tuesday evening referred to its Committee on Rules the impeachment articles endorsed by the House Committee on Justice against Vice President Sara Duterte. The Rules Committee is responsible for setting the Order and Calendar of Business in the chamber. The House plenary is expected to vote on Monday, May 11, on whether to transmit the impeachment articles to the Senate for trial. Under the 1987 Constitution, at least one-third of all House members—currently equivalent to 106 lawmakers—must vote either to affirm the committee’s favorable resolution with the Articles of Impeachment or to override a contrary resolution. In a media interview on Monday, Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima said the committee approved four impeachment articles. These reportedly include allegations of misuse or abuse of confidential funds, unexplained wealth, and bribery. Another article concerns Duterte’s alleged “kill remarks” against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, and Leyte 1st District Rep. and former House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez. Duterte has denied making any assassination threat. In her response to the complaints, she argued that they failed to present “any shred of proof” that a contract to kill existed, adding that complainants relied on “exaggerated conclusions dressed up as fact.” “Absent any statement of ultimate facts in any of these impeachment complaints, there is nothing for respondent to answer,” her reply stated. She said she only admits to statements regarding her election as Vice President, her assumption of office, her appointment as Secretary of Education, and her prior roles as mayor and vice mayor of Davao City. “All other allegations, including the annexes and so-called evidence attached to the impeachment complaints, are specifically denied for being false, misleading, impertinent, and mere conclusions of fact and law,” her response added.

- [NSC: No return to peace talks with Reds](#) (2026-05-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Security Council (NSC) on Tuesday rejected any move to revive peace negotiations with the Communist Party of the Philippines–New People’s Army–National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF), saying that such talks no longer reflect the will or interests of the Filipino people. In a statement, National Security Adviser Eduardo Oban Jr. backed Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., affirming that reopening talks with what he described as a “spent, isolated, and criminal armed group” would undermine hard-won gains in peace and development. This stemmed from the call of former peace negotiators batting for a resumption of peace talks in the wake of the April 19 encounter between the military and insurgents in Toboso, Negros Occidental that left 19 people dead. “The Filipino people are not asking for a return to negotiations that have historically been abused,” said Oban, who is also the vice chairman of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac). “What they demand are tangible improvements in their lives—security, livelihoods, justice, and protection from violence,” he added. Oban said that decades of negotiations with the CPP-NPA-NDF have failed to produce lasting peace. Instead, he said these engagements were repeatedly used by the insurgent movement as a “tactical instrument for recovery,” allowing it to regroup and sustain its operations while projecting political legitimacy. Oban recalled that since the time of former president Corazon Aquino, successive peace initiatives

were exploited to rebuild underground networks and maintain influence in vulnerable communities, even as armed units allegedly continued extortion, recruitment, and violent activities. The NSC chief warned that reviving national-level talks at this stage would only provide a “veneer of credibility” to an insurgency that has significantly declined on the ground. He said that communities once affected by conflict have increasingly rejected the NPA and are now embracing governance, development, and democratic participation. “These gains were not negotiated in foreign venues or handed down through formal talks,” Oban said. “They were built by communities themselves—through courage, partnership with government, and a shared commitment to move beyond decades of armed struggle,” he added. Instead of returning to national negotiations, Oban highlighted the government’s shift toward localized peacebuilding efforts through mechanisms such as the NTF-Elcac and the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity, working alongside local government units. These initiatives, he said, focus on addressing the root causes of conflict at the community level—delivering basic services, strengthening institutions, and supporting reintegration programs for former rebels. “The door remains open for individuals who sincerely renounce armed struggle,” Oban said. “But the State cannot and must not elevate criminal and terrorist activities into a legitimate political cause through another round of national-level talks.” The NSC chief underscored that the government’s priority was the protection and welfare of its citizens, not the rehabilitation of armed groups that continue to threaten peace. “The Philippine State is not at war with its people,” Oban said. “It is protecting its people from those who persist in spoiling the peace.”

• [Imee Marcos calls for amendment of Epira law to stop Meralco’s inflated charges](#)
(2026-05-05 11:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Imee Marcos called for the immediate amendment of the Electric Power Industry Reform (Epira) law to stop the exorbitant charges imposed by Meralco on its consumers. The senator deplored that consumers are reeling from rising fuel and food prices amid the oil crisis triggered by the Middle East war. “This isn’t just about following the law; it’s a matter of compassion for the people,” Marcos said in a statement. “In the middle of a crisis, it should be the big companies adjusting, not the consumers who are being bled dry by the high cost of electricity,” she said. Marcos, a member of the Senate Protect Committee, has joined several lawmakers in questioning Meralco’s “inflated” consumer charges that resulted in higher electricity bills. Senate President Vicente Sotto III earlier reaffirmed his long-standing advocacy for oil sector reforms and filed measures such as the proposed Total Repeal of Oil Deregulation Law and Senate Bill (SB) 1934, or the proposed Philippine Strategic Petroleum Reserve Act. Sotto cited years of legislative efforts aimed at protecting Filipino consumers from volatile fuel prices. He said that his position on oil taxation has remained firm for decades. Marcos raised the need to permanently remove unjust pass-on charges and the “compounded calculation” of system loss. She also called on the Energy Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy to investigate Meralco’s alleged inflated charges. Marcos also questioned pass-on charges such as lifeline rates and senior discounts, which, although useful

for some sectors, should not be shouldered by the energy consumers. “Meralco is the biggest utility [firm]. Can’t Meralco just absorb that instead of passing it on to other consumers?” she asked, referring to lifeline and senior discounts. “Why do the small people have to carry the burden for all these discounts?” Marcos said. She also slammed the imposition of value-added tax (VAT) on every component of the bill, including system loss and transmission, which further bloats the total amount. Marcos refuted Meralco’s justification that “summer demand” caused the high bills, noting that electricity consumption actually dropped from 2.711 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) in February to 2.644 billion kWh this April. Sen. Risa Hontiveros on Monday filed SB 2076, which will remove the VAT on systems loss charges currently being passed on to consumers’ monthly electricity bills. The senator said SB 2076 will amend the National Internal Revenue Code to exclude systems loss charges from transactions subject to VAT. Under the bill, systems loss refers to “the difference between the electrical energy delivered to the distribution system (energy input) and the energy delivered to the residential household consumers (energy output).” She said Filipino consumers should no longer be made to carry the “double burden” of paying for VAT on top of the “already absurd” systems loss charges passed on by electric utilities. “We must immediately end this unfair arrangement, especially now that electricity costs are going up,” Hontiveros said in a statement. She said that VAT is a consumption tax on goods and services. “Systems loss charges — which represent losses in the distribution and delivery of electricity — are neither goods nor services purchased by power consumers.” “By removing the VAT on systems loss charges, we are not just making our tax policies more fair and just — we are also providing immediate relief to consumers facing higher electricity bills this summer season,” Hontiveros said. She said that the bill is only the first of her planned package of legislative measures to provide assistance to power consumers, especially low-income households, amid rising costs of basic commodities due to the Middle East war.

- [BOC seizes ₱136.92M smuggled goods](#) (2026-05-05 09:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs has intercepted 25 container vans loaded with misdeclared and illegal goods worth an estimated ₱136.92 million at the Port of Manila, marking another aggressive strike against smuggling operations. Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno said that what was declared as harmless plastic racks turned out to be a cache of undeclared imports—raising immediate red flags among customs examiners. A full physical inspection exposed a mix of regulated, prohibited, and undervalued goods, all packed inside shipments traced to a construction supplies trading firm and largely sourced from China. Among the most alarming finds were agricultural products, including rice and sugar valued at ₱18.134 million—items that directly impact local farmers and food security.

- [Data rollover bills can undermine affordable, promo-driven data — CitizenWatch PH](#) (2026-05-05 09:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The proposed data rollover bills could undermine the affordability and flexibility of prepaid mobile data offerings in the country if not carefully designed, a consumer

advocacy group warned on Tuesday. The CitizenWatch Philippines urged lawmakers to suspend deliberations and instead conduct broader consultations, saying the proposals would risk clashing with the structure of the country's promo-driven mobile data market, which is heavily reliant on short-term prepaid bundles offered by telecommunications companies. "Consumers should not lose paid internet data simply because of arbitrary expiration rules. That objective is valid and necessary," said CitizenWatch PH lead convenor Orlando Oxales. Any legislation must reflect market realities as telecommunications providers in the country largely depend on frequently changing promotional packages rather than fixed monthly subscription plans, Oxales said. "Broader consultations among lawmakers, regulators, consumer groups, and telecommunications providers are needed to ensure that the policy is workable and aligned with the realities of the Philippine mobile market," he said. While data rollover features are easier to implement in markets dominated by postpaid plans with fixed allocations, the advocacy group said the Philippine setup is centered on low-cost, short-duration promos that appeal to budget-conscious consumers.

- [PH, US fire Tomahawk missile for the first time](#) (2026-05-05 09:20)

MANILA, Philippines—For the first time, Philippine and US forces fired the Typhon missile system or Mid-Range Capability armed with the Tomahawk land attack missile on Tuesday, a significant feat in the Exercise Balikatan 41-2026, the Armed Forces of the Philippines confirmed. AFP Balikatan spokesman Col. Dennis Hernandez said this was the first time the MRC missile system was used in a live-fire exercise. It was staged from Tacloban Airport in Leyte, successfully hitting the target in Laur, Nueva Ecija - a 630-kilometer distance. "The weapon system that we used was the Typhon, the medium-range capable missile, armed with a Tomahawk missile designed to at least attack a land-based target which is around 805 to 1,500 kilometers," Col. Dennis Hernandez, Balikatan 2026 spokesman, told reporters. He clarified that the missile used in the exercise was an inert round which means it carries no explosive payload and was used to measure accuracy [rather] than destructive impact. "This is the first time that the Typhon MRC has been fired here in the Philippines," he said. The MRC used in the exercise was the same platform deployed to the Philippines in April 2024. The missile launch was part of the crossover of Salaknib Exercises through the Balikatan as participating troops continue simulating land-based scenarios of similar real-life situations.

- [Marcos orders release of P43B to support most vulnerable Filipinos](#) (2026-05-05 09:15)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has ordered the release of P43.18 billion to fund financial aid, food assistance, pensions and livelihood programs for vulnerable Filipinos, Malacañang said Tuesday. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said the funds, released by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and coursed through the Department of Social Welfare and Development, aimed to ensure the uninterrupted and immediate delivery of social protection services amid economic pressures. Of the total amount, Castro said that more than P36.8 billion has been allocated to the Protective Services for Individuals and Families in Difficult Circumstances program, which provides immediate assistance to individuals and

families in crisis. She said that over P3.4 billion has been earmarked for the Supplementary Feeding Program, which supports the nutritional needs of children enrolled in child development centers and supervised neighborhood playgroups. The Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens would receive more than P2 billion to ensure the continued monthly pension of elderly beneficiaries, Castro said. An additional P810 million has been allocated to the Sustainable Livelihood Program to support vulnerable and marginalized sectors in establishing long-term sources of income, she added.

- [Marcos confirms estrangement from sister Imee](#) (2026-05-05 05:15)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has confirmed his estrangement with older sister and Senator Imee Marcos, Malacañang said on Tuesday. In a press briefing, Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said the chief executive reacted to the lawmaker's earlier pronouncement that their relationship is "nonexistent" with the latter distancing herself from her brother and his family. "Yes, they haven't spoken for almost three years. She has not been attending family gatherings, family events," Castro said, citing her earlier conversation with Marcos. The senator recently said that she has not seen her brother for over a year and has not been attending reunions as it is "not comfortable" for her. Despite this, she said she continues to care for her brother and hopes he prioritizes his health. The Palace has repeatedly dismissed claims that the President has fallen seriously ill. Marcos even tagged as "liars" those who have been spreading misinformation about his medical condition.

- [Revilla's trial for malversation starts](#) (2026-05-05 03:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The trial of the malversation through falsification case filed against former senator Ramon Revilla Jr. and six other people before the Sandiganbayan started on Tuesday. The case stemmed from the alleged ghost project in Pandi, Bulacan. The prosecution presented Myra Torio and Jose Jayson Cruz as witnesses before the Sandiganbayan's Third Division where case was raffled off. The court's ruling on the bail petitions, including that of Revilla, is expected to be out soon. "We will not preempt what the court's assessment will be but we are very confident in our position," Reedy Anthony Balisi, one of Revilla's lawyers, said in an interview with reporters last Apr. 24. "From the time that this, you know, fiasco happened to the time that he was charged, to the time that he surrendered, to the time that we started the bail hearing, and now, culmination, last day of the bail hearing, what have we been saying ever since? There is no evidence that can link [former] senator Bong Revilla," Balisi said. Meanwhile, the trial of the graft case will resume this afternoon at 1:30 p.m. with SYMS contractor Sally Santos and Monica Louis Ocampo-Santos, who had served as a liaison officer of SYMS Construction, scheduled as prosecution witnesses.

- [PH posts 7.2% inflation rate in April, highest since March 2023](#) (2026-05-05 01:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Higher fuel prices, along with increased transport costs, pushed the country's inflation rate to 7.2 percent last month, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

reported on Tuesday. It was markedly higher than the 4.1 percent and 1.4 percent a month and year earlier. This is also higher than the 5.6 percent median forecast of The Manila Times' poll of economists, and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' estimate of 5.6 to 6.4 percent. This is the highest inflation rate recorded since March 2023 at 7.6 percent. Core inflation, which excludes select food and energy items, rose to 3.9 percent in April 2026, from 3.2 percent in the previous month. It was also higher than the 2.2 percent core inflation in March 2025. To date, headline and core inflation is still within the target at 3.9 percent and 3.2 percent, respectively.

- [Bishop-elect backs out of ordination in 'change of heart'](#) (2026-05-05 01:00)

MANILA, Philippines — A bishop-elect has withdrawn from his scheduled episcopal ordination for the Diocese of Tagbilaran set on May 26, citing a “change of heart.” In a statement Tuesday, Fr. Gerardo F. Saco Jr. announced his decision months after being appointed by Pope Leo XIV in March, following a period when the diocese had no sitting bishop. “After much prayer and careful discernment, I humbly inform the faithful of the Diocese of Tagbilaran of my decision not to proceed with my episcopal ordination scheduled on May 26, 2026,” Saco said in a statement. He added that his decision was influenced by his own “human limitations and inadequacies,” though he did not elaborate further.

- [Pagasa monitors 2 LPAs outside PAR; easterlies continue to prevail](#) (2026-05-04 22:45)

MANILA, Philippines – At least two low-pressure areas (LPAs) are being closely monitored, one of which may enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), the state-run weather agency said on Tuesday. Weather specialist Veronica Torres of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the first LPA was estimated at 1,085 kilometers (kms) east of northeastern Mindanao, while the second was at 2,585 kms – also in the same general location. Although the first LPA would be unlikely to develop into a tropical depression, it could enter PAR anytime Tuesday, Torres said. Citing the LPA's forecast track, the Pagasa forecaster said that it would likely bring rain over the Visayas and Mindanao by Thursday. Meanwhile, the second LPA, although still far from PAR, has been forecast to develop into a tropical depression over the next 24 to 48 hours. While it might enter PAR by the end of the week, it was not seen to directly hit the country in the next three to five days, Torres said in a 5 a.m. briefing. In the meantime, the national weather bureau said the easterlies would continue to prevail in most parts of the archipelago, bringing hot and humid weather. But the same weather system would be affecting the Zamboanga Peninsula and Palawan, bringing cloudy skies with scattered rain and thunderstorms. It would also bring partly cloudy to overcast skies over Metro Manila and the rest of the country, it added.

- [Wall Street drops from its records and oil prices jump after fighting flares in the Middle East](#) (2026-05-04 19:32)

NEW YORK — The U.S. stock market fell from its record heights Monday, while oil prices jumped following escalations in the Middle East that may undermine the ceasefire in the war with Iran. The S&P 500 sank 0.4%, coming off its latest all-time high. The Dow Jones Industrial

Average was down 561 points, or 1.1%, with an hour remaining in trading, and the Nasdaq composite was 0.2% lower. The action was stronger in the oil market, where the price for a barrel of Brent crude leaped 5.8% to settle at \$114.44. It jolted higher after the United Arab Emirates, a U.S. ally, said it came under attack by Iran for the first time since the ceasefire took hold in early April. The attacks appeared to be in response to U.S. President Donald Trump's latest efforts to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Iran's closure of the strait has kept oil tankers pent up in the Persian Gulf and away from customers worldwide. That in turn has sent the price of Brent soaring from roughly \$70 per barrel before the war. Trump said Sunday that the United States would guide ships through the strait, which could get oil flowing again and bring down its price. But prices instead climbed with uncertainty about what would happen next. The U.S. military said Monday that two American-flagged merchant ships had successfully transited the Strait of Hormuz. It also said that it sank six small boats as it set up an "enhanced security area" for ships crossing the strait. Even with all the uncertainty about how long the war with Iran will last, the U.S. stock market has managed to power to record after record. Hope is still high on Wall Street that the global economy can avoid a worst-case scenario because of the war. And in the meantime, companies continue to deliver big growth in profits. That's key because stock prices tend to follow the path of corporate profits over the long term. The strength so far this reporting season has been broad-based and not confined to just the Big Tech superstars that dominate the market. The median stock in the S&P 500 is tracking for the best growth since 2021, according to Savita Subramanian, a strategist at Bank of America. Tyson Foods joined the list Monday of those topping analysts' expectations for both profit and revenue during the latest quarter. It sold less beef than it did a year ago, but it did so at prices that were 11.5% higher, so its total beef revenue edged up. It also sold more chicken and pork than a year earlier, at slightly higher prices. Its stock rose 4.2% and helped limit Wall Street's losses. Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings likewise delivered a better profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected. But it's feeling the effects of the war, which has not only raised pressure on fuel prices but also pushed customers to think twice about travel plans, particularly to Europe. The cruise operator said some "execution missteps" also have bookings below where it would like, and its stock fell 9.6%. UPS and FedEx dropped roughly as much for some of the market's sharpest losses after Amazon announced a move that could cut into their businesses. The online giant said it's begun allowing Procter & Gamble, 3M and other big companies to use its logistics services to move inventory, fulfill orders and deliver packages directly to shoppers. UPS dropped 9.7%, and FedEx fell 9.3%, while Amazon rose 0.9%. GameStop slumped after it said it wants to buy eBay, a much larger company, for \$125 per share in cash and stock. Coming into the day, eBay had a total market value that was nearly quadruple GameStop's. GameStop said it has already built a 5% stake in eBay and sees opportunities to cut \$2 billion in annual costs quickly. GameStop, whose stock briefly soared to market-shaking heights during the meme stock craze of 2021, fell 9.4%, while eBay rose 4.8%. In stock markets abroad, gains for tech stocks helped indexes jump 5.1% in South Korea and 1.2% in Hong Kong, while markets were closed in mainland China and Japan for holidays. European indexes fared worse, and France's CAC 40 fell 1.7%. In the bond market, Treasury yield jumped with the price of oil. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 4.44% from 4.39% late Friday. It

was at just 3.97% before the war began, and the rise has made mortgages and other kinds of loans for U.S. households and businesses more expensive.

- [Votes to impeach VP 'all but certain'](#) (2026-05-04 16:16)

(UPDATE) REACHING the votes required to send impeachment articles against Vice President Sara Duterte to the Senate for trial was “all but certain,” Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon said on Monday. “We’re expecting the vice president to be impeached next week,” Ridon said. “So the 106 is all but certain with just a question of how many more votes we will get.” Ridon is a member of the House Committee on Justice which, in a hearing on Monday, unanimously approved impeachment articles against Duterte. The vote was 55 of 55. The committee chairman, Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro, was not part of the voting. The Constitution requires a vote of at least one-third of all House members to send impeachment articles to the Senate for trial, which means 106 votes are needed at the plenary. “I guess we already have 55, 56 votes ... so the next half of 106 is not going to be difficult to surmount. We will have the numbers by next week,” Ridon said. In its hearing on Monday, the committee approved a report with the resolution setting forth impeachment articles against Duterte. These documents will be sent to the plenary, which will decide whether to send impeachment articles to the Senate for trial. Under the Constitution, only the House has the power to initiate impeachment cases and only the Senate can conduct an impeachment trial. On Wednesday, the committee, by a unanimous vote, said there was probable cause with respect to the two impeachment complaints against Duterte. In an interview at the House on Monday, Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima said four impeachment articles were approved by the committee. These articles are on alleged misuse or abuse of confidential funds, on alleged unexplained wealth, and alleged bribery, graft and corruption. Another was in connection with Duterte’s kill remarks against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., first lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, and Leyte 1st District Rep. and former House speaker Martin Romualdez. Duterte has denied making an assassination threat. In her answer to the complaints, she said that the complaints failed to show “any shred of proof” that a contract to kill ever existed. “Instead, complainants rely on exaggerated conclusions dressed up as fact.” “The rest of the allegations, including the annexes and so-called evidence attached to the impeachment complaints, are specifically denied for being false, misleading, impertinent, and mere conclusions of fact and law,” her response said. In her opening remarks in the hearing on Monday, Luistro said in Filipino and English, “We followed the Constitution. We did not rush; we did not take shortcuts. We honored the process.” Luistro emphasized on Sunday that the committee’s work reflected a careful, evidence-based process. “This is not about politics,” she said. Duty to oppose Meanwhile, Sen. Robinhood Padilla said minority bloc senators have a duty to oppose the convening of the Senate as an impeachment court if the House of Representatives transmits the articles of impeachment against Duterte. “That’s natural [thing to do]. That’s the role of the minority,” Padilla said in Filipino in a chance interview. His view, however, was not shared by other members of the bloc, composed of Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano, and Sens. Ronald dela Rosa, Francis Escudero, Jinggoy Estrada, Bong Go,

Imee Marcos, Rodante Marcoleta and Joel Villanueva. Marcos said “there’s no doubt” that the articles of impeachment will be elevated to the Senate, but she dismissed Padilla’s remarks that their bloc will automatically oppose the convening of the impeachment court. “We haven’t discussed that yet. But Robin has been very vocal,” Marcos said. Estrada said there was no such agreement. “Walang ganun (There’s no such thing like that),” he said when asked about Padilla’s statement. Cayetano said, “We will follow all rules and procedures. There are many lawyers in the minority. We will follow what is right. We will follow the law.” Escudero, Cayetano, and Marcoleta are lawyers. Senate President Vicente III said the chamber is “ready” for any eventuality in case the House of Representatives transmits the articles of impeachment within the week. “We will be ready for any eventuality. And I’m speaking for most of the members of the Senate,” Sotto said in a chance interview. The senator said that once the Senate receives the articles of impeachment, it will convene as Senate impeachment court. “That is part of our work. That is part of our job as senators. We must follow the Constitution. It’s simple as that — which is to convene [as an impeachment court],” said Sotto, who will serve as the presiding officer. He declined to say what he would do if a senator opposes the convening of the court. “As of now everything is speculative. Let’s just wait [to see what will happen]. Let’s be a little more patient,” he said.

- [Duterte's detention under ICC review again](#) (2026-05-04 16:14)

THE International Criminal Court (ICC) has directed parties in the case of former president Rodrigo Duterte to submit observations on his continued detention, setting a deadline of May 8, 2026. In an order dated May 1 but made public Monday, Trial Chamber III said it was seeking updated positions from the prosecution, defense, and other participants on whether Duterte should remain in custody or be released. The chamber, composed of Presiding Judge Joanna Korner, Judge Keebong Paek, and Judge Nicolas Guillou, noted that under the Rome Statute, pre-trial detention must be reviewed at least every 120 days. The order followed a series of earlier rulings affirming Duterte’s detention. In September 2025, Pre-Trial Chamber I denied his request for interim release, a decision later upheld by the Appeals Chamber in November 2025. The pre-trial chamber again reviewed Duterte’s detention in January 2026 and ordered that he remain in custody, a ruling affirmed on appeal in March 2026. An annual hearing on the review of detention was also held on Feb. 27, during which both parties and participants presented their arguments. Under the ICC’s statutory framework, pre-trial detention must be reviewed at least every 120 days. In light of developments following the February hearing, the judges said they considered it necessary to give parties “the opportunity to submit any observations they may have regarding the accused’s continued detention or release, with or without conditions, including the existence of any changed circumstances.”

- [Carpio's lawyers cast doubt on AMLC report](#) (2026-05-04 16:13)

THE camp of lawyer Manases Carpio, husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, on Monday described as “a lie and fake news” that the couple had P6.7 billion in their bank accounts — though nobody in the House Committee of Justice or its resource persons had said this. In a

hearing to establish probable cause for impeaching Duterte, Ronel Buenaventura, executive director of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), said the couple had P6.7 billion in transactions over a period of 20 years, but did not say they had that much money in the bank. His appearance was a turning point in the House proceedings. It provided official government verification for allegations of “unexplained wealth” that had previously been dismissed as hearsay. His testimony, however, provided official government verification for allegations of “unexplained wealth” that had previously been dismissed as hearsay. And lawmakers noted that from 2019 to 2024, the vice president’s Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN) reportedly declared zero cash in bank, despite the AMLC records showing significant financial activity during those years. Carpio’s lawyers, Peter Paul Danao and Neil Abayon, in a press conference Monday, tried to discredit the P6.7 billion figure as “bloated,” saying a P2-billion transaction attributed to their client was really P2 million due to data processing error in the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI). BPI has not confirmed any such error, however. The bank was mentioned because some online commentators said a 2017 incident in which a data processing error caused 1.5 million accounts to show incorrect balances, was a “possible explanation” for the allegations against Carpio. But there is no evidence or official bank confirmation that a similar error occurred in Carpio’s case. The BPI, in a statement, said that it adheres strictly to all applicable laws and regulations, including those governing bank secrecy, data privacy, and consumer protection. “These legal frameworks — including the Bank Secrecy Act and the Data Privacy Act — are fundamental to protecting the confidentiality of banking information and maintaining public trust in the financial system. In accordance with these laws, the Bank does not disclose client information or transaction details, except as may be required under applicable legal processes,” it said. “Consistent with its statutory obligations under the Anti-Money Laundering Act and relevant regulations, the Bank complies with required reporting and regulatory engagements through the proper authorities, and provides relevant clarifications when necessary,” it added. Members of the House Committee on Justice, such as its chairman Rep. Gerville Luistro, remained skeptical about the glitch claim, noting that the AMLC is a professional body that verifies data before reporting it to Congress. Critics also pointed out that even if P2 billion were subtracted as a “glitch,” there would still be over P4.7 billion in other transactions that remain unexplained and inconsistent with the vice president’s SALNs. Danao would not say how much Carpio had in his bank accounts because “it is a private and personal matter and there are existing bank secrecy laws that protect bank clients.” Abayon said the AMLC report was “misleading” and “a blatant lie.” He said the couple never had that huge amount of money. Asked about the vice president’s accounts, Danao said they were only authorized to speak for her husband. Abayon said confidentiality must be applied consistently and their client’s constitutional rights should not simply yield to political convenience. Invoking the Bill of Rights and strict scrutiny, Danao and Abayon said that the “government bears the burden to justify any intrusion into protected financial records.” “This is not about speculation over documents. This is about whether the law — and more importantly, the Constitution — is being followed,” Danao said. Noting that tax returns are confidential by law or specifically under the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, they said that any handling or disclosure outside authorized processes would raise

serious legal concerns. “Even more restrictive safeguards apply to other financial records, particularly those governed by anti-money laundering and banking regulations,” Danao said. Citing the 1987 Constitution, they said the Bill of Rights exists precisely to protect citizens from potential government overreach, particularly against unreasonable searches and unwarranted intrusion into private records. “The Constitution is clear: fundamental rights are not optional. They are safeguards against abuse,” he said.

- [Singson tags Marcos as flood control scam mastermind](#) (2026-05-04 16:12)

FORMER Ilocos Sur governor Luis “Chavit” Singson on Monday alleged a wide-ranging corruption scheme in government flood control projects, accusing President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of being the “mastermind” and decrying what he described as the absence of meaningful investigations by state authorities. Speaking at a lengthy media briefing, Singson claimed that key officials from the executive branch, lawmakers, and personnel of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) were involved in the alleged anomalies. He cited earlier remarks attributed to former House speaker Martin Romualdez that the executive branch was implicated, saying this supported his assertion that the president was ultimately responsible. “From the very beginning, I have been saying that he is the mastermind,” Singson said, alleging that other people were being used as intermediaries. He questioned the inaction of the Office of the Ombudsman and the Department of Justice, claiming that instead of pursuing those allegedly involved in the scheme, authorities had filed cases against whistleblowers. He also suggested that political considerations and internal arrangements prevented cases from moving forward. Singson said he had intended to testify before the Senate and submit an affidavit detailing the alleged anomalies, but the hearing was canceled on the same day he was set to appear. He presented a copy of a letter requesting his affidavit by April 7 and another notice canceling the hearing, which cited scheduling adjustments due to an ongoing national energy emergency inquiry. “I was already there, ready to submit,” Singson said, adding that the cancellation effectively blocked him from presenting his evidence. He claimed the Senate later cited his supposed failure to submit an affidavit as the reason for not proceeding with his testimony. Turning to the substance of his allegations, Singson said government claims that 5,500 flood control projects had been completed nationwide were false. He said he had coordinated with local officials across the country through his roles in various local government leagues and found no evidence supporting this figure. “There are no 5,500 projects,” he said, adding that flooding across multiple regions during recent typhoons contradicted official claims of completed infrastructure. Singson presented documents, photos, and videos which he said showed “ghost,” delayed, or substandard flood control projects in Ilocos Norte, particularly in its first district. He alleged that at least P15.7 billion worth of projects were allocated to the district from 2023 to 2025, with funds released directly to the district level rather than coursed through regional offices, allowing projects to be split into smaller contracts to avoid public bidding. Among the projects he cited was a P47-million flood control structure in Barangay Catayagan in Ilocos Sur that he said used substandard materials, with concrete thickness measuring only about 70 millimeters instead of the required 200

millimeters. He also pointed to an P82-million project in Barangay Bil-loca in Batac, Ilocos Norte that he said remained unfinished despite being funded under the 2024 budget and scheduled for completion within the same year. Singson claimed that some projects initially did not exist on-site during inspections but were later constructed after documentation began, raising suspicions that funds had already been released prior to actual work. He alleged that many projects were either rushed, poorly built, or merely cosmetic. He also identified several contractors allegedly involved in multiple projects, including Ferdstar Builders Contractors and Megapolitan Builders and Construction Supply, claiming that a small group of firms repeatedly received contracts across the district. According to Singson, contractors were required to remit about 25 percent of project funds, which he said encouraged substandard work or noncompletion. He alleged that payments were released in full at the outset of projects, rather than through standard progress billing, enabling contractors to recover costs despite incomplete work. “Because of the 25-percent cut, many projects are not finished or are just substandard,” he said. He also claimed that funds for flood control projects were sourced in part from reallocated government funds, including money from financial institutions, although he did not present detailed documentation on this point during the briefing. Singson said the alleged anomalies were not limited to Ilocos Norte, asserting that similar practices occurred nationwide and contributed to persistent flooding in provinces such as Bulacan and areas in the Visayas. He further alleged that whistleblowers and contractors who spoke out faced legal harassment, citing the case of the Discaya couple who he said were jailed after revealing details of the scheme. Singson claimed he was being threatened with plunder charges in retaliation for his statements. Calling for broader action, Singson urged the Senate to pursue a full investigation and appealed to the public, religious groups, and members of the military and police to speak out against corruption. “If we remain silent, nothing will happen,” he said, warning that continued anomalies would worsen the country’s fiscal position. He cited the Philippines’ national debt, which he estimated at P19 trillion, with annual debt servicing reaching P2 trillion. He also questioned the government’s priorities, linking the alleged lack of action on corruption to political maneuvering ahead of the 2028 elections and ongoing political disputes, including impeachment efforts against Vice President Sara Duterte. Singson said he would release additional evidence in future briefings but would focus for now on flood control projects to avoid confusing the public.

Response to Madriaga Meanwhile, the camp of Vice President Sara Duterte has filed a reply affidavit to the counter-affidavit filed by a self-confessed security consultant who claimed to be her bagman. Duterte filed the reply affidavit through her counsel, Salvador Paolo Panelo Jr., at the Taguig City Prosecutor’s Office on Monday. In her affidavit, Duterte said that Ramil Madriaga’s counter-affidavit did not refute her earlier perjury complaint with “clear and credible evidence.” “Left with no other choice, Madriaga could only rely on blanket denials, non-sequiturs, irrelevant arguments, and further perjured testimony in a feeble attempt to salvage his crumbled testimony,” Duterte said. Duterte also countered Madriaga’s claim that a Zoom meeting with members of her supporters was not proof that he had a familiar relationship with her. “It was held on Jan. 12, 2022, during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, when virtual meetings with campaign supporters were the norm,” Duterte said. She added that the presence of Jinggoy Estrada and Harry Roque at the

meeting was understandable as they both ran as senators under the 2022 UniTeam ticket. She said that Madriaga's attempt to twist an ordinary Zoom call with campaign supporters into proof of insider status "only exposes him anew as the fraud that he is."

- [Agencies mobilized for Mayon response](#) (2026-05-04 16:11)

GOVERNMENT agencies have been mobilized for disaster response in areas affected by the ashfall from Mayon Volcano, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said on Monday. In a media interview at the sidelines of the opening of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (Calax) Subsection 3, Marcos said the goal is to minimize the impact of the ashfall, particularly in Guinobatan and Camalig, Albay. The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has started clearing the ash from major roads and reopen them for residents and emergency responders. Teams from the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) are on the ground for medical assistance and the distribution of food and other essential support to families in evacuation centers, the president said. "The first concern of course was the health concerns. And we were able to bring out the people who were in the danger area. We were able to support them with medical attention," Marcos said. "And now we are working on opening all the thoroughfares so that everyone who needs to enter or leave can do so. And I think we will be able to say that the thoroughfares will be open maybe by today. If it doesn't blow again, we can open the thoroughfares in and out of the area," he added. Locals were advised to stay away from the six-kilometer danger zone around the volcano where landslides and lava flows could occur. Mayon's last magmatic eruption was in June 2023, when it spewed large volumes of lava and noxious gases. Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. said on Monday Mayon is not undergoing an explosive eruption, but lava effusion. During lava effusion, lava deposits accumulate and roll down the mountain, producing "a paraclastic density current," which is not indicative of an explosive eruption, he said. Confusion arose after reports of rolling rocks and hot gas flows, which some interpreted as signs of an impending explosive eruption. Solidum said the danger zone may be expanded to include places where the lava is bound to flow. Mayon remains under Alert Level 3, indicating ongoing volcanic unrest with no current signs of explosive eruption. DSWD Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao said on Monday the agency distributed food and nonfood items, psychosocial interventions, cash-for-work and emergency cash transfers to displaced families. "Secretary Rex Gatchalian instructed the immediate replenishment of food packs in our warehouses to ensure sufficient resources for families affected by the abnormal activities of Mayon Volcano," Dumlao said. The agency said it distributed 71,153 family food packs, 7,634 nonfood items and 1,402 ready-to-eat food packs to affected residents. The department also disbursed more than P45 million in cash assistance to over 3,400 farmers and other persons whose livelihoods were disrupted. Dumlao added that emergency cash transfers amounting to more than P10,000 per family were provided to help cover other essential needs not included in relief goods. The DSWD said it continues to coordinate with local government units to monitor over 1,400 families currently staying in evacuation centers in Albay while ensuring proper ventilation and cooling measures to prevent heat-related illnesses.

- [DOH chief takes a hit for ‘campaign video’](#) (2026-05-04 16:10)

A HEALTH reform advocate criticized a supposed campaign video of Health Secretary Ted Herbosa, where he is being promoted as a potential senatorial candidate for the 2028 elections. Dr. Tony Leachon criticized the comparisons made in the video between Herbosa and former health secretary Juan Flavio. Leachon said Flavio was remembered as a physician-leader known for humility and public service, while Herbosa represents a more politically driven style of leadership. “Leadership is not about image but impact. It is not about advertisements but accountability. The Filipino people deserve a health secretary who strengthens institutions, protects resources, and serves with humility. On these counts, Secretary Herbosa has fallen short,” Leachon said. He said Herbosa should be held accountable for his “complicity” in the transfer of P60 billion in funds from the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) to the national treasury. He argued that the move “betrays public health funds” and “undermines the very institution meant to protect the Filipino people.”

“Public trust is the cornerstone of leadership. It is earned not through slogans or campaign advertisements but through integrity, competence, and service,” said Leachon. Controversies surrounding Herbosa’s term — including cases reportedly filed before the Office of the Ombudsman — raise further concerns about his leadership, he said. In July 2025, concerned DOH employees filed a case against Herbosa before the Ombudsman over an alleged unauthorized release of P44.6 million worth of psychiatric drugs to the Rotary Club of Quezon City. Leachon said that a month later, Herbosa was involved in an alleged P1.29-billion unliquidated cash transfer to the United Nations Children’s Fund (Unicef) for the procurement of vaccines. In December, a graft and conflict of interest complaint was filed against Herbosa in connection with a P98-million contract for the DOH radio program “PINASigla.” And last March, Herbosa faced yet another case involving the alleged rigged procurement of Mobile Primary Care Facilities (MPCF) worth P1.8 billion, Leachon said. Herbosa’s record “is marred by Ombudsman cases, ghost hospitals, billions worth of expired medicines, and the creation of Maifip — a program that weakens PhilHealth and undermines universal health care. These are not the hallmarks of reform, but of neglect,” Leachon said.

- [Senate ethics panel dismisses 4 complaints vs senators](#) (2026-05-04 16:09)

THE Senate Committee on Ethics and Privileges has dismissed for being “frivolous” four of the nine complaints filed against senators, panel chairman Sen. JV Ejercito said. The committee on Monday resumed deliberations on the ethics complaint filed against Sens. Ronald dela Rosa, Francis Escudero, Risa Hontiveros, and Ejercito. Some of them face more than one complaint. In a chance interview, Ejercito said that the panel deferred action on three of the cases “for further study,” including the one filed against dela Rosa for absenteeism. The panel also took up a proposal to recommend to the Senate Committee on Rules the inclusion of guidelines on absenteeism such as a “No Work, No Pay” policy. Since the complaint filed against dela Rosa concerns his prolonged absence, the members agreed to seek his comments through a letter. Ejercito said two cases “need response from government agencies to assist the committee in disposing of the complaints.” The complaint against Ejercito was among those dismissed. “I

inhibited for a while and stepped out of the room," he said. It was Sen. Francis Pangilinan, ethics committee vice chairman, who tackled Ejercito's case. Ejercito declined to indicate whose cases were dismissed and deferred. He said the committee agreed to keep all proceedings and details of the dockets, or complaints, "confidential." "Most are not compliant with form and substance. But again, we will return [the dismissed cases] to the complainants, and they have the option to refile and this time according to form and substance," he said. "If we will really follow the rules of legal process, if it's not according to form and substance, automatic dismissed," he added. A civil society group led by former finance undersecretary Cielo Magno filed a complaint against dela Rosa for his continued absence for more than three months. Ejercito faced an ethics complaint for his alleged failure to act immediately on the case filed against Escudero, who had been accused of accepting campaign fund from a contractor. Hontiveros was accused of "witness tampering" in relation to her investigation on the alleged sexual and labor abuses of some members of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ led by its founder Apollo Quiboloy.

- [BOC posts record P86.4B collection in April](#) (2026-05-04 16:08)

(UPDATE) THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) delivered its strongest performance last month, collecting P86.4 billion and surpassing its target by P7.8 billion in April. It was the highest monthly collection in the bureau's history, beating its P78.6 billion target by nearly 10 percent. Year on year, the April haul jumped by P11.699 billion, or 15.7 percent. It pushed the agency's January-to-April collections to P325.808 billion — exceeding its programmed goal of P314.660 billion by P11.148 billion, or 3.5 percent. It also marked a P19.729 billion increase, or 6.4 percent growth, compared to the same period in 2025. The record-breaking figures came as the BOC maintained its momentum to reach its trillion-peso target for 2026. Officials highlighted that the gains were achieved despite persistent external pressures, including the economic impact of the war in the Middle East.

- [Marcos inaugurates Calax Subsection 3](#) (2026-05-04 16:07)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday led the inauguration of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (Calax) Subsection 3, a 7.88 km stretch of road connecting the Silang Interchange to Governor's Drive Interchange in General Trias City. It is expected to cut travel time between Biñan City, Laguna, and General Trias, Cavite, from one hour to 26 minutes, and decongest vehicular traffic in both areas. The highway segment will be opened to motorists at 12 midnight on May 5 and will be toll-free for one month. "To our fellow countrymen, use it so you can see and feel the big relief that these projects bring," Marcos said in Filipino. Designed to accommodate additional 6,000 motorists daily, Calax Subsection 3 provides a faster alternative route for commuters and businesses by having an alternate route away from the heavily congested local roads in Cavite's growing industrial and residential corridors. With its opening, the operational length of Calax now spans 26 kilometers from the Mamplasan Entry in Biñan, Laguna. Once completed, the entire 44.6-kilometer Calax project will link the Manila-Cavite Expressway (Cavite) in Kawit to the South Luzon Expressway in Mamplasan. The road network features eight strategic interchanges: Laguna Technopark, Laguna Boulevard, Santa

Rosa–Tagaytay, Silang East, Silang (Aguinaldo), Governor’ s Drive, Open Canal, and Kawit.

- [Senate passes freedom of information bill](#) (2026-05-04 16:06)

Voting 22-0-0, the Senate passed on third and final reading Senate Bill (SB) 1432 or the proposed People's Freedom of Information Act (PFIA) providing access to official government records. SB 1432 will cover the three branches of government — the executive, legislative, and judiciary, as well as constitutional bodies and local governments. It will also cover government-owned and controlled corporations, government instrumentalities, and state universities and colleges. Once enacted into law, PFIA will expand Executive Order 2 issued by former President Rodrigo Duterte, which recognizes the people’ s right to information, but only covers agencies under the executive department. Under PFIA, the President, Vice President, Cabinet members, lawmakers, Supreme Court justices, members of Constitutional Commissions, as well as officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines with general or flag rank, are required to disclose and post their annual statements of assets, liabilities and net worth on their official websites. Government agencies will be required to publish on their websites transactions, documents or records that involve public interest, such as budget expenditures, bidding contracts, procurement plans, debts, and contracts worth P50 million and up. However, the proposed law does not cover details on information declared confidential by law, especially those pertaining to national security or defense, law enforcement, foreign affairs, presidential communications privilege, and information in executive sessions of Congress. Sen. Robinhood Padilla, sponsor of the measure, said the PFIA will remove barriers to transparency and promote a culture of accountability in government institutions. He said that providing the public with easy access to information will make it easier to fight fake news and disinformation. Sen. Joel Villanueva, PFIA author, said that apart from improving transparency, the proposed measure will also empower citizens to be more involved in governance.

- [Senate approves education voucher bill](#) (2026-05-04 16:05)

THE Senate on Monday approved on third and final reading Senate Bill (SB) 1981 or the proposed Basic Education Voucher Program Act (Bevpa) seeking to decongest public schools. SB 1981 also aims to expand access to education and strengthen safeguards against corruption through a unified voucher system for basic education. Sen. Bam Aquino, SB 1981 author and sponsor, said the measure aims to address classroom shortages in public schools nationwide by granting students educational vouchers that will allow them to transfer to participating private schools. “The aim of this bill is to reduce overcrowding in public schools through private education vouchers,” Aquino said in a statement. He cited findings from the Second Congressional Commission on Education showing that the country faces a shortage of at least 165,000 classrooms, with many schools experiencing overcrowding, shifting classes and unsafe learning conditions. “This is an important step toward addressing the crisis in our education system... Let us ensure that no child is left behind in our country,” the senator said. Under the bill, a nationwide voucher program will be established covering all levels of basic education from Kindergarten to Grade 12, allowing students from congested public schools to enroll in

participating private schools. Priority beneficiaries include students from low-income households, poor families, geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, Indigenous peoples, learners with disabilities, and those under foster care. “This program is important because it directly helps families, especially students who need special education,” Aquino said. SB 1981 also includes provisions to prevent fraud and abuse, including penalties for violations and safeguards to eliminate ghost beneficiaries. “We will ensure that there are no more ghost students and no one can take advantage of the system... what our students need is education, not corruption,” Aquino said. He said the bill forms part of a broader strategy to address the country’s education crisis by complementing classroom construction efforts and strengthening the role of private schools.

- [Tokyo ready to help solve Navotas fire](#) (2026-05-04 16:04)

THE Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said on Monday that Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike is willing to assist in putting out the smoldering fire at the sanitary landfill in Navotas City that has triggered an environmental problem in the metropolis. MMDA Chairman Romando Artes said Koike conveyed her openness to extend assistance when they met on the sidelines of the 3rd G-NETS Leaders Summit in Tokyo. Artes said he and Koike also discussed traffic and transport management, disaster resilience, and potential collaborative projects between Metro Manila and Tokyo. Artes also delivered a speech during the summit, highlighting Metro Manila’s disaster response efforts. Koike said a separate meeting between the MMDA and the Tokyo Fire Department will be arranged to explore specific areas of assistance, particularly technical support related to the landfill situation.

- [LTFRB summons 21 ride-hailing firms](#) (2026-05-04 16:03)

THE Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) had summoned 21 transport network companies (TNCs) as part of an ongoing investigation into what it described as an inflated number of fuel subsidy beneficiaries in the ride-hailing sector. The agency issued show-cause orders (SCOs) requiring the firms to explain discrepancies in the reported number of transport network vehicle service (TNVS) beneficiaries. LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said the agency wants to determine whether the irregularities stemmed from deliberate actions or lapses in compliance. “We want to ferret out the truth in relation to this incident. Is there a deliberate attempt to increase the number of beneficiaries on their part, or is this a case of negligence and incompetence in complying with LTFRB orders,” Mendoza said. The issue arose following a verification process by LTFRB personnel, along with other government agencies, which found that the number of TNVS beneficiaries was “irregularly high.” The LTFRB directed the companies to justify why their authority to operate should not be suspended or revoked. The violations ranged from onboarding vehicles without proper authorization to failing to maintain originally accredited units, some of which were found to have transferred to other platforms or ceased operations. The agency ordered the TNCs to submit notarized explanations along with a complete list of drivers previously submitted to the Department of Social Welfare and Development, including the corresponding vehicle plate numbers. A hearing has been set for

May 14.

- [QC helps equip MSMEs with digital skills](#) (2026-05-04 16:02)

THE Quezon City government has partnered with TikTok Shop and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI-QC) to equip micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) owners and their staff with tools to compete and grow in the digital economy. Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte said Monday the Quezon City Small Business and Cooperatives Development and Promotions Office has teamed up with TikTok Shop and PCCI-QC for hands-on training in e-commerce, digital marketing and live selling. Participants received step-by-step guidance on setting up accounts, becoming affiliates, and maximizing platform features, including TikTok's "Yellow Basket," to promote and sell their products online, Belmonte said. To ensure targeted learning, participants were grouped into three specialized tracks: product sellers, service providers, and affiliates or content creators. Product sellers were trained on platform operations and best practices; service providers learned to maximize advertising tools, while affiliates and creators developed skills in content production and live selling. By combining technical training with real-time onboarding, the program enables MSME participants to launch or enhance their online presence on the spot — expanding their market reach, connecting with broader audiences, and increasing their earning potential. Belmonte emphasized that the program is part of the city's Entrepreneurial Development Program (EDP), which continues to build a more competitive and resilient MSME sector through practical, skills-based learning. Through the EDP, the city government has conducted 130 training sessions, benefiting 6,194 participants, the mayor said.

- [Marcos mobilizes agencies for Mayon response](#) (2026-05-04 15:54)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday said pertinent government agencies have been mobilized to ensure non-stop disaster response to areas affected by the Mayon Volcano ashfall. In a media interview at the sidelines of the opening of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (Calax) Subsection 3, Marcos noted that the goal is to minimize the impact of the heavy ashfall, particularly in Guinobatan and Camalig, Albay, so as not to threaten public health and safety. "Right now, we need to clear the roads because of the ashfall," he said in Filipino.

"I spoke to the governor and so far, all the needs of Albay are provided. Support has been given." Teams from the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), specifically, are on the ground for medical assistance and the distribution of food and other essential support to families in evacuation centers. "The first concern of course was the health health concerns. And we were able to bring out the people who were in the danger area. We were able to support them with medical attention," the president said. "And now we are working on opening all the thoroughfares so that everyone who needs to enter or leave can do so. And I think we will be able to say that the thoroughfares will be open maybe by today. If it doesn't blow again, we can open the thoroughfares in and out of the area," he added. Mayon Volcano has been placed under Alert Level and is in close monitoring after a series of volcanic tremors. Locals were instructed to stay away from the six-kilometer

danger zone as landslides and lava flows could happen. Mayon's last magmatic eruption occurred in June 2023.

- [Gadon hits SC over delayed ruling on dismissed ex-Ombudsman official](#) (2026-05-04 15:46)

MANILA, Philippines – Presidential Adviser on Poverty Alleviation Larry Gadon on Monday blasted the Supreme Court for its “much-delayed” ruling that voided the 2018 dismissal of former overall deputy ombudsman Arthur Carandang by then president Rodrigo Duterte. Gadon told The Manila Times in an interview via Viber that the high court has lost its credibility with its latest move, declaring Carandang's dismissal void from the outset, describing the move as a breach of the constitutional principle of checks and balances. “It took them eight years to decide a very basic and simple constitutional issue in the case of former Deputy Ombudsman Carandang,” said Gadon. “Even a law student would know that the dismissal of Carandang was illegal but the high tribunal took those long years to decide,” the anti-poverty presidential adviser said. While Carandang has been awarded back pay, Gadon, a former lawyer, said that it was not about money “but more importantly on the public service he could have performed during his term.” “We could have witnessed and known more names in the previous administration involved in corruption cases,” he said. In its decision, the high court held that the Office of the President has no power to impose administrative sanctions on officials of the Office of the Ombudsman, which the Constitution designates as an independent body. Carandang had been dismissed in 2018 after he was accused of disclosing alleged bank records of the Duterte family purportedly showing billions of pesos in wealth. At the time, then-ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales inhibited herself from handling complaints involving Duterte due to her relation by affinity to his daughter, Sara Duterte, leaving Carandang to act on the case. Carandang is entitled to full retirement benefits upon the expiration of his term, as well as back salaries covering the period of his preventive suspension and dismissal, according to the high tribunal.

- [No winners in Grand Lotto, Mega Lotto draws for May 04](#) (2026-05-04 15:37)

There were no winners in the Grand Lotto on Monday night, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said. The winning combination for the Grand Lotto was 33-13-47-46-17-25, with a jackpot prize of P81,488,086,77. There were no winners in the Mega Lotto on Monday night, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said. The winning combination for the Mega Lotto was 34-28-21-41-8-5, with a jackpot prize of P15,000,000,00.

- [PH, US, Japan knock down invading air, sea, land targets in coastline defense simulation](#) (2026-05-04 15:09)

LAOAG, Ilocos Norte — Over 800 combined Philippine, United States and Japanese forces on Monday (May 4) showed a massive display of integrated firepower in intercepting targets from air, land and sea during a coastal defense wargame as part of Exercise Balikatan 41-2026. Called a counter landing live fire exercise, dummy targets from land, sea and air domains were positioned across the coastline to demonstrate layered defense by being detected, engaged and

neutralized by integrated weapon systems. The US Armed Forces brought the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (Himars), a missile launcher mounted on a five-tonne truck capable of firing six guided missiles in rapid succession. Japan meanwhile participated in their Infantry Rifle Company whereas the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) deployed various armor assets including its 105-mm howitzers and Sabrah light tanks. Apache attack helicopters also flew over the water and released live munitions aiming at targets underneath. Unmanned target drones, mock vessels and human dummies each were used to challenge the skills and precision of the participating troops to respond should similar real-life scenarios happen. “The training that we're conducting as part of exercise Balikatan is becoming more complex across all domains: air, sea and the land. And so we have to modernize our capabilities with unmanned systems not only in the air, but also in the sea. And you got to see that on display today,” Maj. Gen. James B. Bartholomees, commander of the United States Army 25th Infantry Division and Exercise Balikatan 41-2026 Joint Forces Land Component Commander told reporters in a briefing after the live fire drills. While some targets were quickly pulverized, some were challenging and took time and multiple attacks before finally being brought down. “The reason why we do this training is because it's difficult. It takes a lot of work and coordination and synchronization. And the focus should not be on what you saw, but on the synchronization that was required to execute this, which is incredibly important and incredibly dangerous,” Bartholomees said. “The successes we saw were the synchronization of Air Force, Sea, Navy, and Coast Guard involvement, and then land forces with manned and unmanned systems,” he added. According to Bartholomees, the highlight of the exercise was the participation of the Himars and the inclusion of more varied types of training drones and unmanned vessels. Bartholomees also commended the performance of Japan who participated actively for the first time in Balikatan. “From what you have seen, I think they have done very well and they have satisfied our objectives,” he said. Smoke grenades, which were normally used as position markers, were used to signal the end of the exercise.

- [Basic education voucher program bill approved on third and final reading](#) (2026-05-04 15:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate on Monday approved on third and final reading Senate Bill (SB) 1981 or the proposed Basic Education Voucher Program Act (BEVPA) seeking to decongest public schools. SB 1981 also aims at expanding access to education and strengthen safeguards against corruption through a unified voucher system for basic education. Sen. Bam Aquino, SB 1981 author and sponsor, said the measure aims to address classroom shortages in public schools nationwide by granting students educational vouchers that will allow them to transfer to participating private schools. “The aim of this bill is to reduce overcrowding in public schools through private education vouchers,” Aquino said in a statement. He cited findings from the Second Congressional Commission on Education showing that the country faces a shortage of at least 165,000 classrooms, with many schools experiencing overcrowding, shifting classes, and unsafe learning conditions. “This is an important step toward addressing the crisis in our education system... Let us ensure that no child is left behind in our country,” the senator

said. Under the bill, a nationwide voucher program will be established covering all levels of basic education from Kindergarten to Grade 12, allowing students from congested public schools to enroll in participating private schools. Priority beneficiaries include students from low-income households, poor families, geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, indigenous peoples, learners with disabilities, and those under foster care. “This program is important because it directly helps families, especially students who need special education,” Aquino said. SB 1981 also includes provisions to prevent fraud and abuse, including penalties for violations and safeguards to eliminate ghost beneficiaries. “We will ensure that there are no more ghost students and no one can take advantage of the system. What our students need is education, not corruption,” Aquino said. He said the bill forms part of a broader strategy to address the country’s education crisis by complementing classroom construction efforts and strengthening the role of private schools.

- [Senate passes proposed People's Freedom of Information Act \(2026-05-04 14:34\)](#)

MANILA, Philippines — Voting 22-0-0, the Senate passed on third and final reading Senate Bill (SB) 1432 or the proposed People's Freedom of Information Act (PFIA) providing access to official government records. SB 1432 will cover the three branches of government — the executive, legislative, and judiciary, as well as constitutional bodies and local governments. It will also cover government-owned and controlled corporations, government instrumentalities, and state universities and colleges. Once enacted into law, PFIA will expand Executive Order 2 issued by former President Rodrigo Duterte, which recognizes the people’s right to information, but only covers agencies under the executive department. Under PFIA, the President, Vice President, Cabinet members, lawmakers, Supreme Court justices, members of constitutional commissions, as well as officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines with general or flag rank, are required to disclose and post their annual statements of assets, liabilities and net worth on their official websites. Government agencies will be required to publish on their websites transactions, documents or records that involve public interest, such as budget expenditures, bidding contracts, procurement plans, debts, and contracts worth P50 million and up. However, PFIA does not cover details on information declared confidential by law, especially those pertaining to national security or defense, law enforcement, foreign affairs, presidential communications privilege, and information in executive sessions of Congress. Sen. Robinhood Padilla, sponsor of the measure, said the PFIA will remove barriers to transparency and promote a culture of accountability across government institutions. He said that providing the public with easy access to information will make it easier to fight fake news and disinformation. Sen. Joel Villanueva, PFIA author, said that apart from improving transparency, the proposed measure will also empower citizens to be more involved in governance.

- [Nearly 200,000 people affected as over 5,400 flee ash from Philippine volcano \(2026-05-04 14:12\)](#)

MANILA, Philippines — Nearly 200,000 people in 124 villages in the northeastern Philippines were affected and over 5,400 fled massive plumes of ash that billowed from Mayon volcano

over the weekend due to the collapse of lava deposits from its slopes, officials said Monday. There was no explosive eruption from Mayon, which has been erupting mildly on and off since January, but huge deposits of lava on its southwestern slope suddenly cascaded down in a pyroclastic flow — an avalanche of hot rocks, ash and gas — before nightfall on Saturday, said Teresito Bacolcol, director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. No deaths or injuries were reported, but massive clouds of ash scattered over 120 villages, mostly in Albay province, catching many by surprise and slowing down motorists due to poor visibility, officials said. “The ashfall was just so thick and there was zero visibility even in our national road,” Mayor Caloy Baldo of Camalig town, which lies near the volcano's foothills, said. “Some villagers panicked but we advised them to calm down,” Baldo told The Associated Press. Vegetable farms were damaged by the ashfall, which also killed four water buffaloes and a cow in Camalig, Baldo said, adding that a cleanup was underway in his town of 8,000 people in Albay province. The Department of Social Welfare and Development said at least 199,367 people in 124 villages were affected by the dark clouds of ash that drifted far from the volcano, including more than 5,450 residents who fled to emergency shelters in Camalig and Malilipot towns and the cities of Ligao and Tabaco. Aside from protective face masks and food packs, officials were told to ensure evacuation centers were adequately ventilated given the sweltering summer heat, Social Welfare Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao said during a news conference. “It’s calm again now but the danger is always there,” Bacolcol said of Mayon's condition Monday. The 2,462-meter (8,077-foot) volcano is one of the Philippines’ top tourism draws because of its near-perfect cone shape. But it’s also the most active of the country’s 24 volcanoes. Authorities raised the five-step alert around Mayon to level 3 in January after a series of mild eruptions that caused intermittent rockfalls, some as big as cars, from its peak crater along with deadly pyroclastic flows. Alert 5 means an explosive and life-threatening eruption is underway with deadly volcanic lava and pyroclastic flows and heavy ashfall.

- [Hontiveros seeks removal of VAT on systems loss charges, for lower power bills](#)
(2026-05-04 14:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Risa Hontiveros on Monday filed Senate Bill (SB) 2076 that will remove the value-added tax (VAT) on systems loss charges currently being passed on to consumers’ monthly electricity bills. The senator said SB 2076 will amend the National Internal Revenue Code to exclude systems loss charges from transactions subject to VAT. Under the bill, systems loss refers to “the difference between the electrical energy delivered to the distribution system (energy input) and the energy delivered to the residential household consumers (energy output).” She said Filipino consumers should no longer be made to carry the “double burden” of paying for VAT on top of the “already absurd” systems loss charges passed on by electric utilities. “We must immediately end this unfair arrangement, especially now that electricity costs are going up,” Hontiveros said in a statement. She said that VAT is a consumption tax on goods and services. “Systems loss charges - which represents losses in the distribution and delivery of electricity, are neither goods nor services purchased by power consumers.” “By removing the VAT on systems loss charges, we are not just making our tax

policies more fair and just - we are also providing immediate relief to consumers facing higher electricity bills this summer season,” Hontiveros said. She said that the bill is only the first of her planned package of legislative measures to provide assistance to power consumers, especially low-income households, amid rising costs of basic commodities due to the Middle East war.

- [Austria expels 3 Russian Embassy staff over suspected antenna spying in Vienna](#)
(2026-05-04 14:03)

VIENNA — Austria expelled three Russian Embassy employees who were suspected of espionage by using antennas on Russian diplomatic buildings, the Foreign Ministry said Monday. The ministry confirmed a report aired Sunday by the Austrian public broadcaster ORF, which said Austrian authorities suspected the three diplomats of engaging in spying activities using antennas on the roofs of the Russian Embassy in Vienna and a diplomatic compound in the Donaustadt district. The installations allowed Russia to intercept data transmitted by international organizations based in Vienna via satellite internet, ORF reported. Austria hosts several U.N. agencies, including the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. “Espionage is a security problem for Austria. In this government, we have changed course and are taking decisive action against it,” Austria’s Foreign Minister Beate Meinl-Reisinger said in a statement. “We have made this unequivocally clear to the Russian side, also with regard to the array of antennas at the Russian embassy. One thing is clear: it is unacceptable for diplomatic immunity to be used to engage in espionage.” Western European nations and Russia have expelled each others’ diplomats on several occasions since Moscow’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Austria, a European Union member with a policy of military neutrality, was initially hesitant to take such action but has recently expelled more Russian diplomats. According to ORF, the Russian ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in April over the diplomats’ activities. The Russian side was asked to lift their immunity in order to allow prosecutors to pursue an investigation, but it refused, leading to the expulsions, ORF reported. They have already left Austria, it said. In her statement, the foreign minister said that Austria was currently tightening the espionage law to prevent such cases. The legislation now in place punishes espionage by foreign services only if it targets Austrian interests. According to the Austrian Press Agency, changes proposed by the government would call for the similar protections when it comes to international organizations. The Russian Embassy in Vienna did not respond to a request for comment. In a post on Telegram on Monday, it wrote that it had taken note of Austria’s “outrageous” decision concerning its employees. Moscow will respond strongly, the statement said, adding, “Vienna bears full responsibility for the further deterioration of bilateral relations, which are already at a historical low.”

- [Focus crimes drop by 30% in January - April 2026 compared to previous period in 2025 - PNP](#)
(2026-05-04 14:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday said focus crimes declined by 30% from January to April 2026 compared with the same period in 2025, citing the impact of its “Safer Cities” initiative. In an ambush interview, PNP chief Police General Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said the program centers on crime prevention through increased police visibility and intensified patrol operations. “Last two years ago, that is the election period of 2025 as well as the period of 2024, ‘yan yung January, February, March, April, ay malaki ang binawas,” Nartatez said. (Last two years ago, that is the election period of 2025 as well as the period of 2024—January, February, March, April—there was a significant reduction) He noted, however, that some categories of focus crimes saw increases. “But there are focus crimes na masasabi naman natin tumaas. But the point here is generally, all of the focus crimes, kapag pinagsama-sama mo, and that is the picture of our crime situation, kapag pinag-compare mo, it is 30% compared to 2024 and 2025,” he added. (But there are focus crimes that we can say have increased. But the point here is, generally, when you combine all focus crimes—and that is the overall picture of our crime situation—when you compare it, it is down by 30% compared to 2024 and 2025.) Focus crimes refer to frequently occurring serious offenses such as murder, homicide, physical injury, rape, robbery, theft, and carnapping of motor vehicles and motorcycles. Nartatez also said a 13% drop in crime incidents was recorded compared to the three months prior to the implementation of the Safer Cities operations. The Safer Cities Initiative, launched on April 6, enforces stricter monitoring of public drinking, shirtless loitering, late-night karaoke, and curfew violations for minors, among other measures aimed at curbing street crime.

- [Barzaga pretty sure he'll be fine if expelled](#) (2026-05-04 13:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Cavite 4th District Rep. Francisco Barzaga said he is “pretty sure” he would be fine even if he were expelled from the House of Representatives. “Not really,” Barzaga said in a media interview at the House on Monday when asked if he was worried about the possibility of expulsion. “Even if I lose my job in Congress, I’m pretty sure I’ll be fine since I have plenty of other opportunities in life,” he added. Barzaga’s second suspension imposed by the House has already ended. Deputy Speaker and Iloilo 1st District Rep. Janette Garin earlier said Barzaga should be expelled from the chamber. “With the numerous complaints already pending, yes. Because nothing is changing,” Garin said in an April 28, 2026 interview with reporters, when asked whether he should be expelled. She noted that historically in Congress, repeated suspensions could lead to harsher penalties. “Historically, in Congress, if you were already suspended and then you have another suspension—and in his case, the second suspension had a very strong warning that if he repeats it—it will proceed to a higher penalty,” she said.

- [Nigeria to evacuate 130 citizens from South Africa after attacks](#) (2026-05-04 13:51)

LAGOS, Nigeria — Nigeria is planning a “voluntary repatriation” of citizens living in South Africa amid fears that anti-immigration attacks on Africans could spike, the foreign ministry said. South Africa -- the continent's most industrialised nation -- has seen repeated waves of xenophobic

and anti-migrant protests, including renewed violence in recent weeks that has targeted mostly people of African origin. Nigerian Foreign Minister Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu said on Sunday that 130 people had indicated they wanted to return home. "This figure is expected to rise," she said in a statement on social media, adding that "Nigerian lives and businesses in SA must not continue to be put at risk." Odumegwu-Ojukwu said at least two Nigerians - Amamiro Chidiebere Emmanuel and Nnaemeka Matthew Andrew -- died in two separate incidents involving South African security personnel last month. South Africa's Foreign Minister Ronald Lamola said he and Odumegwu-Ojukwu agreed in talks on Monday to deepen cooperation. "We reflected on the challenges posed by irregular migration and committed to working to address the root causes, find common and sustainable solutions to this shared concern," he said in a statement. South Africa's acting high commissioner in Abuja is set to meet Nigerian officials on Monday for discussions on "documented instances of mistreatment of Nigerian citizens and attacks on their businesses", foreign ministry spokesman Kimiebi Imomotimi Ebienfa said over the weekend. The foreign minister alleged that a "repetitive wave" of a "xenophobic pattern" flares up "especially prior to elections in South Africa, and anti-foreigner opposition parties leverage this situation to garner votes". South Africa holds municipal elections on November 4. The country's acting police minister last week condemned anti-immigrant violence, saying attacks on foreign nationals were "unlawful" and violated the constitutional values of dignity and equality. "Acts of xenophobia, violence, looting or intimidation will not be tolerated under any circumstances," Firoz Cachalia said. According to the statistics agency, some three million foreigners, or 5.1 percent of the population, live in the country. More than 63 percent come from countries in the 16-member Southern African Development Community (SADC) bloc.

- [Energy crisis fuels calls to cut methane emissions](#) (2026-05-04 13:35)

PARIS, France — World officials pushed Monday for faster action to reduce methane emissions from the fossil fuel sector, arguing it would both help slow climate change and boost energy security as the Middle East war chokes off supply. Using its role as rotating chair of the Group of Seven industrialised powers, France convened government officials, industry leaders and experts to build momentum on cutting methane emissions ahead of the UN's COP31 climate summit in November. Methane, the second biggest contributor to climate change, stays in the atmosphere for far less time than carbon dioxide, but its warming effect is roughly 80 times more potent over a 20-year period. "I sincerely hope that the discussions we will have today will enable us to join our forces to accelerate the implementation of effective solutions to reduce methane emissions," French Ecological Transition Minister Monique Barbut said in a speech. "Of course, action on methane is not a fight of any single actor and nobody can win it alone," Barbut said. Barbut said the world remains "very far" from meeting a global pledge to cut methane emissions by 30 percent by 2030 compared with 2020 levels. Around 60 percent of methane emissions are linked to human actions. The fossil fuel sector -- oil, gas and coal -- accounts for 35 percent of methane emissions from human activity, the International Energy Agency said in a report on Monday. "Yet there is still no sign that methane emissions from fossil fuel operations are falling, despite well-known and proven mitigation pathways," according to

the IEA's Global Methane Tracker 2026. Such emissions from the sector -- which come from leaks, flaring at venting from oil and gas operations -- remained "near record highs", the report said. - Barbados PM: 'act with alacrity' - Officials at the Paris conference said that cutting leaks and flaring from the fossil fuel industry could increase the availability of energy while slashing planet-heating emissions. The energy crisis "certainly gives everyone another reason why they should act with alacrity", the prime minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley, told AFP. "The question is, can some of this (gas) be brought on stream in the short to medium term, certainly quicker than it would take to repair some of the production facilities that have been lost in the Middle East as a result of the war," she added. The European Union's energy commissioner, Dan Jorgensen, also stressed that more gas could be put on the market if leaks were prevented. "This shows that methane abatement and energy security are not competing priorities," Jorgensen told the conference. "Methane is the single fastest lever we have to limit near-term warming. We can no longer wait to pull this lever," he added. Oil prices have soared since the United States and Israel launched the war against Iran in late February and Tehran closed the Strait of Hormuz in response. The IEA said 20 percent, or around 110 billion cubic metres, of the world's liquefied natural gas (LNG) flowed through the Strait of Hormuz last year. Nearly 100 billion cubic metres of natural gas could be made available annually through a global effort to cut methane from oil and gas operations, the IEA said. A further 100 billion cubic metres would be unlocked through the elimination of non-emergency flaring worldwide, it added. "Reducing methane emissions remains one of the best things we can do to slow global warming while cleaning up our air, improving public health, and increasing our energy security," British energy minister Ed Miliband said in a video message. Agriculture is also a major emitter through the methane released by livestock during digestion as well as rice cultivation, where flooded fields create ideal conditions for methane-emitting bacteria. Landfills also emit methane. "We must, however, be clear: the energy sector offers today the fastest and often the most cost effective reductions," Barbut said.

- [23 bystanders killed in Sweden shootings in three years: police](#) (2026-05-04 13:29)

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Twenty-three innocent bystanders have been killed and 30 wounded in gangland shootings in Sweden in the past three years, according to statistics released Monday that highlighted its battle to rein in violent crime. The Nordic country has struggled for more than a decade to contain gang violence linked primarily to score-settling and battles to control the drug market. The innocent victims include people hit by stray bullets, cases of a mistaken identity by the shooter and relatives of targeted gang members, according to the police statistics. Alexander Wallenius, operations coordinator at the Swedish police's department of national operations, told news agency TT that one reason for the number of bystanders injured was that many of the shooters were young. "We are dealing with very young perpetrators who, in many cases, have no previous experience of violent crime, which means a greater risk that third parties or the wrong target will be hit," Wallenius said. Swedish gangs often use social media and encrypted apps to recruit teens who are paid to carry out crimes. The recruits are often under the age of 15, Sweden's age of criminal responsibility -- meaning they cannot be

prosecuted and fall under the responsibility of social services, making them valuable assets to gangs. The minority right-wing government, propped up by the far-right Sweden Democrats, has been pushing through proposals cracking down on crime and immigration ahead of a general election on September 13. Last week it said it planned to introduce legislation requiring social media platforms like TikTok and Snapchat to take down gangs' 'murder adverts' within an hour or face hefty fines. The government has previously announced plans to lower the age of criminal responsibility from 15 to 13 for crimes punishable by at least four years in prison.

- [Food-grade PET recycling facility to open first bottle-to-bottle plant in Visayas, Mindanao](#) (2026-05-04 12:34)

MANILA, Philippines—A food-grade plastic recycling firm is set to open the first polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottle-to-bottle facility in Visayas and Mindanao in the third quarter of 2026. NS Sustainable Solutions Inc. (NSSI), a recycling company focused on producing food-contact compliant recycled PET (rPET), said its plant in Carmen, Cebu will process post-consumer bottles into new food and beverage packaging. The facility will convert used PET bottles into rPET using a certified decontamination and reprocessing system, allowing recovered plastic to meet food-contact safety standards and re-enter the packaging supply chain. NSSI said the project addresses a structural gap in the Philippines' recycling landscape, where PET collection networks exist but high-grade bottle-to-bottle processing capacity has remained limited and concentrated in a few areas. By locating the plant in Cebu, the company said materials collected in Visayas and Mindanao can be processed and reintegrated locally instead of being transported elsewhere. The plant is equipped with European-engineered recycling technology and is designed to comply with standards set by the US Food and Drug Administration and the European Food Safety Authority for food-contact applications, which are required by food and beverage manufacturers to ensure safety and material integrity. Beyond processing, NSSI said it is working with waste aggregators, materials recovery facilities, manufacturers, and brand partners to align collection, recycling, and reuse within a single system. The company said this approach improves traceability and compliance across the recycling value chain. The company said the launch comes as regulatory and market pressures increase demand for reliable domestic PET recovery systems, particularly as producers strengthen compliance with national waste management policies and extended producer responsibility requirements. NSSI said the facility is expected to reduce plastic leakage, promote a circular economy, create domestic value from post-consumer waste, strengthen regional recycling markets, support skilled employment, and advance responsible materials management. The project, it added, will help decentralize recycling infrastructure, support regional waste management systems, and expand the country's capacity to retain value from post-consumer plastic while setting a benchmark for scalable, compliant bottle-to-bottle recycling in the Philippines.

- [Balikatan drills not preparation for invasion — AFP](#) (2026-05-04 12:29)

LAOAG, Ilocos Norte — The military exercise being conducted by the Philippines, United States and allied partners in northern Luzon does not target anyone and is not in preparation for any possible foreign invasion, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said Monday. Troops from the Philippines, US and Japan knocked down air, land and sea targets in an integrated firepower targeting human dummies, mock vessels and training drones during the Exercise Balikatan 41-2026. The AFP confirmed that the exercises are strategically and uniquely situated in areas that heighten awareness and response to the security situation in the West Philippine Sea (WPS). However, it maintained that the drills are not pointed at anyone specific. “This exercise is part of the annual Balikatan activities. It intends to promote interoperability, not just inside the Armed Forces of the Philippines, but working with allied countries like the United States and Japan. So this is a joint and combined training exercise,” Lieutenant General Aristotel D. Gonzalez, commander of the Northern Luzon Command, said after the live fire drills. Tension between China and Taiwan is rising due to Beijing’s intensified efforts to unify the self-governed island with the mainland, which it considers a breakaway province. The Philippines and Taiwan are separated by the Luzon Strait, specifically the Bashi Channel, a narrow, deep waterway located between Taiwan’s southernmost point and the northernmost island of Batanes. Ilocos Norte is situated in the northern part of Luzon, putting it in proximity to the Bashi Channel, which serves as a vital maritime passage.

- [Princess Eugenie and her husband announce they are expecting their 3rd child](#) (2026-05-04 11:38)

LONDON — Britain’s Princess Eugenie and her husband, Jack Brooksbank, announced Monday that they are expecting their third child. Eugenie, the younger daughter of the former Prince Andrew and his ex-wife Sarah Ferguson, is set to give birth this summer, Buckingham Palace said in a statement. The couple’s two sons August, 5, and Ernest, 2, are “very excited” to welcome a new sibling to the family, and King Charles III is “delighted” with the news, the palace said. Charles is the older brother of the former prince, now known as Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, and Eugenie’s uncle.

- [7 Samar airports operational following magnitude 6.1 quake — CAAP](#) (2026-05-04 09:23)

MANILA, Philippines—Seven airports in Samar region remain operational even after a magnitude 6.1 earthquake hit Eastern Samar, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) said Monday. The aviation regulator has ordered officials at Calbayog, Borongan, Catbalogan, Hilongos, Catarman, Guiuan, and Ormoc airports to assess their facilities for potential damage. No significant damage has been reported in these locations. Borongan Airport had a power outage. CAAP said it will continue to monitor the situation and coordinate with local government units to guarantee the safety and security of affected airports. “CAAP assures the public that all necessary measures have been undertaken to ensure the safety of our airports and personnel. We are also coordinating closely with our airport managers for continuous monitoring, assessment, and the immediate resolution of operational concerns,” CAAP Director General Raul del Rosario said.

- [Senate minority to oppose convening of impeachment court — Padilla](#) (2026-05-04 08:47)

MANILA, Philippines—Sen. Robinhood Padilla said that the minority bloc will oppose the convening of the Senate as an impeachment court if the articles of impeachment (AI) against Vice President Sara Duterte is transmitted to the chamber. The bloc is composed of Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano, and Senators Ronald dela Rosa, Francis Escudero, Jinggoy Estrada, Bong Go, Imee Marcos, Rodante Marcoleta, Joel Villanueva, and Padilla. Padilla said it is the group's duty "to oppose." "That's natural. That's the role of the minority," Padilla said in Filipino in a chance interview. Marcos said "there's no doubt" that the AI will be elevated to the Senate. But she dismissed Padilla's remarks that their bloc will automatically oppose the convening of an impeachment court. "We haven't discussed that yet. But Robin has been very vocal [against the impeachment]," Marcos said. Estrada also denied Padilla's statement. "Walang ganun (There's no such thing like that)," he said. "We will follow all rules and procedures. There are many lawyers in the minority we will follow what is right. We will follow the law." Senate President Vicente Sotto III earlier said the chamber is ready for any eventuality in case the House of Representatives transmits the articles of impeachment within the week. "We will be ready for any eventuality. And I'm speaking for most of the members of the Senate," Sotto said in a chance interview. "That is part of our work. That is part of our job as senators. We must follow the Constitution. It's simple as that — which is to convene [as an impeachment court]," he said.

- [Mar Roxas should run for president — Erice](#) (2026-05-04 07:49)

MANILA, Philippines—Caloocan 2nd District Rep. Edgar Erice wants former Interior secretary Manuel Roxas to run for president in 2028. "I'm convincing Mar Roxas to run," Erice said in a media interview at the House of Representatives on Monday, adding that Roxas had the qualifications to seek the country's top post. "It is clear that what I believe in is the capability of Mar Roxas," he added. The lawmaker said that he would not participate in the plenary voting at the House on the impeachment articles against Vice President Sara Duterte. "I refuse to be part of a political spectacle that brings no real benefit to the Filipino people," Erice said. "This is not about accountability. This is about partisan politics." Duterte earlier announced that she will run for president in 2028.

- [Oil firms to raise diesel, gasoline prices on May 5](#) (2026-05-04 07:42)

MANILA, Philippines—Diesel and gasoline prices will go up on Tuesday, May 5, while kerosene prices will decrease, oil companies said on Monday. Shell and Seaoil said that they will raise diesel prices by P2.66 per liter, and gasoline prices by P2.21 per liter. Kerosene prices will go down by P3.53 per liter. Meanwhile, Jetti Petroleum said that it will hike diesel prices by P2.60 per liter and gasoline prices by P2.20 per liter. Last week, diesel prices went down by P12.94 per liter, gasoline by P0.53 per liter, and kerosene by P15.71 per liter.

- [Imee: Relations with president 'non-existent'](#) (2026-05-04 07:00)

MANDAUE CITY — Sen. Imee Marcos described her relationship with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as “non-existent.” At a press conference in Mandaue City on Saturday, Marcos said she has not seen the president for over a year. “I don’ t really go to the (family) reunions. It’ s not comfortable, and I prefer my kids go if they want to go. It’ s fine,” Marcos said. Despite the strained ties, the senator said she continues to care for her brother and hopes he prioritizes his health. She also said she remains close to their mother, the former first lady Imelda Marcos, and visits her during special family occasions, including their parents’ wedding anniversary every May 1. Marcos also dismissed online rumors claiming the president had died as false. She added, however, that the president has been dealing with health issues and has been in and out of hospital, contrary to earlier public denials. She urged Malacañang to release a certified medical bulletin on the president’ s condition, stressing the public’ s right to accurate information. The senator expressed concern over his condition, saying, “I’ m very, very sad that he’ s not being taken care of, and he’ s not watching out for himself. I wish he does. There’ s so much work. This is a crisis, and people need very trustworthy and determined leadership.” Malacañang has defended or clarified allegations raised by the president’ s sister. Officials dismissed her accusations last November that the president and first lady Liza Araneta-Marcos use illegal drugs, calling them a “desperate move” meant to divert attention from corruption probes into flood control projects. Last January, officials responded to her remarks about the president’ s health by urging her to stop treating the issue as a joke. In March, Malacañang questioned her statements, including her apology to their late father, the former president Ferdinand Marcos, for failing to “watch over” his son.

- [6.0 magnitude earthquake jolts Eastern Samar](#) (2026-05-04 06:43)

MANILA, Philippines—A magnitude 6.0 earthquake rocked Eastern Samar on Monday afternoon, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said. The quake was recorded at 2:09 p.m. Its epicenter was located 9 kilometers northwest of San Julian, Eastern Samar. The earthquake was tectonic in origin and had a depth of 10 kilometers, state seismologists said. Initial reports said that the quake's magnitude was 6.1.

- [BOC posts record ₱86.4 billion collection](#) (2026-05-04 05:39)

MANILA, Philippines —The Bureau of Customs (BOC) delivered its strongest performance last month, collecting ₱86.4 billion and surpassing its target by ₱7.8 in April. It was the highest monthly collection in the bureau's history, beating its ₱78.6 billion target by nearly 10 percent. Year-on-year, the April haul jumped by ₱11.699 billion, or 15.7 percent. It pushed the agency’ s January-to-April collections to ₱325.808 billion—exceeding its programmed goal of ₱314.660 billion by ₱11.148 billion, or 3.5 percent. It also marked a ₱19.729 billion increase, or 6.4 percent growth, compared to the same period in 2025. The record-breaking figures came as the BOC maintained its momentum to reach its trillion-peso target for 2026. Officials highlighted that the gains were achieved despite persistent external pressures, including the economic impact of the war in the Middle East.

- [ICC chamber orders parties to submit observations on Duterte detention](#) (2026-05-04 05:08)

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has directed parties in the case of former president Rodrigo Duterte to submit observations on his continued detention. In an order dated May 1 but only made public on Monday, Trial Chamber III said it was seeking updated positions from the prosecution, defense, and other participants on whether Duterte should remain in custody or be released, with or without conditions, citing possible “changed circumstances.” The parties have until May 8, 2026 to submit their answer. The chamber, composed of Presiding Judge Joanna Korner, Judge Keebong Paek, and Judge Nicolas Guillou, noted that under the Rome Statute, pre-trial detention must be reviewed at least every 120 days. The order followed a series of earlier rulings affirming Duterte’s detention. In September 2025, Pre-Trial Chamber I denied his request for interim release, a decision later upheld by the Appeals Chamber in November 2025. The pre-trial chamber again reviewed Duterte’s detention in January 2026 and ordered that he remain in custody, a ruling affirmed on appeal in March 2026. An annual hearing on the review of detention was also held on February 27, during which both parties and participants presented their arguments. Trial Chamber III said the latest directive aims to give all parties the opportunity to present any new developments that may affect the court’s assessment of whether continued detention is necessary.

- [Seoul, Taipei hit records as Asian stocks track Wall St tech rally](#) (2026-05-04 04:45)

HONGKONG, China — Tech firms led a rally across most Asian markets Monday following another healthy day on Wall Street fuelled by more strong earnings, while investors were also cheered by news that Iran had submitted fresh proposals to end its war with the United States. While the Middle East crisis continued to rumble along, with the Strait of Hormuz still effectively choked off, dealers turned their focus on the corporate world as they jumped back into the AI trade that has propelled several markets to record highs. Forecast-beating reports from Apple, Google, Microsoft and Samsung have reawakened interest in the artificial intelligence sector after the market tumult caused by the US-Israel strikes on Iran at the end of February. Companies in the S&P 500 are on track to report earnings growth of 27.1 percent, the highest rate in more than four years, according to Factset. Investors have been playing a waiting game since a ceasefire was agreed at the start of April, with just one round of talks taking place that came to nothing. In the meantime, the United States maintains a blockade of Iranian ports and Tehran is keeping the strait -- through which a fifth of global oil and gas usually passes -- closed. Optimism was given a boost Friday after an Iranian report that Tehran had delivered the text of a new proposal to mediator Pakistan the night before. The offer was said by the Tasnim News Agency as calling for a complete end to the conflict within 30 days along with guarantees against renewed strikes. It also reiterated previous demands that include the withdrawal of US forces from near Iran, the blockade to be lifted and sanctions removed. Iran's foreign ministry said Tehran had submitted a 14-point plan "focused on ending the war" and that Washington had already responded to it in a message to Pakistani mediators, which Iran was reviewing. Oil prices fluctuated Monday after dropping on Friday. Donald Trump said Sunday that "very

positive discussions" were underway and that US forces will soon start escorting ships out of the Strait of Hormuz in a "humanitarian gesture" dubbed "Project Freedom". In a post on Truth Social, the US president said many of the marooned ships "were running low on food", but offered few details on how the mission would work. US Central Command said on X that its forces would begin supporting Project Freedom with guided-missile destroyers, over 100 land and sea-based aircraft, multi-domain unmanned platforms and 15,000 service members. However, a senior Iranian official warned Monday that Tehran would consider any US attempt to interfere in the Strait of Hormuz a breach of the ongoing ceasefire. "Whether this will lead to sustained weakness in oil remains to be seen," wrote Fawad Razaqzada at Forex.com. "In my view, as long as the Strait of Hormuz situation remains unresolved, these types of headlines are likely to provide only temporary pressure on prices rather than drive a prolonged move lower." Equities started the month on a broadly positive note, following all-time highs for the S&P 500 and Nasdaq in New York on Friday. Seoul and Taipei jumped more than four percent to hit fresh records. South Korean chip giant SK hynix was the standout, piling on more than 10 percent, while rival Samsung was up around four percent. Taiwanese counterpart TSMC was almost seven percent up. Hong Kong also saw strong gains thanks to a surge in Chinese tech firms including Alibaba, while Singapore, Manila and Jakarta were also up. Tokyo and Shanghai were closed for holidays. However, Chris Weston at Pepperstone said: "After a strong April for risk assets, we need to remain open-minded about what May will bring." This week should provide early signals, but with risk assets pricing in a lot of good news, and rightly so, the time for that to be validated may now be here. "On currency markets, the yen was holding its own against the dollar after a rally on Thursday was said to have come on the back of Japanese intervention. Officials were said to have spent at least \$32 billion in the foreign exchange market, according to multiple reports, in its first such move to prop up the yen since 2024. Key figures at around 0300 GMT Hong Kong - Hang Seng Index: UP 1.9 percent at 26,268.77 Tokyo - Nikkei 225: Closed for a holiday Shanghai - Composite: Closed for a holiday West Texas Intermediate: DOWN 0.1 percent at \$101.82 a barrel Brent North Sea Crude: UP 0.1 percent to \$108.29 a barrel Dollar/yen: UP at 157.19 yen from 157.06 yen on Friday Euro/dollar: UP at \$1.1726 from \$1.1720 Pound/dollar: UP at \$1.3586 from \$1.3578 Euro/pound: DOWN at 86.31 pence from 86.32 pence New York - Dow: DOWN 0.3 percent at 49,499.27 (close) London - FTSE 100: DOWN 0.1 percent at 10,363.93 (close)

- [Passenger jet clips lamppost, truck while landing at Newark](#) (2026-05-04 04:44)

NEW YORK, United States — A United Airlines jet with 231 passengers and crew escaped a major disaster Sunday after one of its wheels clipped a lamppost and truck on a highway while on final approach to land in New Jersey. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials said the Boeing 767 landed safely at Newark Liberty International Airport after arriving from Venice, Italy, and the agency would investigate the incident. A preliminary investigation from New Jersey State Police said "while a United Airlines Aircraft was approaching the runway, a landing tire and the underside of the plane collided with a pole and a tractor-trailer." "The pole then struck a Jeep" that was also traveling the highway, state police said. No injuries were reported on the

plane, and the delivery truck driver was taken to the hospital with minor injuries and released, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said in a statement. United Airlines flight 169 was carrying 221 passengers and 10 crew members when the incident on a section of road near the airport runways occurred around 2 p.m. local time on Sunday. The H&S Bakery truck "was unscathed" but "the wheel of the commercial plane crashed into the driver's window," according to Chuck Paterakis, a senior vice president for the company, who added "the truck driver suffered small cuts from the incident." Paterakis also told TV broadcaster ABC everybody in the incident was very fortunate "because it could have been the opposite of what happened, and a little help from God went a long way tonight for everybody on the plane, and including the driver." United Airlines said in a statement it plans to "conduct a rigorous flight safety investigation into the incident and our crew has been removed from service as part of this process." Aircraft manufacturer Boeing did not immediately respond to AFP's request for comment.

- [House panel approves articles of impeachment vs VP Sara Duterte](#) (2026-05-04 04:04)

MANILA, Philippines — The House Committee on Justice on Monday unanimously approved the committee report and articles of impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte. All 55 panel members approved the report. The report will be sent to the plenary which will decide whether to send the impeachment articles to the Senate for trial. Last Wednesday, the committee, also by a unanimous vote, found probable cause with respect to the two impeachment complaints against Duterte.

- [‘We did not rush impeachment process’](#) (2026-05-04 03:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The House Committee on Justice did not take shortcuts in tackling the impeachment complaint against Vice President Sara Duterte, Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro said Monday. "We followed the Constitution. We did not rush; we did not take shortcuts," Luistro, the panel chairman, said in her opening remarks. "We honored the process," she said. Last Wednesday, the committee found probable cause to impeach the vice president. Today, Monday, the committee is conducting a hearing to finalize its report with the resolution containing impeachment articles which will be sent to the plenary for consideration. "Today, May 4, we will confirm whatever previously happened, through a Committee Report," Luistro said. "Our task is to approve these documents and transmit everything to the plenary," she said. The 1987 Constitution requires a vote of one-third of all members of the House of Representatives to send impeachment articles to the Senate which has the power to try impeachment case. "If the Vice President is guilty, let the truth convict her. If she is innocent, let the process clear her," Luistro said.

- [DPWH steps up road clearing operations in Albay](#) (2026-05-04 03:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways has mobilized heavy equipment to clear ash-covered roads in Albay. Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon on Monday personally inspected clearing operations along the Camalig–Guinobatan Road section of the

Maharlika Highway, ensuring the vital route remains passable after thick ashfall from Mayon Volcano blanketed the area."We need to restore mobility in Albay. Volcanic ash has disrupted daily life, halted transport, and raised safety concerns for motorists and nearby communities," Dizon said. Heavy equipment, including loaders and dump trucks, was deployed to accelerate the clearing, while personnel coordinated traffic management to minimize risk to passing vehicles.

- [1,500 beagles will get new lives, warm laps after release from research facility](#) (2026-05-04 03:20)

FORT LAUDERDALE — The first beagles removed from a Wisconsin dog breeding and research facility that was the site of recent protests seemed to know right away that they were safe. "They started within an hour or so coming up to us, wanting attention. Some crawled in people's laps. Every single one of them are super sweet," Lauree Simmons, president and founder of Big Dog Ranch Rescue, said Sunday. "I think they are loving the attention. I just know they know they're safe." Big Dog Ranch Rescue and the Center for a Humane Economy negotiated a confidential agreement to purchase the 1,500 dogs for an undisclosed price from Ridglan Farms, where police used tear gas and pepper spray to repel activists trying to take beagles from the facility last month. Protesters also broke into the facility in March and took 30 dogs. Sixty-three people were referred by the sheriff's department to the district attorney for potential charges related to that break-in. Talks to purchase the animals began months before the April disturbance, and Simmons said her group wasn't connected to the protests. Now, Big Dog Ranch Rescue is working with partners all over the country to find homes for 1,000 of the dogs, while the Center for a Humane Economy is taking the rest. Simmons said her group has received over 700 adoption applications, but it might take some time before the hounds are ready for their new homes as the organization screens potential dog parents, moves the animals to shelters around the country and ensures the beagles are housebroken. The first 300 dogs were taken from Ridglan on Friday, with more scheduled for removal over the next week. The animal groups have set up a staging area with play yards in Wisconsin, where the dogs are being vaccinated, microchipped, spayed or neutered and prepared for transport, Simmons said. Big Dog Ranch Rescue has already started moving dogs to its location in western Palm Beach County, Florida. "The younger dogs will adjust quicker, and the older dogs will take time," Simmons said. "A lot of them are more willing to accept love and want to be with people." Ridglan Farms didn't immediately respond to messages seeking comment. Beagles are the most common breed of dog used for animal testing, primarily because of their smaller size and gentle temperament, Simmons said. "A Belgian Malinois is not going to put up with being tested on, being confined in a kennel their whole life," Simmons said of the athletic shepherd dogs commonly used by police and the military. "Beagles are just so trusting and docile and calm and forgiving, so they are the most chosen dogs for animal testing. And so we're going to take one of the sweetest, kindest, most trusting breeds and abuse them? This is wrong. This needs to stop." Ridglan Farms agreed in October to give up its state breeding license as of July 1 as part of a deal to avoid prosecution on felony animal mistreatment charges. The firm has denied mistreating animals, but a special

prosecutor determined that Ridgland Farms was performing eye procedures that violated state veterinary standards. About 1,000 activists from across the country came to Ridgland Farms in the rural village of Blue Mounds, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) southwest of Madison, on April 18 in an attempt to take the beagles. They were met by police who used tear gas, rubber bullets and pepper spray. The Dane County Sheriff's Department said 29 people were arrested and five face felony burglary charges. Activists have filed a federal lawsuit in Wisconsin alleging that police used unnecessary force. Ridgland has said those who tried to break in were a "violent mob" who launched "an assault on a federally licensed research facility."

- [Marcos opens Calax segment](#) (2026-05-04 02:58)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday led the opening of a new segment of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (Calax), citing reduced travel time and improved connectivity in South Luzon. The 7.88-kilometer Subsection 3 extends the expressway to the Governor's Drive Interchange in General Trias, Cavite, cutting travel time between Biñan, Laguna, and General Trias to about 26 minutes from one hour. "This is 10 years in the making, the usual problem in road construction is right of way," Marcos said. "It's good that we have finally opened it." Marcos announced that the newly opened segment would be toll-free for a month. The President encouraged motorists to take advantage of the new infrastructure. Subsection 3 is expected to accommodate around 6,000 additional motorists daily, providing an alternative route that bypasses congested local roads in Cavite. With the new segment, the operational length of Calax now spans 26 kilometers from Mamlasan in Biñan, Laguna. Once completed, the 44.6-kilometer expressway will link the Manila-Cavite Expressway (Cavite) to the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX), forming a key transport corridor in the region. Marcos expressed gratitude to private sector partners, including the Metro Pacific group, for supporting the project.

- [Ex-NY mayor Giuliani hospitalized in 'critical' condition: spokesman](#) (2026-05-04 02:45)

WASHINGTON, United States — Former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani is hospitalized in "critical but stable condition," his spokesman said Sunday, without disclosing what ails the 81-year-old former politician. "Mayor Giuliani is a fighter who has faced every challenge in his life with unwavering strength, and he's fighting with that same level of strength as we speak," spokesman Ted Goodman said in an X post. Goodman did not say where Giuliani was receiving care or how long he had been there, but he asked "that you join us in prayer for America's Mayor Rudy Giuliani." The New York Times reported that Giuliani was hospitalized in Florida. Giuliani earned the moniker of "America's mayor" for leading New York City through the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center buildings in Manhattan. Earlier in his career, he gained fame as the fearless Mafia-busting prosecutor whose aggressive use of racketeering laws brought down New York's organized crime families. But Giuliani experienced a stunning fall from grace in recent years, including in 2023 when a federal jury ordered him to pay \$148 million to two election workers after defaming them by falsely tying them to alleged fraud in the 2020 presidential election. Giuliani, a Republican, became a fierce defender of

President Donald Trump, joining his personal legal team in Trump's first White House term. He came under scrutiny by the Manhattan US attorney's office in 2019 over his activities connected with investigations about Ukraine and apparent efforts to dig up dirt on Trump's Democratic rival Joe Biden. Giuliani was also part of the effort to reverse his client's clear election loss to Biden in 2020. But one by one, the post-election court challenges were withdrawn or dismissed as groundless. He has since been disbarred in New York and Washington. Giuliani was facing criminal charges in Arizona related to the 2020 election and other legal issues when Trump issued him a sweeping pardon last November. On Sunday Trump hailed Giuliani as a "true warrior" and New York's best-ever mayor. "What a tragedy that he was treated so badly by the Radical Left Lunatics, Democrats ALL — AND HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING!" Trump added. "They cheated on the Elections, fabricated hundreds of stories, did anything possible to destroy our Nation, and now, look at Rudy. So sad!"

- [Rubio to visit Rome, meet Pope Leo after Trump row](#) (2026-05-04 02:12)

ROME, Italy — US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will meet Pope Leo on a trip to Rome this week, in the wake of the pontiff's clash with President Donald Trump, a Vatican source said Sunday. The source confirmed Italian media reports about the meeting, which newspapers said would take place on Thursday in an attempt to "thaw" relations. It comes just weeks after Trump's extraordinary criticism of Pope Leo XIV over the Catholic leader's anti-war rhetoric. An Italian government source earlier told AFP that Rubio would also meet Vatican Secretary of State Pietro Parolin and Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani. Rubio had asked for a meeting with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, one of Trump's closest European allies, whom he turned on after she defended the pope, the source added. Media reports said he was also due to meet Defence Minister Guido Crosetto, amid a deepening rift in transatlantic ties over the Middle East war. Trump's 'unacceptable' remarks Leo, 70, will on Friday mark one year as leader of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics, after being elected by cardinals on May 8, 2025, following the death of Pope Francis. As the first ever pope from the United States, his words have arguably carried more weight in Washington than previous pontiffs -- and he has used them, criticising notably the Trump administration's crackdown on immigration. But it was the pontiff's increasing anti-war rhetoric, particularly following the US-Israeli attacks on Iran, that triggered Trump's ire. Leo declared Trump's threat to destroy Iran "unacceptable" and urged Americans to demand that US lawmakers "work for peace". The US president slammed the pontiff in a social media post as "WEAK on Crime, and terrible for Foreign Policy". Trump also said he was "not a big fan of Pope Leo" and that he does not "want a pope who thinks it's OK for Iran to have a nuclear weapon." The pontiff responded by saying he had a "moral duty to speak out" against war -- and then sparked more headlines with a speech in Cameroon lambasting "tyrants" ransacking the world. However, he insisted afterwards that the remarks were written long before the row, and said he had not intended to start a new debate with the US president. Trump's troops threat Christians across the world expressed their solidarity with the pope, and Meloni condemned Trump's remarks as "unacceptable" -- prompting the president to turn his fire on her. "I'm shocked at her. I thought she had courage, but I was wrong," the US president

said in an interview with Italian daily Corriere della Sera. He accused Meloni -- a far-right leader who has sought to act as a bridge between diverging US and European views -- of failing to help the United States with NATO. Trump has threatened to pull US troops from Italy, saying Rome "has not been of any help to us" in the Iran war. He has made a similar threat towards Spain, while the Pentagon has announced it will withdraw 5,000 US troops from Germany. As of December 31, 2025, there were 12,662 active-duty US troops in Italy and 3,814 in Spain. In Germany, there were 36,436. In Sunday's address in St Peter's Square, the pope marked World Press Freedom Day. "Unfortunately, this right is often violated — sometimes blatantly, sometimes in more subtle ways," he said. "Let us remember the many journalists and reporters who have fallen victim to wars and violence."

- [Australian inquiry opens public hearings into Bondi Beach shooting](#) (2026-05-04 01:56)

SYDNEY, Australia — An Australian inquiry opened public hearings Monday into an antisemitic shooting that killed 15 people at a Jewish festival on Sydney's Bondi Beach. The federal royal commission -- the highest level of government inquiry -- was called to probe factors leading to the attack by two gunmen on Jewish families at Australia's most famous beach in December. Public hearings began with members of Sydney's Jewish community expected to talk about their experience of antisemitism. "The sharp spike of antisemitism that we have witnessed in Australia has been mirrored in other Western countries and seems clearly linked to events in the Middle East," inquiry chief Virginia Bell said in opening remarks. "It's important that people understand how quickly those events can prompt ugly displays of hostility towards Jewish Australians simply because they are Jews." The inquiry had received thousands of submissions about the impact of "one of society's oldest hatreds", said counsel assisting the inquiry, Zelie Hegen. She pointed to antisemitic chants during a protest against the war in Gaza outside Sydney's Opera House in October 2023, shortly after the Hamas attack on Israel. The rally created fear in Australia's Jewish community, she said. Jewish community groups recorded 2,062 antisemitic incidents in the following year. A "summer of terror" saw a string of arson and graffiti attacks against synagogues and Jewish businesses in Sydney and Melbourne, she said. Sajid Akram and son Naveed are accused of opening fire as Jewish families thronged Bondi Beach for a Hanukkah celebration in December, carrying out Australia's deadliest mass shooting for 30 years. Alleged gunman Sajid Akram, 50, was shot and killed by police during the assault. His 24-year-old son Naveed, an Australian-born citizen who remains in prison, has been charged with terrorism and 15 murders.

- [GameStop makes \\$56 billion takeover bid for eBay](#) (2026-05-04 01:46)

NEW YORK, United States — US video game retailer GameStop made an unsolicited takeover bid on Sunday to buy online marketplace eBay for about \$55.5 billion, it said in a release. Gamestop, which has said it wants to turn eBay into a competitor to e-commerce giant Amazon, is offering \$125 per share in a combination of stock and cash.

- [DOH proposes alternatives for face masks amid shortage](#) (2026-05-04 01:33)

MANILA, Philippines —The Department of Health (DOH) urged the public to use a wet cloth as an alternative to N95 face masks, following the reported shortage after the Mayon Volcano eruption on May 2. In a statement Sunday, the DOH said using a wet handkerchief or cloth, wearing a regular face mask that fully covers the nose and mouth, or doubling up on standard face masks for added protection can help reduce exposure to ashfall. The agency explained that the ashfall is not an ordinary dust, noting that it may contain tiny fragments of rocks, minerals, and volcanic glass that can irritate the lungs and airways when inhaled.

- [Three die on Atlantic cruise ship from suspected hantavirus: WHO](#) (2026-05-04 00:36)

PRAIA, Cape Verde —Three people have died on a cruise ship in the Atlantic, the WHO said Sunday, one a confirmed case of hantavirus -- an illness usually transmitted to humans from rodents. The outbreak occurred on the MV Hondius, travelling from Ushuaia in Argentina to Cape Verde. "To date, one case of hantavirus infection has been laboratory confirmed, and there are five additional suspected cases," the World Health Organization told AFP. "Of the six affected individuals, three have died and one is currently in intensive care in South Africa." Earlier Sunday, South Africa's health ministry told AFP there had been an outbreak of a "severe acute respiratory illness", which had killed at least two people, with a third in intensive care in Johannesburg. The patient treated in Johannesburg tested positive for a hantavirus, a family of viruses that can cause hemorrhagic fever, South African spokesperson Foster Mohale said. In its statement, the WHO said hantavirus infections "are typically linked to environmental exposure (exposure to infected rodents' urine or faeces)." While rare, hantavirus may spread between people, and can lead to severe respiratory illness and requires careful patient monitoring, support and response." Husband and wife The first person on the cruise to develop symptoms was a 70-year-old passenger. He died on board the ship and his body was currently on the island of Saint Helena, a British territory in the South Atlantic, Mohale the South African spokesman said. His 69-year-old wife also fell ill on board and was evacuated to South Africa, where she died in a Johannesburg hospital, he said, adding that they were not yet able to confirm the victims' nationalities. The third case, a 69-year-old Briton, was also evacuated to Johannesburg, where he was being treated in intensive care. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a post on X that the agency was working with the ship's operators and member states affected. "WHO is facilitating medical evacuation of two symptomatic passengers, conducting a full risk assessment, and supporting affected people onboard," he added. "Rapid, coordinated action is critical to contain risks and protect public health." Earlier Sunday, a source close to the case speaking on condition of anonymity had said a Dutch couple were among the dead. The third fatality was still on board the ship. Discussions were under way to decide whether two other sick passengers should be placed in isolation in hospital in Cape Verde, after which the ship would continue to Spain's Canary Islands, the anonymous source said. The MV Hondius is listed as a polar cruise ship on the websites of several travel agencies. It is operated by a Dutch-based tour company, Oceanwide Expeditions. One of the cruises offers an itinerary departing from Ushuaia for Cape Verde, with stops in the islands of South Georgia and Saint Helena. According to several online ship-tracking sites, the MV Hondius was just off

the port of Praia, the capital of Cape Verde, on Sunday. The vessel can accommodate around 170 passengers and has some 70 crew members. Humans can catch hantaviruses from contact with infected mice or rats or their droppings, or being bitten or inhaling contaminated dust. There are multiple types of hantaviruses in different parts of the world, with different symptoms. AFP contacted the cruise operator Oceanwide Expeditions but has not yet had a reply.

- [Trump calls Iran talks 'very positive,' US to 'guide' ships through Hormuz](#) (2026-05-04 00:22)

WASHINGTON, United States — President Donald Trump said Sunday that "very positive discussions" were underway with Iran on finding a solution to the war, but nevertheless added US forces will soon start escorting ships out of the blocked Strait of Hormuz. Earlier, a spokesman for Iran's foreign ministry, Esmail Baqaei, told state television that Tehran had submitted a 14-point plan "focused on ending the war," and that Washington had responded to it in a message to Pakistani mediators. "I am fully aware that my Representatives are having very positive discussions with the Country of Iran, and that these discussions could lead to something very positive for all," Trump said on his Truth Social platform. The United States and Israel launched attacks on Iran on February 28, killing the Islamic republic's supreme leader. Tehran responded with strikes on US military bases and Israeli targets in the region. A ceasefire came into effect April 8, and there has been one round of direct peace talks in Islamabad since, with the two countries deadlocked. Iran has maintained a stranglehold on the Strait of Hormuz since the war began, choking off major flows of oil, gas and fertilizer to the world economy, while the United States has imposed a counter-blockade on Iranian ports. Trump said "countries from all over the world" had requested American aid in navigating through the key waterway and out of the Gulf. "For the good of Iran, the Middle East, and the United States, we have told these Countries that we will guide their Ships safely out of these restricted Waterways, so that they can freely and ably get on with their business," Trump said. "This process, Project Freedom, will begin Monday morning, Middle East time." He called it a "humanitarian gesture," saying many of the marooned ships were "running low on food, and everything else necessary for largescale crews to stay on board in a healthy and sanitary manner." Trump offered few details on how the mission would work. But an operation to guide ships out of the narrow strait could put US service members precariously close to Iranian forces. In a post on X, US Central Command said starting Monday, its forces would begin supporting Project Freedom with guided-missile destroyers, over 100 land and sea-based aircraft, multi-domain unmanned platforms and 15,000 service members. "Our support for this defensive mission is essential to regional security and the global economy as we also maintain the naval blockade," Admiral Brad Cooper, CENTCOM commander, said in the post. As of April 29, more than 900 commercial vessels were located in the Gulf, according to maritime intelligence firm AXSMarine. There had been more than 1,100 at the start of the conflict.

- [OPEC+ hikes oil production quotas but stays mum on UAE pull-out](#) (2026-05-03 18:19)

VIENNA, Austria — Saudi Arabia, Russia and five other OPEC+ countries increased their oil production quota on Sunday in an expected move aimed at demonstrating continuity at the cartel after the shock withdrawal of the United Arab Emirates. The seven major producers will add 188,000 barrels per day to their total production quota for June amid the price pressure unleashed by the Mideast war, as part of "their collective commitment to support oil market stability", according to a statement published by OPEC+. The statement, following an online meeting of Algeria, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Oman, Russia and Saudi Arabia, made no mention of the United Arab Emirates, which quit the body on Friday, three days after announcing its withdrawal. Rystad Energy analyst Jorge Leon told AFP that the silence on the UAE's departure was a sign of tense relations. Oil market analysts had widely expected the increase of 188,000 barrels, similar to the 206,000-barrel daily increases OPEC+ announced in both March and April when the portion allotted to the UAE was subtracted. "By sticking to the same production path -- just minus the UAE -- it's acting as if nothing has happened, deliberately downplaying internal fractures and projecting stability," Leon said. - Strait of Hormuz bottleneck remains - But raising the quota on paper may not have much impact on actual production, which is already short of the limit. Untapped OPEC+ reserves are mainly located in the Gulf region, and exports there are trapped by the blockade of the vital Strait of Hormuz, imposed by Iran in response to the US-Israeli strikes that started the war on February 28. Leon, the Rystad Energy analyst, told AFP on Sunday that the cartel was looking to send "a two-layer message" that the UAE's exit would not disrupt how OPEC+ operates and that the group still exerts control over global oil markets despite massive disruption to oil trade due to the war. "While output is increasing on paper, the real impact on physical supply remains very limited given the Strait of Hormuz constraints," Leon told AFP. "This is less about adding barrels and more about signalling that OPEC+ still calls the shots." The Strait of Hormuz blockade is hitting Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The latter's production will no longer count towards OPEC quotas. "Total OPEC+ output with quota fell to 27.68 million bpd in March, against a monthly quota of 36.73 million bpd, a shortfall of approximately 9 million bpd driven almost entirely by war-related disruption rather than voluntary restraint," said Priya Walia, another analyst at Rystad Energy, ahead of Sunday's meeting. Iran, whose exports are now the target of a retaliatory US blockade, is an OPEC+ member but is not subject to quotas. Russia, the group's second-biggest producer, has been the main beneficiary of the situation. But despite soaring energy prices, it appears to be struggling to produce at the level of its current quotas as its own war in Ukraine drags on and Ukrainian drones hit oil industry facilities. - 'A big deal' - Amena Bakr, an analyst at Kpler, described the UAE's exit as "a big deal" for OPEC. Previous withdrawals from the group by Qatar in 2019 and Angola in 2023 were less significant by comparison, Bakr told a video conference on the UAE withdrawal. The UAE has invested massively in infrastructure in recent years, and state-owned oil company ADNOC plans to increase output by five million barrels a day by 2027 -- far above the country's last quota of around 3.5 million barrels. ADNOC also pledged on Sunday to spend \$55 billion on new projects over the next two years, confirming that the company is "accelerating growth and delivery of its strategy". There is also the risk for OPEC+ that other countries will leave such as Iraq and Kazakhstan, which have faced repeated accusations of surpassing their quotas.

- [Daughter says Maradona died after carers' plan 'went out of control'](#) (2026-05-03 18:15)

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Diego Maradona's entourage and medical team had a plan for the Argentine football star but things "went out of control" in the lead-up to his death, his daughter Gianinna said in an interview this week. Maradona, regarded as one of the greatest football players of all time, died in November 2020 at the age of 60 of heart failure and acute pulmonary edema -- a condition where fluid accumulates in the lungs -- while recovering at home from surgery for a brain clot. "There was definitely a plan and someone was in charge of it, but things got out of their control," Gianinna, 36, told news outlets including AFP. She spoke on the sidelines of the trial in San Isidro of seven medical workers -- including a neurosurgeon, a psychiatrist and a nurse -- whom prosecutors accuse of gross negligence over Maradona's death. The seven deny responsibility and say the star of the 1986 World Cup died of natural causes. They face prison terms of between eight and 25 years if convicted. Gianinna blamed Maradona's former lawyer and representative Matias Morla and his former assistant Maximiliano Pomargo. The pair are not among the accused in the negligence case, but will stand trial for alleged fraudulent management of Maradona's brands. The trial date has yet to be announced. "I can't quite bring myself to think through this plan, that they wanted to kill him. Did Morla want to have my father's life in his hands? Surely," Gianinna said. - 'Power' over Maradona -Gianinna said some of the defendants convinced the family in November 2020 that Maradona could only recover from neurosurgery at home, instead of being admitted to a psychiatric clinic. The clinic could have treated the football star's addictions but, if Maradona refused to be admitted, he would likely have been placed under a judge's guardianship. "It didn't suit them for my father to be hospitalized in psychiatry, because a whole lot of things would have collapsed for Morla," Gianinna said. She said Maradona had given Morla power of attorney in the commercial use of his name. "He was the one who had the signature, who could sign as if he were my dad," she said. "He had the power of having Maradona (under his control) and did whatever he wanted with that power," Gianinna said, adding that those in his closest circle were "always thinking about the money side of things, not about dad's health." Gianinna testified at the trial last month and denounced Maradona's "total manipulation." Prosecutors said the footballer was kept in a house in the northern Buenos Aires suburb of Tigre without appropriate medical equipment and sanitation, and that carers committed "all kinds of omissions" that resulted in "cruel" conditions. Gianinna said she believed the seven defendants were "all responsible, some to a greater degree than others." She singled out Maradona's then-personal physician Leopoldo Luque as the "main voice" who managed his team. However, she said each defendant bore personal responsibility. "The nurse who was supposed to check on him before leaving didn't check on him, and the nurse who arrived didn't check on him either," she said. - 'They were afraid' -Expert reports say that Maradona died after several hours of agony, alone on the bed in the house rented for his recovery. Gianinna said that the medical team members "all had a common line and they all followed it." She said Pomargo, Maradona's former right-hand man and Morla's brother-in-law, was "the one who was pulling the strings a bit." When Maradona's condition worsened, the carers "were afraid, because in the audio messages (used in the trial), you hear things like: 'I'm covering myself legally,'" Gianinna said. "They never

imagined that the prosecutor's office would act quickly, seize their phones, raid their homes," she said.

- [PAO hails court for acquitting mom](#) (2026-05-03 18:04)

THE Public Attorney's Office (PAO) has hailed the Supreme Court for reversing the decision of a regional trial court and the Court of Appeals (CA), acquitting a mentally challenged mom over the death of her 5-year-old daughter 16 years ago. PAO chief Persida Rueda-Acosta, interviewed on Sunday by The Manila Times, cited the ruling penned by Associate Justice Samuel Gaerlan with the concurrence of Associate Justices Benjamin Caguioa, Henri Jean Paul Inting, and Japar Dimaampao that absolved the woman from Manila who was charged with parricide. At the same time, the chief public attorney praised the members of PAO's Special and Appealed Cases Service (SACS) who provided legal services to the accused. In its decision on May 27, 2022, a Manila Regional Trial Court found the mother guilty under the Revised Penal Code (RPC) and sentenced her to reclusion perpetua or imprisonment for 20 years and one day to 40 years. Affirming the lower court's ruling, the appellate court, in its Jan. 10, 2024 decision, denied the accused's appeal for her failure to present sufficient evidence to establish that she was indeed suffering from insanity at the time of the commission of the crime. Court records showed that on Jan. 19, 2010, the accused, while carrying her daughter, the victim, jumped into the river from a bridge. She was rescued, but her daughter drowned. The high court's Third Division found compelling reason to overturn the conviction of the victim's mother, Gaerlan said. Notably, since the law presumes all persons to be of sound mind, insanity is the exception rather than the general rule, as the high tribunal emphasized that it found sufficient evidence to establish that she was indeed suffering from insanity at the time of the commission of the crime. "She was able to medically prove that she was suffering from schizophrenia at the time of the commission of the crime," the high tribunal said as it noted the testimonies of three physicians who also confirmed that she had been experiencing symptoms since 2004. Schizophrenia is a chronic mental disorder characterized by the inability to distinguish between fantasy and reality, and often accompanied by hallucinations and delusions. "It is a medical condition that deprives a person of discernment," Gaerlan said. Accordingly, the high court is convinced that at the time of the incident, the accused's mental state deprived her of the ability to appreciate the nature and wrongfulness of her act, the ruling said. Although the high court exempts her from criminal liability, Gaerlan said she still has civil liability and other damages, considering that a criminal act was nonetheless committed. The Court then ordered that she be immediately transferred from the detention facility to the National Center for Mental Health in Mandaluyong City for her treatment.

- [Impeach report sent to plenary today](#) [Impeach report sent to plenary today](#) (2026-05-03 16:18)

THE House Committee on Justice will transmit to the plenary today, May 4, its report finding probable cause to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte. If at least one-third of the House approves the report, it will be sent to the Senate as part of the articles of impeachment,

Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro, the committee chairman, said in a statement on Sunday. In a unanimous vote, 53 members of the House affirmed the report of the committee last Wednesday finding probable cause with respect to the two impeachment complaints against Duterte. The committee based its finding on the issue of confidential funds, the vice president's alleged unexplained wealth, and her remark to order the assassination of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Duterte has denied making the assassination threat. In her response, she said the complaints failed to show "any shred of proof" that a contract to kill ever existed, and that the complainants relied "on exaggerated conclusions dressed up as fact." Duterte said she will answer only the charges related to her "election, assumption to the Office of the Vice President, appointment as Secretary of Education, and her prior offices as Mayor and Vice Mayor of Davao City." The justice panel was required by the Constitution to submit a report "with the corresponding resolution" to the House within 60 session days after the complaint's referral. Luistro had announced that the committee would transmit the documents to the House on May 4. "After giving them reasonable time to study the articles of impeachment and all the documents, the plenary should be ready to vote. As to when, it will depend on the plenary," she said. Luistro said she anticipates "a heated debate" in the plenary before the House votes on whether to send the impeachment articles to the Senate. "The probable cause vote was already 53 votes. So what we need is only 106 votes to impeach," Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon, a member of the Justice Committee, said during a news forum on Saturday. "I think that is a number that will not be difficult to surmount and reach," Ridon said. "As soon as we are done at the level of the plenary, I think within two weeks we can transmit to the Senate," he said. Luistro said the committee's work reflected a careful, evidence-based process. "This is not about politics," she stressed. Duterte's defense team said last Wednesday that the committee's finding probable cause for impeachment was "not unexpected, given the direction the proceedings had taken." Luistro stressed that the hearing was "clarificatory" in nature, "intended for the determination of probable cause, not for the purpose of determining the guilt or innocence of the respondent." Last week, Senate President Vicente Sotto III said that the chamber might convene as an impeachment court on May 13 if the House of Representatives impeaches Duterte on May 11. "Let's say they approve [the articles on impeachment] on May 11, [they will transmit it on] May 12. [The Senate should] discuss it already on May 13 and convene as impeachment court," Sotto said. The Senate will resume session on May 4 after a monthlong break. "The Senate must be in session to receive [the AI]," the senator said.

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- [PCG aircraft, vessels to challenge Chinese research ships](#) (2026-05-03 16:17)

THE Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said on Sunday it will use aircraft and patrol vessels to challenge four Chinese vessels conducting what it suspects to be unauthorized marine scientific research in Philippine waters. In a statement, the PCG said the vessels were detected through Canada's Dark Vessel Detection system, and their activities indicated research operations without the consent of the Philippine government, in violation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos). The monitored vessels were the Xiangyanghong 33, an oceanographic survey ship capable of deep-sea exploration and seafloor mapping, located about 140 nautical miles northwest of Rizal, Palawan, near Quirino Atoll; the Shi Yan 1, a hydro-acoustic research vessel, spotted roughly 118 nautical miles west of Itbayat, Batanes; the

Jia Geng, a deep-sea research ship equipped with unmanned underwater vehicles, detected about 88 nautical miles northeast of Itbayat; and the Zhu Hai Yun, described as a drone mothership, found over 100 nautical miles northwest of the Kalayaan Island Group and west of Pangasinan. The PCG said the ships' advanced capabilities suggested they were conducting geophysical surveys, acoustic data collection, and other forms of marine scientific research. Under UNCLOS, coastal states have exclusive rights to regulate, authorize and conduct marine scientific research within their exclusive economic zone. PCG Commandant Admiral Ronnie Gil Gavan said the deployment was in line with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to protect the country's maritime domain. "We will not tolerate any illegal marine scientific research conducted without our government's consent," Gavan said. "We are deploying aircraft and vessels to challenge and drive away these unauthorized vessels to protect Philippine sovereignty and sovereign rights." The PCG said it will continue to track and monitor the vessels and will take appropriate action consistent with Philippine laws and international maritime rules.

- [Fil-Am from La Union crowned Miss Universe Philippines](#) (2026-05-03 16:16)

BEA Millan-Windorski of La Union won the Miss Universe Philippines 2026 title during the pageant's coronation night in SM Mall of Asia Arena, Pasay City, on Saturday. In the final question-and-answer round, the remaining candidates were asked, "Many Filipinos are getting frustrated with the country. For you, why is it still worth it to represent the Philippines on the global stage?" Millan-Windorski's reply: "The Philippines is something and a place that I've been in love with my whole life. Growing up in a predominantly non-diverse part of the United States, I was identified as Filipina first and foremost. I often had to point where the Philippines was on a map to my peers, and I always felt a sense of belonging and home." "I chose to pack my life into balikbayan boxes and suitcases because I believe in the limitless potential of the Filipino people, and the fact that we need to create local opportunities here so that people don't have to go abroad and be separated from their families in order to survive and thrive. If I were given the title of Miss Universe Philippines, I promise to be a public servant for all," she added. Millan-Windorski took a moment to realize she had been named the winner. After national director Ariella Arida's announcement, she was seen applauding until fellow finalists Allyson Arceo Hetland of Pampanga and Jenrose Javier of Sultan Kudarat alerted her that the title was hers. Miss Universe Philippines 2025 Ahtisa Manalo crowned Millan-Windorski at the close of the program. Breaking from the usual format, the pageant did not announce runners-up from the Top 7 before declaring the winner, with hosts proceeding directly to the final reveal. Completing the Top 7 were Jenrose Javier of Sultan Kudarat, Apriel Smith of Cebu City, Marian Arellano of Tarlac, Ysabella Roxas Ysmael of Taguig, Nicole Borrromeo of Cebu and Allyson Arceo Hetland of Pampanga. Millan-Windorski wore a creation by Anthony Ramirez titled "Elyucana: a tribute to the girls of La Union." Ramirez described the gown as rendered in sun-warmed sand hues with water-like details, evoking a figure "fresh from the ocean" and "kissed by the La Union sun." Millan-Windorski was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin–Madison with degrees in History and International

Relations. She previously competed internationally after being crowned Miss Earth USA 2024 and went on to finish as Miss Earth Water. She then relocated to the Philippines, and identifies as an advocate for the environment and migrant workers. At 16, she began volunteering with refugee communities in Milwaukee and founded Open Doors, Open Hearts, an initiative that raises awareness on the experiences of climate refugees. She is also involved with Project Curma, a La Union-based group focused on sea turtle conservation. In response to the flood control projects scandal in the Philippines, Millan-Windorski took part in demonstrations against government corruption. She will represent the Philippines at the 75th Miss Universe pageant in November at the José Miguel Agrelot Coliseum in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Millan-Windorski is aiming to secure the country's fifth Miss Universe crown, following victories by Gloria Diaz (1969), Margie Moran (1973), Pia Wurtzbach (2015) and Catriona Gray (2018). This year's Miss Universe Philippines pageant was hosted by drag performer Marina Summers and featured performances from P-Pop boy group BGYO and singer Jason Dy. Iza Iglesias

- [2 Leduc priority bills up for House approval](#) (2026-05-03 16:13)

TWO of the Marcos administration's priority measures are up for final approval when the House of Representatives resumes session today, March 4. House Majority Leader Ferdinand Alexander Marcos identified the two bills as the proposed National Land Use Act, and proposed amendments to the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program Act. "These are not theoretical proposals anymore. These are measures that have already moved through key stages, and what they need now is sustained floor work so we can bring them across the finish line before adjournment," Marcos said in a statement Sunday. The House had passed or advanced 18 of the over 50 priority measures that had been stamped as priority by the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Leduc). The measures were passed before the Holy Week break, Marcos said. The bills included one resetting the first regular elections in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and the National Center for Geriatric Health bill, which is under consideration by a bicameral conference committee. The others are the proposed Electric Power Industry Reform Act amendments related to strengthening the Energy Regulatory Commission; waste-to-energy measure; proposed amendments to the Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education Act; proposed Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations Act; proposed amendments to the National Building Code; proposed Blue Economy Act; the National Reintegration Bill; proposed amendments to the Teachers Professionalization Act; the proposed extension of the estate tax amnesty period; the Department of Water Resources Bill; proposed amendments to the Bank Deposits Secrecy Law; the proposed abolition of the travel tax; the proposed Digital Payments Act; proposed amendments to the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act; the Presidential Merit Scholarship Program bill; and the proposed amendments to the Biofuels Act. Marcos said the proposed Anti-Political Dynasty Act had also been calendared, and the House started debates on the bill last March. Two measures have been approved by the committee, which were referred to the House Committee on Appropriations — the Classroom-Building Acceleration

Program bill and the right to information bill. Already at the committee deliberation stage or technical working group deliberation stage were the proposed amendments to the Rice Tariffication Law; proposed amendments to the Masustansyang Pagkain Para sa Batang Pilipino Act; the Anti-Fake News and Disinformation bill; proposed amendments to the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act; proposed Citizen Access and Disclosure of Expenditures for National Accountability or Cadena Act; proposed Party-list System Reform Act; the expanded anti-child sexual abuse law; and the bill aiming to create the Independent People's Commission. "Our job now is to keep the momentum and make sure that the measures that are already close do not get left behind. The work has already been done in many of these bills," Marcos said. "What we need now is the time and discipline to bring them to final approval."

- [DOLE pushes workers' rights, commuter safety](#) (2026-05-03 16:12)

THE Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said its high-impact, high-visibility inspection (Hihvi) initiative has improved compliance with labor standards and enhanced safety measures for workers and the riding public. "There will be no compromise when it comes to workers' rights and commuter safety," Labor Undersecretary Benedicto Ernesto Bitonio Jr., officer-in-charge of the Office of the Secretary, said. The inspection of key transport terminals, offices and ports led to immediate corrective actions by non-compliant operators, including the payment of wage deficiencies, improved observance of working hours, and strengthening of occupational safety and health (OSH) programs, Bitonio said. The initiative focused on checking compliance with minimum wage, overtime and holiday pay, working hours and rest periods, and social security contributions, ensuring that drivers and transport personnel are protected from exploitation and fatigue-related risks. Inspection teams also checked vehicle roadworthiness, driver fitness, and terminal safety conditions. The inspections were carried out by joint teams from DOLE, Department of Transportation, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, Land Transportation Office, Philippine Coast Guard, and other partners. DOLE also conducted on-site dialogues with drivers and operators, as well as public information campaigns, helping raise awareness on labor rights and safety standards. Bitonio said that when the public sees that the government is carrying out the inspections, trust is further strengthened and violations are better prevented.

- [AFP lauds Atin Ito mission in Pag-asa Island](#) (2026-05-03 16:12)

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Sunday lauded the "Atin Ito" Coalition for its civilian supply mission to Pag-asa Island. "The successful navigation to our features, culminating in the planting of the Philippine flag on Sandy Cay, is a profound testament to the indomitable spirit of the Filipino people. This is not merely a symbolic gesture; it is a powerful assertion of our sovereign rights and a demonstration of active citizenship in the face of external challenges," Navy Reservist retired Rear Admiral Roy Vincent Trinidad, AFP spokesman for the West Philippine Sea, said in a statement. The civilian mission "amplifies the voice of our fisherfolk and local communities" and reinforces the truth that the disputed waters is not just a strategic maritime area but an integral part of the country's national

heritage,” Trinidad said. The group made its fourth voyage to Pag-asa Island from April 30 to May 5. Atin Ito, a civilian-led coalition asserting Philippine sovereignty and conducting supply missions to the WPS, made a series of Facebook posts detailing how they were shadowed by Chinese maritime forces all throughout their trip. It posted real-time videos of Chinese maritime forces shadowing them and claimed that drone operations by their media contingent, as well as volunteers, were being jammed by the Chinese.

- [Imee calls for govt-to-govt oil procurement deal](#) (2026-05-03 16:11)

SEN. Imee Marcos on Sunday urged the government to pursue direct government-to-government (G2G) oil procurement to address the oil crisis triggered by the Middle East war. Marcos criticized the administration’s “passive response” to the oil shock caused by the US-Israel war on Iran. “The Iran war is a crisis all too real for most Filipinos,” she said in a statement. “Sadly, we are bereft of the strong, decisive leadership that should lessen our people’s burdens from a global oil shock that will take years to resolve.” Marcos said the government should buy oil directly from supplier countries and sell it at lower prices to hard-hit sectors such as transport workers, farmers and fisherfolk. “Why hasn’t there been a G2G (government-to-government) deal with Russia during the sanctions waiver period? The waiver was even extended to May 16, yet the government has remained idle,” Marcos said. “Even Petron, a private company, was able to secure 2.48 million barrels of Russian crude. If a private corporation can do it, why can’t the Philippine government?” she said. Marcos said direct diplomacy enabled the Philippines to weather previous global oil shocks. “In the 1970s, the government didn’t just wait for the market to stabilize,” she said. “We negotiated direct G2G oil imports at deeply discounted ‘friendly’ rates to abate the shocks of 1974 and 1979. This strategy worked then; why aren’t we doing it now?” Marcos said Indonesia plans to import 150 million barrels of Russian crude, while Sri Lanka fast-tracked direct G2G deals to address fuel shortages. Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia are “actively negotiating supply and investment agreements with Russia and other exporters such as Brunei,” she said. Marcos said the Philippines should benchmark against other oil-import-dependent nations and study how they are mitigating supply disruptions. “Our government must have a sourcing strategy beyond traditional routes vulnerable to disruption, particularly the Strait of Hormuz, by shifting to non-Middle Eastern suppliers,” she said. “At the same time, we should strengthen direct partnerships with regional producers like Malaysia, Brunei, and Indonesia instead of relying heavily on intermediaries in refining hubs such as Singapore, South Korea, and China,” Marcos said. Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Olexandr Mischenko has said Ukraine is “not happy” with some countries’ move to import crude oil from Russia amid the oil crisis, but the Philippines managed to explain its situation.

- [PH world press freedom ranking improves](#) (2026-05-03 16:10)

THE Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFOMS) noted on Sunday the Philippines continued improvement in its ranking in the 2026 World Press Freedom Index as announced by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). In its statement commemorating World Press Freedom Day,

the PTFOMS said that the country is now ranked 114th out of 180 nations. This is a two-spot jump from last year's 116th position, the highest ranking in 21 years. "This progress reflects our dedication to creating an environment where journalism can flourish," Undersecretary Jose Torres Jr., PTFOMS executive director, said. "While we celebrate this positive development, we recognize that challenges to press freedom persist. We are committed to addressing these issues as we strive to foster a supportive framework for journalism across the country," he added. Despite a global decline in press freedom, where over 52 percent of assessed countries are categorized as "difficult" or "very serious" for journalism, "the Philippines has made significant strides," the PTFOMS said. This year's improved RSF ranking signifies an evolving media landscape where efforts are being made to protect journalistic integrity and freedom. However, the RSF pointed out that despite the higher ranking, the Philippines remains to be "one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists." It noted that at the regional level, many journalists are also the target of threats and lawsuits, while women journalists are subjected to specific gender-based threats, such as threats of rape, cyber-harassment, and disclosure of personal details and others. The task force, created in 2016 to serve as a mechanism to address the various threats and acts of violence against Filipino media practitioners, committed to address these issues and push for improved legal framework for media workers. This includes protection from "red-tagging," alleged targeting of independent media outlets, and the misuse of defamation laws and to safeguard against unfounded charges that undermine honest reporting. "We also recognize the urgent need to combat the rising tide of disinformation fueled by political polarization in our country. Through collaborative efforts, we aim to empower our media institutions to promote factual reporting and educate the public on media literacy," Torres said. "As we mark World Press Freedom Day, we remain steadfast in our mission to protect and enhance the freedom of the press. The progress reflected in our World Press Freedom Index ranking signifies our collective dedication to maintaining a vibrant and free press in the Philippines. We invite all stakeholders to join us in building a media landscape that champions freedom of expression while promoting truth and integrity," Torres added.

- [PH, Japan troops hold live-fire exercise in Tarlac](#) (2026-05-03 16:08)

ARMORED fighting vehicles from the Philippine Army (PA) and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) completed their first combined live-fire exercise in Capas, Tarlac over the weekend. In a statement, PA spokesman Col. Louie Dema-ala said the exercise was part of the "Salaknib" drills at Col. Ernesto Rabina Air Base in Santa Juliana. The "Salaknib" (shield in Ilocano) with the United States Army Pacific started in 2015. This is Japan's first time to join the annual exercise. Dema-ala said more than 200 Filipino troops from the 1st Tank Battalion took part in the drills, utilizing four Sabrah light tanks. JGSDF deployed 40 members of the 12th Brigade Recon Combat Battalion and four maneuver combat vehicles. "The live-fire exercise followed a tactical scenario that included locating the enemy, fixing their positions and ultimately destroying the target," Dema-ala said. Participating troops also rehearsed safety protocols, including troubleshooting procedures in case of misfire or weapon malfunction, with corrective

actions taken to ensure operational safety and mission continuity. PA Vice Commander Maj. Gen. Efren Morados and Armor Division chief Brig. Gen. Ronel Manalo; JGSDF 12th Brigade deputy brigade commander Col. Yoshifumi Ogura; Presidential Commission on Visiting Forces Executive Director Undersecretary Antonio Habulan; and US Army Pacific commander Maj. Gen. James Bartholomees witnessed the drills. This year's "Salaknib" exercise directly supports the Army's active transition to external security operations by focusing on combined operations with the US Army Pacific and partner armies. The live-fire drills were the first between the Philippines and Japan since the Reciprocal Access Agreement was signed between the two nations on July 8, 2024 and came into force on Sept. 11, 2025. PNA

- [Philippines urged to boost Japan-led energy ties](#) (2026-05-03 16:06)

THE Philippines should accelerate its participation in the Japan-led Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) while steering clear of energy agreements with “coercive powers” that could undermine national interests, according to think tank Stratbase Institute. The institute issued the statement following the visit of Fumio Kishida, who served as special envoy of Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and as Supreme Adviser to the Parliamentary Association of AZEC. The visit coincided with efforts to deepen Philippines-Japan cooperation on energy transition and security. Stratbase Institute President Victor Andres Manhit urged the government to expedite energy projects under AZEC and strengthen partnerships with “like-minded” countries such as Japan, instead of entering into arrangements that could expose Manila to geopolitical pressure. “Any energy arrangement that comes with implicit or explicit concessions in the West Philippine Sea, or that turns a blind eye to ongoing coercion there, directly undermines the country's sovereign and national interests,” the institute said. Manhit was referring to discussions on possible joint energy exploration with China in the West Philippine Sea, which Beijing continues to claim despite a 2016 arbitral ruling invalidating its expansive claims in the South China Sea. AZEC, a regional initiative led by Japan, promotes cooperation on clean energy transition, energy security, and decarbonization. Manhit described it as a “credible and forward-looking framework” that supports energy security, economic growth, and climate goals simultaneously. The institute said the Philippines' participation in AZEC comes at a critical time as countries grapple with a global energy crunch driven by conflicts in the Middle East, prompting a shift toward more resilient and sustainable energy systems. Manhit also warned against proposals from “untrustworthy nations” that could carry geopolitical risks, citing continued Chinese activities in the West Philippine Sea, including reported harassment of Philippine vessels and disregard of international law. In contrast, he said Japan's approach to cooperation is anchored on transparency, respect for international law, and capacity-building — principles the Philippines should prioritize in its energy partnerships. During his visit, Kishida met with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Energy Secretary Sharon Garin to discuss deeper AZEC collaboration. The Philippines and Japan are also set to co-host the 4th AZEC Leaders' Meeting in November, which Manhit described as a recognition of Manila's growing strategic role in the Indo-Pacific. The meeting also coincided with the 70th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Japan.

- [Sandro Marcos pushes bill protecting Filipinos](#) (2026-05-03 16:03)

HOUSE Majority Leader and Ilocos Norte 1st District Rep. Ferdinand Alexander Marcos on Sunday urged his fellow lawmakers at the House of Representatives to fast-track the approval of the proposed Kalinga Act. “This is about protecting every Filipino — from the poorest families, to the middle class, to small business owners trying to stay afloat,” Marcos said in a statement. He noted that the committee report on the bill was expected to be approved upon the resumption of the House session on Monday, May 4. “We are pushing to move this forward as quickly as possible so we can put real protection in place,” he said. House Bill 8834, filed by Marcos and Speaker Faustino Dy III, lists triggers that shall guide the activation or expansion of the proposed Kalinga Program. The triggers are when the global oil price, “including the average Dubai crude oil price based on the Mean of Platts Singapore,” exceeds market thresholds; when there have been sustained increases in local fuel prices of at least 30 percent within 30 days; extraordinary inflation, as determined by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP); when national fuel inventory levels fall below 30 days of supply, as determined by the Department of Energy (DoE); “imminent supply disruptions or energy shortages, as determined by the” DoE; presidential declaration of a state of national energy emergency; or “other extraordinary external shocks resulting in a significant increase in domestic fuel prices or supply.” The program shall include the following components: fuel price stabilization; energy supply, security, and inventory management; targeted assistance; essential goods and logistics stabilization; micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) energy relief and business continuity; energy conservation and demand reduction; and flexible fiscal and regulatory measures.

- [DENR investigates Navotas landfill fire](#) (2026-05-03 16:02)

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Sunday said that it is investigating the cause of the Navotas landfill fire. The agency launched an audit and review of the landfill’s operations to identify any regulatory violations. It has also ordered an expedited probe to determine the fire’s origin. “We are not only responding to the smoke; we are also looking at why this happened, what standards may have been violated, and what must be corrected so communities are not put at risk again,” said Environment Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna. The agency emphasized that any finding of noncompliance would lead to legal action. It added that it is focused on stabilizing the site and safeguarding public health through several measures, including fire suppression, air quality monitoring, and community support. The DENR said its teams have intensified operations to suppress remaining fire hotspots and reduce smoke emissions at the landfill. Technical crew from the DENR’s Environmental Management Bureau are conducting soil-covering, cooling, and dredging activities to contain smoldering hotspots and prevent the fire’s further spread.

- [QC boosts campaign vs human trafficking](#) (2026-05-03 16:01)

IN a bid to strengthen the campaign against human trafficking, Mayor Joy Belmonte announced on Sunday that the local government has opened applications for the Quezon City Stops All

Forms of Exploitation (QC SAFE) Seal for hotels and similar establishments. Belmonte said that the city government has high regard for these establishments, which include apartelles and inns. “We count on our accommodation establishments as a vital line of defense against human trafficking,” Belmonte told The Manila Times via Viber. She encouraged them to apply and adopt key safeguards, including trained staff to detect exploitation, stricter check-in protocols for minors, visible child protection measures, and a designated safeguarding officer. “The QC SAFE Seal signals that an establishment meets the city’s standards for safety and protection — making it a trusted space for guests,” the city chief executive said. Incentives, such as faster business permit processing, inclusion in tourism promotions, and eligibility for recognition and tax perks, depending on the level of compliance, will be offered to applicants to boost participation, she added.

- [More Nepalis drive electric, evading global fuel shocks](#) (2026-05-03 15:16)

KATHMANDU, Nepal — As global fuel markets reel from the Middle East war, motorists in Nepal are increasingly turning to electric vehicles, with high demand putting a strain on dealerships. Electric microbus driver Purushottam Adhikari said he was now shuttling more passengers along the 300-kilometre (186-mile) journey between his town in Chitwan district and the capital Kathmandu. “My profession is not affected (by the conflict),” said the 48-year-old, who drives his 18-seater Chinese-made e-van along Nepal’s highways daily. “In fact, more people are choosing EVs.” Soaring global oil prices and fuel supply disruption since Iran effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz have led to long queues at gas stations in countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan, but Nepal has largely avoided the worst of the crisis. “One of the main reasons is the increased penetration of electric vehicles on Nepal’s roads,” alternative energy expert Govind Raj Pokharel told AFP. The country of 30 million people has an estimated 50,000 EVs, still a small fraction of the total 6.2 million motor vehicles, but a figure officials expect would keep increasing. The price of petrol in Nepal, which imports all of its gasoline, has nearly doubled since the war began in late February with US-Israeli strikes on Iran. While transport fares have gone up, Adhikari told AFP that his prices remain unchanged at 700 rupees (\$4.60) for a one-way trip in his Joylong A6, which in turn costs \$8 for a full recharge. A full tank for a similar diesel vehicle would have cost “more than \$66”, he said. — ‘Comfortable and cheap’ — An expanding network of charging stations along major highways has made long-distance electric travel increasingly viable. Boarding Adhikari’s van, 20-year-old Susmita Bishowkarma said she prefers to travel in EVs because they are “environmentally friendly... comfortable and comparatively cheap”. Buoyed by a surge in hydropower generation and a greener electric grid than neighbouring India and Bangladesh, Nepal has emerged as one of the world’s fastest adopters of EVs. The Himalayan nation imported more than 13,500 EVs between mid-2024 and mid-2025 -- double that of petrol vehicles and a sharp rise from just seven a decade ago, government data shows. Fume-free taxis and cars manufactured in China are a common sight in Kathmandu, with traffic officials estimating that up to 60 percent of minibuses entering the city from key routes are now electric. Customs department spokesman Kishor Bartaula said the number of EVs would rise further with hundreds awaiting clearance at Nepal’s ports. In line with

its clean energy policy, the government is seeking to replace some 10,000 vehicles damaged during anti-corruption protests last year with EVs, finance ministry spokesman Amrit Lamsal told AFP.- Demand surge -Concerns that ongoing conflict in the Middle East could prolong global fuel uncertainty are also influencing consumer behaviour.Shraban Bhattari, 49, who recently bought a BYD Atto-2, said the Chinese-made car is saving him daily fuel expenses."I no longer need to go to the petrol pump," he said.In April the government approved a legal framework to allow people to convert their petrol and diesel vehicles into electric ones, known as "retrofitting".But EV dealers told AFP they were struggling to meet demand."It is getting challenging to meet the demand," said Ritima Pandey, customer relations officer at Venture Motors."As the price of diesel has gone up, many people are coming to trade in fuel vehicles for EV vans."Schools and colleges are also exploring electric fleet purchases, dealer Dinesh Raj Pandeya said, signalling a shift beyond individual commuters.Energy expert Pokharel urged policymakers to build on the momentum by encouraging domestic EV manufacturing and assembly."This will give us a long-term solution," he said.

- [Fleeting freedom at festival for India's transgender community](#) (2026-05-03 15:01)

INDIA — For a few fleeting days each year, India's often-shunned transgender community is welcomed and revered at a festival that is at once sacred ritual, celebration, and a refuge.At the heart of it is the Koothandavar Temple where ostracised transgender community members from across India come to honour the Hindu deity Aravan -- and to enjoy a brief oasis of freedom.Several thousand attend the annual ceremony in Koovagam, in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, a tradition rooted in millennia-old Hindu texts that has gained prominence in recent decades."I need a life like a bird," said Thilothama, 34, who uses only one name, her voice steady amid the hum of drums and devotional songs."Freedom -- to do what I want, despite being transgender."Thilothama, who works for Thozhi, a Chennai-based charity supporting transgender people, has spent more than a decade helping others find work and counselling those navigating rejection and uncertainty.Her own journey has been shaped by both resilience and loss.Facing opposition from her family over her gender identity, she left home and built a life within the transgender community.Today she earns a modest income -- but speaks with quiet pride about her independence.- 'My world' -For the past 10 years Thilothama has returned to Koovagam, where a beauty pageant and singing contests are held alongside religious rituals."I believe the rituals here bring good things," she says, adjusting her sari.She recalls caring for a friend's bedridden mother, only to be barred from the funeral rites after her death."That was the hardest time," she says.The festival culminates in two days of ceremonies as Koovagam briefly becomes a rare space of acceptance.On the first, priests tie a sacred thread around the necks of the transgender devotees, symbolising their marriage to the Hindu warrior god Aravan.The next day, as devotees cry in mourning for his death, the thread and their wrist bangles are cut.South Asia has a long history of people assigned male at birth but who identify as female.In India's last census in 2011, more than 487,000 people were members of the third gender -- a designation the supreme court formally recognised in 2014, but whose members still face severe discrimination.For Anuya, a member of the community,

the change in how she is treated at the festival is striking."Here, people smile at me, speak kindly. The villagers who are participating in this festival believe that if they get blessing from transgender people, they will have prosperity in their life," she says."So I am getting more respect, and in this way I feel more proud of becoming transgender."As night falls, music and laughter ripple through the village."Usually, I feel alone. Here, I see so many like me," says Dhanshika, another member of the community, smiling as she watched friends dressed in their finest sari dresses."I feel this is my world."

• [Milly Alcock's 'punk rock' Supergirl takes flight as DC bets big on the Woman of Tomorrow](#) (2026-05-03 14:52)

BURBANK, California — Not too long after James Gunn and Peter Safran stepped up to lead DC Studios into the future, they were riffing about Supergirl. The Tom King comic series, “Supergirl: World of Tomorrow” was one of the ideas they were especially excited about, and Gunn had a very specific image in his head. He just didn’t yet know her name. “He goes, ‘you know the young girl from ‘House of the Dragon’? The young queen or princess? That’s how I picture it, like a young punk rock girl who is just totally badass and tough,’ ” Safran told The Associated Press. “I was like, yeah, that sounds fantastic, and we haven’t seen that before.” Milly Alcock, now 26, had just started to break out playing Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen (later portrayed by Emma D’Arcy) in the “Game of Thrones” prequel, when she got a request for a self-tape for the secretive Supergirl project. Alcock had been working in her native Australia since she was a teenager, but her world was suddenly getting bigger very quickly. A few weeks later, she was summoned for a screen test (her first ever). She boarded a 24-hour flight from Sydney to Atlanta and gave it her best shot. “I kind of had a feeling, I remember I like got back to my hotel room and I like sat down and I was like, ‘Oh, this is gonna, something’s gonna happen,’ ” Alcock said. “I just had like an intuition that like, this is going to be a very exciting challenge if it goes in my favor.” “This is crazy, what have I done?” Ten days later, Gunn texted her an article in the trade publication Deadline: “ ‘Supergirl’: New Woman Of Steel Is ‘House Of The Dragon’ s’ Milly Alcock.” No phone call. No context. And all she could think was, “This is crazy, what have I done?” A few days later, she was back on that 24-hour flight to film her cameo in “Superman.” And things have not slowed down. If shooting the film was a marathon of stunts and action and emotion, the promotion of new DC’s second major film is going to be its own non-stop ride. When Alcock spoke to the AP earlier this month, she had just arrived in Las Vegas from Kyoto, where she was filming another movie, and on just two hours of sleep had to muster the energy to get up on stage in front of thousands of movie theater owners to hype “Supergirl,” which is out June 26. “It’s a really original and unique take on a superhero movie,” Safran said. “I think it’s just a great movie for audiences. It’s not just for superhero fans.” “She’s just that girl” The character might be less widely known than her famous cousin, but the response to her appearance in “Superman” was encouraging. “She’s in the ‘Superman’ movie for, you know, 12 seconds, yet one of the things audiences wanted to see... more of was her,” Safran said. “And Milly in real life, she’s just that girl ... she is authentically a badass.” Perhaps part

of the intrigue is that she's not straightlaced Superman, who got to be raised by loving and gentle parents on Earth. Supergirl saw her planet destroyed and everyone she knew killed and had to fend for herself. Directed by Craig Gillespie, best known for two other films about complicated young women, "I, Tonya" and "Cruella," this film finds the jaded Kara on an intergalactic odyssey with Krypto the Superdog and a young woman seeking revenge against the murderous Krem of the Yellow Hills. "Kara surprisingly reminded me a lot of myself, which I never thought I would get from playing like a superhero, from playing someone who isn't human. There's a lot of humility in her and that kind of made me fall in love with her immediately," Alcock said. "Sometimes you can get swept up in what other people expect, and then you kind of lose your intrinsic you-ness. And that's why people hire you in the first place, because of what you bring to something just innately being who you are." "Why would someone have a toy of my face?" Alcock didn't grow up a big film fan, but in acting found a lifeline and an outlet to communicate feelings that she struggled to in real life. It helps her exist as a person, she said. Recently, Alcock has been living in London, where she said she has a great group of friends, none of whom are actors. And she's adjusting to the reality that her face is going to be everywhere for a bit. "It's been kind of disorientating," she said. "I do this job because it gives me the ability to disappear. So then to like suddenly be so visible and so exposed is a very vulnerable experience. I'm just trying to learn how to deal with that relationship. But I mean, it's exciting. Of course it's exciting. But like anything exciting, it's also terrifying." When she was on the "Superman" set, she remembered talking to David Corenswet briefly and realizing that they had very different perspectives about the experience. "I remember him being like, 'We're gonna have action figures, isn't that cool?'" she said. "And I was like, 'That's so weird. Why would someone have a toy of my face?'"

- [Austrian police detain suspect in case of rat poison found in baby food jars on supermarket shelves](#) (2026-05-03 14:45)

VIENNA (AP) — Police in eastern Austria say a 39-year-old suspect has been arrested after rat poison turned up in some HiPP baby food jars on supermarket shelves in central Europe. HiPP, which recalled some of its baby food jars in Austria, Slovakia and the Czech Republic after the case came to light last month, said in a statement Saturday it was "greatly relieved" by the arrest, and would provide further updates as verified details come in. The Burgenland State Criminal Police Office, under the direction of prosecutors, said a probe was launched after poison turned up in a baby food jar purchased at a supermarket in the city of Eisenstadt on April 18. It said the suspect was being questioned, and that no further details would be immediately provided. The Burgenland public prosecutor's office has announced an investigation into suspected "intentional endangerment of the public." In an email to The Associated Press on Sunday, the Burgenland police office said the suspect was arrested in Salzburg state, to the west. The Austrian Press Agency reported that an expert report on the toxicity of the poison was pending. A total of five tampered baby food jars were seized before they could be consumed, APA reported. Authorities said previously they believe the tampering

occurred in 190-gram (6.7-ounce) jars of baby food made with carrots and potatoes for 5-month-olds that were sold from SPAR supermarkets in Austria. HiPP responded by recalling all of its baby food jars sold at SPAR supermarkets — which include SPAR, EUROSPAR, INTERSPAR and Maximarkt stores — in Austria as a precaution. Vendors in Slovakia and the Czech Republic also removed all of the brand's baby jars from sale. The company said the recall was not due to any product or quality defect on its part, and said the jars left its facility in "perfect condition." Police said a customer at the time of the discovery had reported that a jar appeared to have been tampered with, but no one had consumed the baby food. Pfaffenhofen, Germany-based HiPP said it has been a "victim of extortion," adding that an unspecified "blackmailer" sent a message to a shared mailbox in the case, prompting it to immediately inform police.

- [Beer, music and shouts of 'Hau-Ruck' as a Bavarian village raises its new maypole](#)
(2026-05-03 14:30)

KÜHBACH, Germany (AP) — As the brass band played Bavarian tunes and the villagers drank their beer, watched and cheered, the young men of Kühbach in southern Germany pushed up their new maypole with long wooden rods until it stood perfectly straight against the sky. In addition to the locals, people from all over Bavaria and beyond flocked to the small village of about 4,500 residents on Friday to watch the Maypole being erected — a custom that has been observed for centuries and is deeply rooted in Bavarian folklore. "The Maypole is a symbol of togetherness," said Mayor Karl-Heinz Kerscher, pointing at the youngsters pushing up the pole. "All these young guys, when they give it their all, when they show their strength, that's just proof that we're powerful, that Bavaria means something, and that here in Kühbach it's twice as beautiful." Maypoles are a beloved tradition in Bavaria. May 1 is a public holiday observed all over Germany, but putting up maypoles in the center of the village is a beloved tradition celebrated primarily in Bavaria, Austria, and other parts of southern Germany as a symbol of not only community but also the beginning of spring and fertility. In Kühbach, a lot of care and time is devoted to this custom every three years, when a new pole is raised. Last winter, the Kühbacher Burschen, a village club with 240 members, chose a stately spruce in a nearby forest, cut it down, cut off all branches and the bark, let it dry, and painted it three times over in white and blue — the state colors of Bavaria. On the sides of the tree, they attached metal signs with the guild emblems of the village, and — most important — they then guarded their precious maypole, which had been put up for storage in a former sawmill for weeks around the clock so that nobody would steal it. Youngsters try stealing other villages' maypole. Stealing each other's new maypoles is another beloved tradition in Bavaria. And if the theft is successful, the village that was robbed needs to buy back its maypole, and that gets very expensive: up to 200 liters (422 pints) of beer and a whole barbecued pig with potato dumplings and brown gravy — something that can easily fetch up to 3,000 euros (\$3,325). By Friday, however, no maypole had been stolen from Kühbach, and early in the morning the mostly young men and women, all dressed in their best lederhosen and light-blue dirndl dresses, came to the sawmill to triumphantly take it to the center of their village. "Our motto is, 'preserve

traditions, shape the future’ — that really sums it up pretty well,” said Florian Oberhauser, 26, the head of the Kühbacher Burschen, or Kühbach Boys. The 28-meter (92-foot) tall maypole was lifted horizontally on wooden carts and pulled into the village by two sturdy horses from the local beer brewery. Before the maypole is raised, it's blessed by the priest. Once the procession — with children sitting on top of the pole in a long row — arrived at the market square, the Catholic priest, who had just finished his May Day Mass, blessed the tree and the young men with holy water. Everyone drew closer together to pray and the actual work began. Equipped with long wooden poles, the youngsters paired up on both sides of the pole and cheered each other with shouts of “Hau-Ruck,” as they slowly put up the Maybaum, as it is called in German. When the maypole stood straight against the blue sky, the marching band played an extra fanfare, people poured into the huge festival tent, sat down on the benches, had pork roast and sausages for lunch — and some more beer. A tradition passed down through generations. Simone Nodlbichler, 41, who played the clarinet all morning as her band accompanied the Maypole procession through the village, past the church and to the market square of Kühbach, beamed as she put away her instrument. “This tradition is being passed down from generation to generation,” she said as her two teenage daughters looked on. “As you can see, both young and old are involved.” “I think there’s a wonderful sense of community here, and it’s still very much alive,” she added.

- [2 US service members missing after military exercises in Morocco](#) (2026-05-03 14:05)

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — Two U.S. service members are missing in southwestern Morocco after taking part in annual multinational military exercises in the North African country, the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) said Sunday. The U.S., Morocco and other countries participating in the African Lion exercise have launched a search and rescue operation, AFRICOM said. “The incident remains under investigation and the search is ongoing,” it said in a statement. The incident happened on Saturday at about 9 p.m., the Moroccan military said, near the Cap Draa Training Area near Tan Tan, close to the Atlantic Ocean. The terrain is mountainous, a mix of desert and semidesert plains. The war games exercise started in April and runs across four countries, including Tunisia, Ghana and Senegal. It is scheduled to end in early May. The command did not state what unit or branch of the military the missing service members belong to. The Associated Press has requested clarification. The exercise began in Tunisia with active-duty members of different branches of the U.S. military, including the National Guard, Army Reserve, Air Force, and the Marine Corps. In all, over 7,000 personnel from more than 30 nations are participating across the four host countries. African Lion, which has been running since 2004, is the largest U.S. annual joint military exercise on the continent and usually features high-ranking military officials from the U.S. and its top African allies. U.S. military officials have said the annual multinational engagement serves as a venue for strengthening regional security cooperation and refining the readiness of participating forces for global crises. In 2012, two U.S. Marines were killed and two others injured during a helicopter crash in Morocco’s southern city of Agadir while taking part in African Lion. Morocco is a major ally of the United States in a troubled region. Since 2020, military officers

disillusioned with their governments' records of stemming violence have overthrown democratically elected governments in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger and began distancing themselves from Western powers.

- [Defer tuition hikes, Sen. Pia Cayetano urges HEIs](#) (2026-05-03 12:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Pia Cayetano supported the appeal of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to higher education institutions (HEIs) to defer planned tuition increases. The senator on Sunday raised the need to assist Filipino families already grappling with rising cost of living amid the oil crisis brought by the Middle East war. She called on HEIs to explore alternative ways in addressing higher operational costs without passing the burden to students and their families. "Education is the great equalizer. We cannot allow it to become a privilege that only the wealthy can afford," Cayetano said in a statement. "We must ensure that education remains accessible, especially during these challenging times," she said. Cayetano said that accessible education is fundamental to breaking the cycle of poverty and ensuring intergenerational equity. She said that the government has been working to strengthen support for higher education through the tertiary education subsidy and increased funding for state universities and colleges. Cayetano commended CHED for maintaining an open dialogue with institutions while balancing the need to ensure that students and their families are not overburdened during this time. "I appreciate that CHED is engaging with HEIs on this matter. It's important that we balance the operational needs of institutions with the capacity of families to afford education," she said. Cayetano expressed hope that HEIs can work together with the government in exploring ways to ease the burden on students while sustaining the quality of education they provide. "I fully support CHED's call for universities to hold off on tuition increases. Many families are already struggling with rising costs across the board," she said. Cayetano, who serves as senior vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, has handled the education budget for six years.

- [Atin Ito holds jetski flag ride in Pag-asa Island](#) (2026-05-03 12:19)

MANILA, Philippines — Civil society coalition Atin Ito said on Sunday it conducted the first jetski flag ride in Pag-asa Island. Akbayan Rep. Dadah Kiram Ismula led the activity. On Sunday, a team led by Ismula with Atin Ito volunteers made a dawn voyage to Pag-asa Cay 2 (Sandy Cay). "We successfully raised our flag at Pag-asa Cay 2 despite the heavy presence of China," she said. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Sunday commended the coalition for their successful and courageous civilian-led mission to Pag-asa Island. "The successful navigation to our features, culminating in the planting of the Philippine Flag on Sandy Cay, is a profound testament to the indomitable spirit of the Filipino people. This is not merely a symbolic gesture; it is a powerful assertion of our sovereign rights and a demonstration of active citizenship in the face of external challenges," retired Rear Admiral Roy Vincent Trinidad, AFP spokesman for WPS, said in a statement. Trinidad said that the mission "amplifies the voice of our fisherfolk and local communities." The Atin Ito Coalition made its fourth voyage to Pagasa Island from April 30 to May 5.

- [DSWD extends aid to families affected by Mayon Volcano eruption](#) (2026-05-03 11:54)

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)-Bicol Region field office has extended aid to families affected by the eruption of Mayon Volcano in Albay province. According to Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao of DSWD's Disaster Response Management Group, the field office distributed 59,153 family food packs, hot meals, and hygiene kits to displaced residents of Tabaco City, Camalig, and Malilipot. “On orders from DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian, we are already closely coordinating with concerned local government units, as well as non-government organizations, to ensure non-stop aid delivery,” Dumlao said. The DSWD regional office also partnered with Bicol University and other youth groups to facilitate psychosocial activities, film presentations, games, and other educational activities to relieve the stress experienced by displaced children. “The DSWD also extended livelihood assistance to internally displaced persons whose sources of income have been disrupted due to Mayon Volcano’s protracted restiveness,” the DSWD official said. She told The Manila Times that the agency provided displaced families within the six-kilometer permanent danger zone with emergency cash transfer (ECT) and cash-for-work (CFW) interventions. “These livelihood initiatives were made possible by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s directive to ensure that families directly affected by the pyroclastic avalanche must get immediate government assistance,” said Dumlao, who is also the agency spokesman. On April 30, a total of 1,105 IDPs from four municipalities in Albay received ECT assistance. At least 1,317 affected families in Camalig, Daraga, Guinobatan, Malilipot, Ligao City, and Tabaco City also benefited from CFW, providing temporary income through community work for disaster-affected residents. The CFW program also aided 2,169 farmers whose livelihoods are in the PDZ, where restrictions greatly affected their source of income. “Upon Secretary Gatchalian’s instruction, several water tanks were sent to affected areas in Albay to ensure a steady water supply to the affected families and a sufficient insulation system in child and women-friendly spaces inside the evacuation centers,” she added. As of May 3, 1,438 families or 5,440 people were taking temporary shelter in 14 evacuation centers in Albay, the DSWD said.

- [‘Proposed Kalinga law to protect poor, middle class’](#) (2026-05-03 10:34)

MANILA, Philippines — House Majority Leader and Ilocos Norte 1st District Rep. Ferdinand Alexander Marcos on Sunday urged his fellow lawmakers of the House of Representatives to fast-track the approval of the proposed Kalinga Act, which he said would protect the poor and the middle class during an oil crisis. “This is about protecting every Filipino—from the poorest families, to the middle class, to small business owners trying to stay afloat,” Marcos said in a statement. He noted that the committee report on the bill was expected to be approved when the House of Representatives resumes session on Monday, May 4. “We are pushing to move this forward as quickly as possible so we can put real protection in place,” he said. House Bill 8834, filed by Marcos and Speaker Faustino Dy III, listed triggers that shall guide an activation or expansion of the proposed Kalinga Program. The triggers are when the global oil price, including the average Dubai crude oil price based on the Mean of Platts Singapore, exceeds market thresholds; when there has been sustained increases in local fuel prices of at least 30 percent

within 30 days; extraordinary inflation, as determined by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; when national fuel inventory levels fall below 30 days of supply, as determined by the Department of Energy and "other extraordinary external shocks resulting in a significant increase in domestic fuel prices or supply."The program shall include a fuel price stabilization component; energy supply, security, and inventory management component; targeted assistance component; essential goods and logistics stabilization component; micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) energy relief and business continuity component; energy conservation and demand reduction component; and flexible fiscal and regulatory measures component.The targeted aid includes direct cash aid for minimum wage earners and low-income households; fuel subsidies "for public transport drivers, farmers, fisherfolk, and logistics providers;" transport aid for low-income workers; public transport fare subsidies; and other targeted aid as may be needed.To prevent business closures and job losses, the government shall provide support to MSMEs through targeted energy and fuel subsidies where needed; low-interest loans and credit guarantee programs; tax payment deferment and regulatory fee relief; logistics and distribution support for MSMEs; and a moratorium of up to six months "on the payment of interest and/or suspension of loan collections for qualified MSMEs under government financial institutions and government directed lending programs, without the imposition of penalties, surcharges, or additional interest.The proposed authorizes the suspension or reduction of fuel excise taxes and import duties and reduction of regulatory fees and charges.

- [Mayon-affected LGUs need water, face masks](#) (2026-05-03 10:32)

LEGAZPI CITY — Potable water, face masks (including N95), medicines for respiratory illnesses and additional manpower are among the needs identified during the emergency meeting of the Bicol Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council on Sunday.Office of Civil Defense-Bicol (OCD-5) officer-in-charge Director Jessar Adornado said it is important to determine the immediate needs of affected local government units (LGUs) so they can be addressed promptly.During the meeting, the LGUs of Camalig, Guinobatan, and Ligao City reported a daily need for face masks.Camalig also requested for hygiene kits, while Guinobatan needs 15,000 liters of potable water per day for 1,325 affected families.The water supply will be rationed to 12 villages-- Quitago, Maguiron, Inamnan Pequeño, Iraya, San Francisco, Travesia, San Rafael, Inamnan Grande, Calzada, Morera, Poblacion and Ilawod.The Department of Health in Bicol will provide jerry cans, additional face masks, nebulizers and medicines.The Bureau of Fire Protection will deploy 10 fire trucks from Camarines Sur, with 40 personnel to augment clearing operations starting Monday.The Department of Public Works and Highways will continue declogging along national roads, with additional support from the Camarines Sur and Sorsogon district offices.Aside from family food packs and ready-to-eat meals, the Department of Social Welfare and Development will distribute hygiene kits to families in evacuation centers.Water filtration units from the Police Regional Office in Bicol (PRO-5) and Albay Public Safety and Management Office will be deployed to affected LGUs.Water sanitation teams from Masbate and Sorsogon will also be positioned in Guinobatan.More than 200 personnel from PRO-5 will provide additional manpower for clearing operations.The OCD-5 will coordinate with

the Department of Agriculture for damage reports on livestock and farmlands.

- [From 'Moana' to 'Leviticus,' here are summer movie breakouts you need to know](#)
(2026-05-03 10:28)

Story The new Moana. The 20-year-old wunderkind filmmaker. The multi Tony Award winner. The “Saturday Night Live” comedians. The next generation of Emilys. And the Australians at the heart of one of Sundance’s biggest hits. There’s more than a few up-and-coming talents to get excited about in the movies this summer. The Associated Press spoke to 11 ones to watch. Catherine Laga aia, “Moana” Catherine Laga aia (“lung-uh-aye-uh”) found out she got “Moana” on a school day. It was around 8:15 a.m. and she’d just heard the best news of her life after a very stressful year of auditioning. But the celebration would have to wait: It was swimming carnival day and she was on deck for the 400-meter backstroke. “I guess, like, the water vibes carried through,” said Laga aia, 20, laughing. Laga aia, who is one of eight children, grew up around acting in Sydney, Australia. Her father played Captain Typho in the “Star Wars” prequels, she went to a performing arts high school and a lot of her siblings are in theater. Two of her sisters even auditioned for “Moana” alongside her, but she was just the right age at the right time, she said. The animated film meant the world to Laga aia, who is of Samoan heritage, and she’s acutely aware of the big expectations for the live action film (out July 10) — she has them for herself too. “I felt a fair bit of impostor syndrome stepping into it,” she said. “I think we’ve made some great changes, and we’ve kept a lot of the stuff that holds the heart of the film the same.” Joe Bird and Stacy Clausen, “Leviticus” Teenage boys Ryan (Stacy Clausen, 21) and Naim (Joe Bird, 19) are drawn to one another in their backwater Australian community in “Leviticus,” the “conversion therapy” horror that broke out at the Sundance Film Festival. It hits theaters on June 19. “It is about growing up queer and how the fear of growing up queer can block someone mentally from acting on their desires, and physically,” Clausen said. “But I think that there is something in it for everyone, like whether you’re LGBTQIA or not, it’s about love.” They knew they had made something special, but it’s been affirming to see it resonate with audiences. When the trailer posted on YouTube, Bird noticed one commenter who wrote that they wished they’d had this film when they were younger. “It just takes one person to be inspired, or you know say, ‘Oh, I wish I had a film like this’ to know that you’ve kind of done your job,” Bird said. “It’s all about connecting.” Kara Young and Mallori Johnson, “Is God Is” Aleshea Harris chose a two-time Tony-winner, Kara Young, and a relative newcomer, Mallori Johnson, to anchor the big screen adaptation of her Obie-winning play “Is God Is.” The story is centered on twin sisters searching for their abusive father, who burned and scarred them as babies. Young plays Racine the Rough One; Johnson is Anaia the Quiet One. After fending for themselves their entire lives are set on an epic road trip and a journey of revenge and reckoning. It’s in theaters on May 15. “Anaia depends a lot on Racine to protect her,” Johnson said. “I think that they’ve set up a dynamic since they were children … they have this kind of codependent relationship.” And although both Young and Johnson are in different phases of their careers, their enthusiasm for the material, and getting to be part of it, is identical. “Getting into the

world of ‘Is God Is’ feels like an ancestral calling in some wild, beautiful, almost like indescribable way,” Young said. “It’s an epic road trip. It’s a Greek tragedy. It’s a love story between two sisters ... I lost my train of thought because I just got so hyped.” Kane Parsons, “Backrooms” Kane Parsons was a teenager when he was signed to direct his first feature, based on his viral YouTube series “Backrooms.” The concept was inspired by an internet creepypasta that imagined never-ending expanse rooms and hallways full of fluorescent lights, old carpet and monotonous yellow paint; He took that idea and ran with it, creating unnerving videos from his bedroom with the help of the open-source 3D graphics software Blender. Soon both James Wan and Shawn Levy’s companies were interested in taking it to the next level. In the film, out May 29, Chiwetel Ejiofor plays a struggling furniture store owner who seemingly slips out of reality. Renate Reinsve co-stars. “I don’t think of this as inherently horror-driven; it’s definitely not a building full of monsters,” Parsons, 20, said.

“I’ve always been more interested in the sort of man looking in the mirror version.” The bachelors, “72 Hours” “SNL” cast members Kam Patterson, 27, and Ben Marshall, 30, play a couple of Gen Z guys on a bachelor trip, with Marcello Hernández, groom-to-be Mason Gooding and a middle-aged ad exec (Kevin Hart) who was accidentally added to the group chat in the new Netflix comedy “72 Hours” (streaming July 24). “It was the most fun you could possibly have shooting a movie,” Marshall said. Between goofing around in a mansion in New Jersey and hanging in Miami with Hernández, it was, Patterson said, like summer camp. And Hart was their de facto counselor. They teased Gooding about never having his shirt on, Marshall for being so uniquely bad at jet skiing and Patterson for that time someone left him with one of the production assistant’s walkie talkies and for 5 minutes he had an open mic to the entire crew. That energy continued when the cameras were on too. “I don’t think we said one word that’s actually in the script,” Marshall laughed. Patterson chimed in: “Not at all. We take that script and threw it out the window.” The new assistants in “The Devil Wears Prada 2” Call them the new Emilys. Or, maybe don’t. But there’s a new batch of smart, young things manning the desks at “Runway” in “The Devil Wears Prada 2” (now in theaters). Simone Ashley, of “Bridgerton” fame, is Miranda Priestly’s first assistant Amari, who screenwriter Aline Brosh McKenna didn’t want to be Emily 2.0. “With Amari the comedy comes from, like, flick of the wrist kind of sassiness and her quiet confidence,” Ashley, 31, said. “Me and Aline kind of had this inside joke that Amari is like secretly the next Miranda.” Comedian Caleb Hearon, 31, is Miranda’s second assistant, Charlie, who is not allowed to leave his desk. Ever. But he’s not mad about it: This is literally the dream. “I really thought a lot about a guy like Charlie and what it would mean to him to be in this office and why he wouldn’t mind staying at the desk all day,” Hearon said. And finally, there is Helen J Shen, 26, who after breaking out on stage in “Maybe Happy Ending” makes her big screen debut as Andy’s assistant, Jin. Shen said she “was excited to see that the dialogue was so silly to me, but Jin doesn’t find it silly.” “I felt like that was a fresh take on someone who knows exactly what they’re trying to do,” Shen added. “She has a lot of wonderful things under her belts, intelligence wise, and she’s just trying to like, show that and be as helpful to Andy as possible.”

- [Japan contains one of its biggest wildfires in decades after 11-day battle](#) (2026-05-03 10:12)

TOKYO, Japan — Wildfires that scorched forests in northern Japan, reportedly the second biggest in over 30 years, have been brought under control after 11 days, officials have said. Hundreds of firefighters and more than 1,000 military personnel had battled the blazes since late April, as they burned around 1,600 hectares (4,000 acres) across the mountainous Iwate region. The affected area is almost five times the size of New York City's Central Park. At least eight buildings were damaged and two people suffered minor injuries, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency. Thousands of people were evacuated, as fires picked up. Otsuchi town mayor Kozo Hirano told reporters on Saturday that he had been "informed that... the fire had been brought under control" after visiting the area with fire officials. He credited aerial and ground firefighting operations as well as heavy rainfall, for containing the flames. But Hirano said authorities would remain vigilant as there was a possibility that smouldering embers remain. Kyodo News described the blaze as Japan's second-largest wildfire in over 30 years. Increasingly dry winters have raised the risk of wildfires. Last year, Iwate suffered a separate wildfire that burned 2,600 hectares, the largest in Japan since 1975, when 2,700 hectares were scorched by fire in Kushiro, on the northern island of Hokkaido. Scientists have long warned that climate change caused by mankind's burning of fossil fuels will make periods of drought more intense and longer-lasting, creating the ideal conditions for wildfires.

- [Peru launches audit into presidential election results](#) (2026-05-03 10:02)

LIMA, Peru — Election officials in Peru said Saturday they are launching an audit of the first round of the presidential election, three weeks after a vote marred by irregularities. With more than 97 percent of ballots counted, radical left-wing candidate Roberto Sanchez (12 percent) and ultraconservative Rafael Lopez Aliaga (11.9 percent) are neck-and-neck, separated by about 27,500 votes. They both trail right-wing candidate Keiko Fujimori (17.12 percent), and only the top two candidates advance to the June 7 runoff. Thousands of tally sheets have been challenged and are under review. The National Jury of Elections (JNE) will carry out a "full and exhaustive IT audit of the first-round electoral process" to be conducted by a committee of independent experts from Peru and international specialists, the electoral authority said in a statement. The move aims to strengthen "transparency, integrity and reliability of the electoral results," JNE said. Election day was marred by logistical problems in the capital, preventing tens of thousands of people from voting until the following day. A slow ballot count followed, during which boxes of ballots were found in a Lima dumpster. Aliaga has called for a new vote to be held in Lima, a city he was once mayor of, but JNE officials rejected his request. Voting is mandatory in Peru, where more than 27 million Peruvians were called on to select new leadership.

- [Morocco king names son to senior defence post](#) (2026-05-03 09:54)

RABAT, Morocco — King Mohammed VI on Morocco on Saturday appointed his son, Crown Prince Moulay El Hassan, to a senior coordinating post in the north African kingdom's military. According to a statement from the royal court, the king -- himself chief of the military general staff -- had "graciously decided to appoint" the 22-year-old "coordinator of the offices

and services of the general staff of the Royal Armed Forces".The king, now 62, had himself held the key position at the heart of the top brass from 1985, after being appointed to it by his father, Hassan II.

- [North Korea calls US cyber crime accusations 'absurd slander'](#) (2026-05-03 09:43)

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea dismissed on Sunday US accusations that it has engaged in cyber crimes to generate illicit revenues, calling the criticism "absurd slander".Washington has accused Pyongyang of ramping up a cyber-warfare program responsible for the theft of billions of dollars in virtual assets in recent years, turning hacking into a key source of foreign currency in the face of biting sanctions over its nuclear and weapons programmes.In a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency, an unnamed foreign ministry spokesperson said the US government had been "trying to spread incorrect understanding" about North Korea, "talking about the non-existent 'cyber threat'". "This is nothing but an absurd slander to tarnish the image of our country by spreading false information in pursuit of political purposes," it said.The US Justice Department in April sentenced two Americans for helping North Koreans obtain remote IT work with US companies and raising more millions of dollars in illicit revenue for its weapons programmes.More than 100 US companies were targeted, including a number of Fortune 500 firms and a defence contractor in the multi-year scheme, the Justice Department said.The ruse "placed North Korean IT workers on the payrolls of unwitting US companies and in US computer systems, thereby potentially harming our national security," said John Eisenberg, assistant attorney general for national security.Google analysts and other cybersecurity experts said in April that hackers linked to North Korea were suspected of an ambitious attack on an inconspicuous but widely used software package.A United Nations panel estimated in 2024 that North Korean cyberattacks since 2017 had stolen more than \$3 billion in cryptocurrency.The stolen money helps fund the development of weapons of mass destruction, the panel said.Pyongyang's cyber-warfare programme dates back to at least the mid-1990s, and the country has been dubbed "the world's most prolific cyber-thief" by a cybersecurity firm.

- [President in and out of hospital – Sen. Imee Marcos](#) (2026-05-03 07:32)

MANDAUE CITY — Senator Imee Marcos dismissed as false rumors that her brother, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., had died. She however said he has been dealing with health issues and has been going in and out of the hospital.She urged Malacañang to release a certified medical bulletin, stressing the public's right to accurate information, and called on the President to focus on his recovery. "I'm very, very sad that he's not being taken care of, and he's not watching out for himself. I wish he does. There's so much work. This is a crisis, and people need very trustworthy and determined leadership," the senator said.Malacañang last month said that the President is in good health. To squelch social media reports that he is sick, Marcos jogged and performed jumping jacks on his way to a media event at the Palace on April 13. At the "Biyayang Bigas sa Marnila" program on April 16, the president helped in the distribution by carrying a bag of rice, to the amusement of Mayor Isko Moreno.

- [Sen. Imee Marcos says relationship with President 'non-existent'](#) (2026-05-03 07:28)

MANDAUE CITY — Senator Imee Marcos described her relationship with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as “non-existent,” while raising concerns about his health and calling for transparency from Malacañang. At a press conference in Mandaue City on Saturday, Marcos said she has not seen the President for over a year and has largely stayed away from family gatherings. “At this point, of course, mahal ko siya, kapatid ko, pero (I love him, he’s my brother, but) I haven’t seen him perhaps over a year now, and I don’t really go to the reunions. It’s not comfortable, and I prefer my kids go if they want to go. It’s fine,” she said. Despite the strained ties, the senator said she continues to care for her brother and hopes he prioritizes his health. She also shared that she remains close to their mother and visits her during special family occasions, including their parents’ wedding anniversary every May 1.

- [Parts of Metro Manila, Rizal, and Cavite to have water interruptions this week](#) (2026-05-03 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Some areas in Metro Manila, Rizal, and Cavite will have water interruptions this week due to maintenance works and high demand, Manila Water Company Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. said. Manila Water said that in Metro Manila, some areas in the villages of Rosario, Manggahan, and Maybunga in Pasig City will have water interruptions on May 4-5 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of step testing activities to detect leaks. In Quezon City, some places at Teachers Village East, Teachers Village West, UP Campus, San Vicente, and Old Capitol Site will have no water on May 5-6 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to step testing works at Maginhawa St. corner Masaya St. Parts of Brgy. Culiatt and Brgy. Vasra in Quezon City will also have water interruptions on May 5-7 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of step testing activities. Some areas in Brgy South Triangle in Quezon City will have service interruptions on May 7-8 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of step testing works along Timog Ave. corner T. Morato Ave. In Marikina City, some portions of Brgy. Marikina Heights will have water service interruptions on May 5-6 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. also due to step testing activities. In San Juan City, some locations in the villages of Balong-Bato, San Perfecto, Progreso, Rivera, and Pedro Cruz will have no water on May 7-8 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of step testing activities along F. Roman St. corner Aurora Blvd. In Taguig City, some areas in Brgy. Central Signal will have service interruptions on May 7-8 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due also to step testing works at Cuasay St. cor. Sto. Niño St. In Rizal, some portions of Brgy. Sto Domingo in Cainta will have water interruptions on May 4-5 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to a line meter replacement along Imelda Ave. corner VCS Homes. Some areas in Brgy. San Roque and Brgy. San Andres in Cainta, Rizal will have service interruptions on May 6-7 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to step testing activities at A. Rodriguez Ave. In Antipolo, some places in Brgy. Mayamot will have no water on May 5-6 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to leak repair along Soliven Ave. Some areas in Brgy. San Jose in Antipolo and Brgy. Pinugay in Baras, Rizal will have water interruptions on May 5-6 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of step testing works along Marcos Highway. Maynilad said in Metro Manila, some areas in the villages of Gen. T. De Leon, Karuhatan, Malinta, Marulas, Maysan, and Parada in Valenzuela City will have service interruptions on May 4-8 between 12:01 a.m. and 4 a.m. because of network

maintenance activities. In Manila City, some locations at the villages of 313, 314, 329, 330 and 335 will have service interruptions on May 3-10 between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. because of leak exploration works. In Santa Cruz district, some places in the villages of 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 313 and 315 will have water interruptions on May 4-11 between 11:01 p.m. and 3 a.m. because of leak exploration activities. Also, some locations in the villages of 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 430, 457 and 460 will have service interruptions on May 4-11 between 11:01 p.m. and 3 a.m. because of leak exploration works. In Tondo, some areas in the villages of 124, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 177, 179, 180, 181, and 182, will have no water on May 3-10 between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. because of leak exploration activities. Some places in the villages of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 74, 75, 76, 78, 81, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 163, 168, 169, 170, 171, and 172 will have service interruptions on May 4-10 between 12 a.m. and 3 a.m. because of leak exploration. Some portions of Brgy. 649 will also have water service interruptions on May 4-11 between 11:01 p.m. and 3 a.m. because of leak exploration. Also, some places in the villages of 17, 18, 19, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, and 55 will have no water on May 4-5 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of network maintenance activities. In Binondo, some areas in the villages of 292, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 303, 304 and 305 will have service interruptions on May 4-11 between 11:01 p.m. and 3 a.m. due to leak exploration. Some parts of the villages of 524, 525, 529, 532, 533 and 535 in Sampaloc will have no water on May 4-11 between 11:01 p.m. and 3 a.m. because of leak exploration works. In Pandacan, some places in the villages of 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840 and 865 will have water interruptions on May 4-11 between 11:01 p.m. and 3 a.m. because of leak exploration activities. Some areas in the villages of 36, 39, 40, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197 in Caloocan City; and also some locations in the villages of 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220 and 202-A in Manila City will have water interruptions on May 4-10 between 12 a.m. and 3 a.m. because of leak exploration works at Rizal Ave. Some portions of Brgy. 167 and Brgy. 169 in Caloocan City, and some areas in Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayan and Brgy. San Agustin in Quezon City will have service interruptions on May 4-5 between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. due to a water audit to identify real and apparent losses, such as leaks and inaccurate meter readings. Some parts of Brgy. 188 will have water service interruptions on May 4-5 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. because of the insertion of a valve in a water system at Dr. Puno Road, Caloocan City. Some portions of Brgy. 174 will have water service interruptions on May 4-5 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. because of the pullout of a pressure reducing valve. In Imus City, Cavite, several places 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 will have no water on May 4-5 between 5 a.m. and 12 a.m. because of high water demand at the Patindig Araw pumping station.

- [Flights to Bicol canceled as Mayon unrest intensifies](#) (2026-05-03 03:34)

MANILA, Philippines—Flights at the Bicol International Airport (BIA) were canceled on Sunday, May 3, due to Mayon Volcano's continued unrest. The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) suspended specific flights as a safety precaution. CAAP confirmed that as of 5:30 a.m., Cebu Pacific flights 5J321 (Manila-BIA) and 5J322 (BIA-Manila) were canceled. A total of 231 passengers (134 incoming and 97 outgoing), were affected by Sunday's disruptions. Mayon remains under Alert Level 3, indicating intensified unrest and a potential for a hazardous eruption. CAAP advised affected passengers to coordinate with their airlines for rebooking or refund options.

- [Motorcycle taxi riders push bill granting franchises to individuals, not platforms](#) (2026-05-03 03:18)

MANILA, Philippines — A motorcycle taxi riders' group urged Congress to pass the long-delayed Motorcycle Taxi Bill, calling for a framework that would grant franchises directly to riders rather than to digital platforms. In a statement, the Motorcycle Taxi Community said the measure should recognize riders as independent transport service providers and align regulations with the realities of gig work. The group maintained that riders, not platforms, deliver the actual service and should therefore hold the franchise tied to their registered motorcycles. Romeo Maglunsod, the group's chairman, said the current platform-based slot system is outdated and failed to reflect how the sector operates. He argued that similar to jeepney and tricycle operators, motorcycle taxi riders should have transport rights attached to them and their units. "The franchise should be given to the individual rider and their motorcycle — not to the platforms. Riders are the actual providers of the transport service," Maglunsod said. The group also pressed for greater flexibility, saying riders should be free to choose which platform to use and when to operate, a setup it described as central to gig-based livelihoods. "As freelancers, we deserve respect, freedom, and protection as Filipino workers," Maglunsod said. The group challenged motorcycle taxi companies to improve rider support systems, including insurance coverage, provide fair incentives, and stronger demand-generation mechanisms. It said riders should be treated not only as partners but also as customers of the platforms they use. "Every day, riders endure heat, rain, and traffic to serve passengers. It is only right that platforms provide us with the best possible systems that protect our welfare," Maglunsod said. The Motorcycle Taxi Community warned that continued delays in passing the bill will prolong uncertainty for thousands of riders grappling with rising costs and unstable incomes. "Every day of delay is another day of uncertainty for our livelihood. Government must prioritize people's livelihoods," he said. While expressing willingness to comply with reasonable regulations, the group cautioned against excessive rules that could restrict earning opportunities or reduce service availability for commuters. "We understand the need to protect every sector in transport, but policies must also consider the welfare of workers and the convenience of passengers," Maglunsod said. The group said it remained hopeful that lawmakers would enact a measure that provides riders with clear rights, security, and recognition as part of the country's public transport system.

- [Asean, EU leaders meet in Cebu to push sustainable growth](#) (2026-05-03 03:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Government leaders from Southeast Asia and European business executives will gather in Cebu on May 7 for the Asean-EU Sustainability Summit, ahead of the 48th Asean Leaders' Summit, to address economic resilience and sustainable growth amid ongoing regional challenges. The inaugural summit comes as the region faces mounting pressures, including an energy crisis and broader economic strain. More than 200 representatives from government, business, development institutions, and civil society are expected to attend the event organized by the European Union (EU)-Asean Business Council (ABC) and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP). The summit will feature discussions on sustainability priorities under the Philippines' Asean chairmanship, including energy transition, green finance, circular economy development, sustainable trade, and climate-resilient agriculture. Among the participants are Finance Secretary Frederick Go, Indonesia Deputy Minister Leonardo A. A. Teguh Sambodo, EU Ambassador to the Philippines Massimo Santoro, and Climate Change Commission Vice Chairman Robert E.A. Borje. "We're facing multiple crises at once – energy, economic and supply chain challenges that no party can address alone. Asean and the EU should look to each other for a reliable, long-term partnership built on shared ambitions for sustainable economic growth," Chris Humphrey, executive director of EU-ABC, said. "The Council has emphasized the same message in our recent meetings with the European Commission in Brussels, and this Summit serves as an important platform to deepen that conversation." The summit is also seen to drive the EU and Association of Southeast Asian Nations cooperation towards practical outcomes for the region's sustainable development. Paulo Duarte, president of ECCP and a member of the EU-ABC's Executive Board, said the Asean-EU partnership has grown significantly, but the "priority now is to turn that momentum into practical collaboration." "The EU has channeled significant resources towards sustainable development through the Global Gateway and other initiatives – the Summit will explore how these can support that next phase of cooperation," he said. Private sector participation will also be highlighted, particularly in strengthening supply chains and sustainability practices.

- [Alex Zanardi, auto racing champ who won Paralympic golds between life-altering accidents, dies at 59](#) (2026-05-03 02:54)

ROME — Alex Zanardi, the Italian auto racing champion-turned-Paralympic gold medalist whose career was marked by two life-altering accidents, has died. He was 59. Zanardi's family announced his death on Saturday, saying that he passed away on Friday night. "Alex died peacefully, surrounded by the affection of those closest to him," the family said in a statement without providing a cause of death. In 2020, Zanardi was seriously injured in a handbike accident after crashing into an oncoming truck during a relay event in Tuscany. Zanardi suffered serious facial and cranial trauma in the crash and was put in a medically induced coma. Nearly 20 years earlier, Zanardi lost both of his legs in an auto racing crash. "Italy loses a great champion and an extraordinary man, capable of turning every challenge of life into a lesson in courage, strength, and dignity," Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni said on X. "Alex Zanardi knew

how to bounce back every time, facing even the toughest challenges with determination, clarity, and a strength of spirit that was truly exceptional," Meloni added. "He gave all of us much more than a victory: he gave hope, pride, and the strength to never give up. ... Thank you for everything, Alex." Zanardi won two championships in CART — 1997 and 1998 — in the United States before a brief return to Formula One. He returned to America and was racing in Germany in a CART event in 2001 when both of his legs were severed in a horrific accident the weekend after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. CART raced only because the series was already in Germany at the time of the attacks and could not return to the U.S. After the 2001 crash, Zanardi was in a coma for three days and his heart stopped at least once. NASCAR driver Max Papis, who knew Zanardi from childhood in Italy, recalled visiting his friend in the hospital, where Zanardi glanced at Papis' new shoes. "He said, 'Look at the positive side of this. For a long time I will not have to spend money buying those,'" Papis said. During his recovery, Zanardi designed his own prosthetics — he joked that he made himself taller — and learned to walk again. He then turned his attention to hand cycling and developed into one of the most accomplished athletes in the world. He won four gold medals and two silvers at the 2012 and 2016 Paralympics, competed in the New York City Marathon and set an Ironman record. When he won a Paralympic race in 2012 at Britain's Brands Hatch circuit where he had competed as a young driver, Zanardi celebrated the full-circle moment by holding his bike aloft one-handed as he sat on the track. "Probably a lot of people watching me doing (this) to some degree against all odds maybe they are going to say, 'Bloody hell, if Zanardi did this, I can try. I can try,'" he told The Associated Press at the time. "A good attempt always brings a result." His spirit, will, and determination gave the beloved Italian a larger-than-life persona. When he returned to the U.S. in 2019 to compete for BMW at the Rolex 24 of Daytona without his prosthetics, he was the most revered driver in a field that included F1 champion Fernando Alonso. Drivers from around the world sought out Zanardi for photographs and were transfixed as he told elaborate tales of his adventures in the nearly two decades since many had seen him. Zanardi used specially adapted cars with hand controls for gas and brake to take up racing again after the 2001 accident — and well enough to win races in various series. Stefano Domenicali, the president and CEO of F1, said he was "deeply saddened by the passing of my dear friend," calling Zanardi "truly an inspirational person, as a human and as an athlete." "He faced challenges that would have stopped anyone, yet he continued to look forward, always with a smile and a stubborn determination that inspired us all," Domenicali added. "While his loss is profoundly felt, his legacy remains strong." Zanardi's death came on the same day — May 1 — that fellow driver Ayrton Senna died in a crash during an F1 race in Imola in 1994. The International Automobile Federation (FIA) said on X that Zanardi's racing career and "journey from life-changing accident to Paralympics gold medalist made him one of sport's most admired competitors and an enduring symbol of courage and determination." Noted for his infectious smile and fanciful storytelling, Zanardi was praised by Pope Francis after his 2020 crash as an example of strength amid adversity. Francis penned a handwritten letter of encouragement assuring Zanardi and his family of his prayers. Zanardi's family added that it "thanks everyone who is sharing their support right now and asks for respect during this time of mourning." The funeral will be held Tuesday in Padua. A moment of silence was observed in Zanardi's honor before Saturday's F1

sprint race in Miami Gardens, Florida. Also, the Italian Olympic Committee called for a minute of silence to be observed at all sports events in Italy over the weekend. Zanardi, who was born in Bologna, is survived by his wife, Daniela, and son, Niccolò.

- [Trump says US will reduce number of troops in Germany 'a lot further' than withdrawal of 5,000](#) (2026-05-03 02:35)

WEST PALM BEACH— President Donald Trump said on Saturday that the U.S. will significantly reduce its troop presence in Germany, escalating a dispute with Chancellor Friedrich Merz as he seeks to scale back America's commitment to European security. The Pentagon on Friday had initially announced it would pull some 5,000 troops out of Germany, but when asked Saturday about the reason for the move, Trump didn't offer an explanation and said an even bigger reduction was coming. "We're going to cut way down. And we're cutting a lot further than 5,000," Trump told reporters in Florida. Earlier on Saturday, Germany's defense minister appeared to take in stride the news that 5,000 U.S. troops would be leaving his country. Boris Pistorius said the drawdown, which Trump has threatened for years, was expected, and he said European nations needed to take on more responsibility for their own defense. But he also emphasized that security cooperation benefited both sides of the trans-Atlantic partnership. "The presence of American soldiers in Europe, and especially in Germany, is in our interest and in the interest of the U.S.," Pistorius told the German news agency dpa. The plan faces bipartisan resistance. The planned withdrawal faced bipartisan resistance in Washington, with swift criticism from Democrats and concern from Republicans that it would send the "wrong signal" to Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose full-scale invasion of Ukraine recently entered its fifth year. Trump's decision comes as he seethes at European allies over their unwillingness to join his campaign with Israel against Iran. He has lashed out at leaders like Merz, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer. Merz last week criticized the war in Iran, saying the U.S. is being "humiliated" by the Iranian leadership and calling out Washington's lack of strategy. In another sign of friction, Trump accused the European Union of not complying with its U.S. trade deal and announced plans to increase tariffs next week on cars and trucks produced in the bloc to 25%, a move that would be particularly damaging to Germany, a major automobile manufacturer. At least one EU lawmaker called the tariff hike "unacceptable" and accused Trump of breaking yet another U.S. commitment on trade. US increased troops after Russian invasion of Ukraine. A pullout of 5,000 soldiers from Germany would amount to about one-seventh of the 36,000 American service members stationed in the country. The Pentagon offered few details about which troops or operations would be affected. When contacted after Trump's announcement of more cuts on Saturday, the Pentagon did not offer any additional details and referred back to its earlier statement. The withdrawal of the 5,000 troops is scheduled to take place over the next six to 12 months, according to the Pentagon. Trump previously said he would pull 9,500 troops from Germany during his first term, but he didn't start the process and Democratic President Joe Biden formally stopped the planned withdrawal soon after taking office in 2021. More broadly, around 80,000-100,000 U.S. personnel are usually stationed in Europe — depending on operations, exercises and troop

rotations. The U.S. increased its European deployment after Russia launched its full-scale war on Ukraine in February 2022. NATO allies like Germany have expected for over a year that these troops would be the first to leave. Pistorius, in his comments to dpa, said, "We Europeans must take on more responsibility for our security," while stressing recent efforts by Germany to boost its armed forces, accelerate procurement and develop infrastructure. NATO spokesperson Allison Hart, in a post Saturday on X, said the trans-Atlantic alliance was "working with the U.S. to understand the details of their decision on force posture in Germany." "This adjustment underscores the need for Europe to continue to invest more in defense and take on a greater share of the responsibility for our shared security," she added, noting "progress" toward a target among NATO allies to each invest 5% of their economic output to defense. A 'thorough review' prompted drawdown decision Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell said in a statement that the "decision follows a thorough review of the Department's force posture in Europe and is in recognition of theater requirements and conditions on the ground." A U.S. defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, said the branches of the U.S. military didn't have prior knowledge of the decision to draw down the 5,000 troops and learned about it "in real time." In response, the Defense Department reiterated that it conducted a thorough review of its force posture in Europe. "The decision to withdraw troops in Germany follows a comprehensive, multilayered process that incorporates perspectives from key leaders in EUCOM and across the chain of command," acting Pentagon press secretary Joel Valdez wrote in an email, using the abbreviation for U.S. European Command. Most U.S. troops in Germany come from the Army and Air Force. Germany hosts several American military facilities, including the headquarters of the U.S. European and Africa commands, Ramstein Air Base and a medical center in Landstuhl, where casualties from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were treated. U.S. nuclear missiles are also stationed in the country. Withdrawal of 5,000 troops — the size of a brigade combat team — from Germany would likely have limited impact on combat power, but "in terms of messaging of U.S. commitment though, it's very different," another U.S. defense official said. The only permanent brigade combat team in Germany is the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, alongside an aviation brigade and other assets, which is considered to have an important role in America's — and NATO's — ability to deter threats. GOP lawmakers voice concern about withdrawal plan After swift pushback from Democrats on Friday, Republican leaders of both armed services committees in Congress said Saturday they were "very concerned" about the troop withdrawal. Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi and Rep. Mike Rogers of Alabama said the decision risked "undermining deterrence and sending the wrong signal to Vladimir Putin." They also said the Pentagon had decided to cancel the planned deployment of the Army's Long-Range Fires Battalion. Parnell's statement made no mention of that. Wicker and Rogers said any significant change to the U.S. force posture in Europe warrants review and coordination with Congress. "We expect the Department to engage with its oversight committees in the days and weeks ahead on this decision and its implications for U.S. deterrence and trans-Atlantic security," they said in a joint statement. They also noted that Germany has heeded Trump's call to shoulder more of the burden of defense spending in Europe, while giving U.S. forces access to its bases and airspace in the war against Iran.

- [Drugmaker asks US Supreme Court to restore abortion pill access](#) (2026-05-03 02:11)

WASHINGTON, United States — A key manufacturer of the United States' most widely used abortion pill asked the Supreme Court on Saturday to restore access to the drug, a day after a lower court halted mail delivery of the medication. Mifepristone, which prevents pregnancy progression, is used alongside misoprostol, which empties the uterus, in the majority of abortions in the United States. It is approved for use up to 10 weeks into a pregnancy. Danco Laboratories, which manufactures mifepristone and is one of two companies distributing the drug in the United States, asked the top court to stay a Friday decision by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals that temporarily blocked abortion providers from prescribing and shipping the drug nationwide. The lower court ordered that women seeking abortions anywhere in the United States had to obtain mifepristone at a clinic, rather than by mail order or through a pharmacy. That decision, "injects immediate confusion and upheaval into highly time-sensitive medical decisions," the drugmaker wrote in its filing with the Supreme Court. "The resulting chaos for patients, providers, pharmacies, and the drug-regulatory system is a quintessential irreparable harm that underscores the need for emergency relief from this Court." Mifepristone has been approved since 2000 and is also routinely used for managing early miscarriages. Anti-abortion activists, however, have called the drug's safety into question, with some citing a study conducted by a conservative think tank that never underwent formal peer review. In 2024, the Supreme Court rejected a bid to restrict the drug, ruling that anti-abortion groups and doctors calling for greater limits lacked legal standing to bring the case. Since a 2022 Supreme Court decision that struck down a nationwide right to abortion, some 20 states have banned or restricted it. Polls show a majority of Americans support legal access to abortion even as activists push to limit or ban it outright.

- [Easterlies to prevail; Ilocos, Pangasinan, La Union to sizzle at 43 degrees Celsius](#) (2026-05-03 01:17)

MANILA, Philippines — The warm and humid weather brought by the easterlies will continue to affect most parts of the country in the next three to four days, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said on Sunday. A heat index of 42 degrees Celsius in the Capital National Region is likely on Sunday. The highest temperature could be recorded in Ilocos Norte, Pangasinan and La Union at 43 degrees Celsius, weather specialist Aldczar Aurelio said. Aurelio said the same weather system will bring cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms in Visayas, Caraga, Northern Mindanao, Zamboanga Peninsula, Sorsogon, Masbate, Palawan, Davao Oriental, Davao de Oro, and Basilan. "Flash floods or landslides due to moderate to at times heavy rains could be possible in these areas," he warned in a 5 a.m. briefing. Metro Manila and the rest of the country will have partly cloudy to overcast skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to the effects of the easterly winds.

- [Some areas in Metro Manila, Rizal and Laguna to have power interruptions due to maintenance works](#) (2026-05-03 01:02)

MANILA, Philippines— Some areas in Metro Manila, Rizal and Laguna will have power interruptions this week because of maintenance works, Meralco said on Sunday. It said that in Brgy. Ugong, Valenzuela City, some places will have no power on May 4 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. because of line reconstruction works along Mindanao Ave. In Makati City, some areas in Brgy. San Lorenzo will have no electricity on May 5 between 12:01 a.m. and 5 a.m. due to line maintenance works in Legaspi Village. Also, some locations near Piña Ave. in Sampaloc, Manila will have power interruptions on May 6 between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. because of line conversion works. Some areas in Punta, Sta. Ana will have no electricity on May 10 between 12:01 a.m. and 12:30 a.m. and between 4:30 a.m. and 5 a.m. because of line reconstruction works and line reconductoring works. In Caloocan City, some parts of Grace Park will have no power on May 6-7 between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of the replacement of hazardous wood electricity poles along 11th Ave., 8th and 9th Sts. In Taguig City, several locations in the villages of Katuparan, Ugong, Pinagsama, and North Signal Village will have short power interruptions on May 6-8 because of line reconstruction works. Some areas in the villages of Pinagsama and North Signal will also have power interruption on May 6 between 11:30 p.m. and 11:59 p.m. due to line reconstruction work. Also, some places in the villages of Katuparan, Ususan and North Signal will have no electricity on May 7 between 12:30 a.m. and 1 a.m., between 2:15 a.m. and 2:45 a.m., and also between 11:30 p.m. and 11:59 p.m. due to line reconstruction works along 8th St. Some locations in the villages of Katuparan, and North Signal will again have short power interruptions on May 8 between 1:30 a.m. and 2:30 a.m., and between 3 a.m. and 3:30 a.m. because of line reconstruction works. In Laguna, some areas in Brgy. Botocan, Majayjay and in Brgy. San Rafael and Brgy. San Roque in Luisiana will have no electricity on May 8 between 10:30 and 3:30 p.m. due to line reconductoring works along Majayjay-Luisiana Road. Toshiba Storage Device Philippines Inc. and Sercomm Philippines Inc. in Carmelray Industrial Park 1 in Brgy. Canlubang, Calamba City will have no power on May 9 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. due to line reconductoring works along Innovation Drive in Carmelray Industrial Park 1. In Rizal, a portion of Eastwind Homes Village and Eastwood Greenview Subd. Phase 3 will have no electricity on May 6 between 12:01 a.m. and 4 a.m. because of the installation of electricity facilities along Centella St. in Eastwind Homes Village, Brgy. San Rafael, Rodriguez. Also, some places in the villages of Calumpang Sto. Cristo and Dulumbayan in Teresa, Rizal will have power interruptions on May 8 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. due to line reconstruction works along La Trinidad and Pantaleon Sts.

- [King Charles grasped 'opportunity' on US trip, palace says](#) (2026-05-03 00:37)

LONDON, United Kingdom — King Charles III's US state visit was a "risk and challenge" that he "grasped in both hands", a palace aide said Sunday as the monarch returned from a widely praised trip. Charles left for the UK from Bermuda Saturday following what a senior royal aide called a "historic" visit to the United States, aimed at healing strained ties between Washington and London. The highlight of the four-day visit was the 77-year-old king's speech to US Congress on Tuesday -- the first such address since his mother, queen Elizabeth II spoke there after the Gulf War in 1991. The speech, marking 250 years since American independence, was "high

stakes", the aide involved in the visit told reporters. The king urged the importance of NATO and called for a "just and lasting peace" in Ukraine, despite US President Donald Trump's critical stance on the bloc and Ukraine's leader Volodymyr Zelensky. This was "a measure of how much he personally cares" and proves that he "will always be guided by the truth", the royal aide said.

'Warmth and laughter' His words won praise from Trump's opponents, with senior Democrat Gregory Meeks hailing the king's "impassioned call for a renewed commitment to NATO". And the speech appeared to have gone down well with Trump, too. The president told journalists Friday that Charles "is just a great person. He's a high quality person. I love the job he did in Congress". The rapport between the king and president continued as they met behind closed doors in the Oval Office, the royal aide said with "an awful lot of warmth and laughter" amid serious topics. By contrast, Trump has repeatedly lambasted Prime Minister Keir Starmer, particularly over his stance on Iran. The palace aide denied any awkwardness over the differences in warmth of relationship, stressed the king's visit was on the government's request and there is "not a competition" between the monarchy and Downing Street. On the contrary, the king and queen "have been able to help the government", the aide said, and the king himself viewed the US leg of his trip as particularly "positive". "What looked like risk and challenge was also a phenomenal opportunity. One that was grasped in both hands by the King," the aide said. 'A personal triumph' British media lavished praise on the visit: The Daily Telegraph called it "a triumph" and a "reassertion of our shared values", while for The Times, it was a "star-spangled success". "I think it was a personal triumph," for Charles, royal commentator Richard Fitzwilliams told AFP, citing the king's "superb" speech to Congress, with "brilliant jokes". "He got it right and every nuance seemed perfect. It pleased everybody," Fitzwilliams said of the address. The visit proved a "boost" at a "very difficult time for the monarchy," the royal expert said. Undergoing cancer treatment and after a bitter rift with his son, Prince Harry, Charles this year saw his brother, the former prince Andrew, arrested over ties to the late US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Trump reacted to the royal visit by lifting whisky tariffs, a major trade concession, in honour of Charles. But Fitzwilliams urged caution on future consequences for the UK, citing Trump's "unpredictability". Trump "loves all things British royal. But not necessarily the British government," he said.

- [Lacson to bare flood control probe findings this week](#) (2026-05-02 16:13)

EFFORTS to suppress the findings of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee's investigation into the alleged flood control scandal will ultimately fail, as public memory and demand for accountability remain strong, Senate President Pro Tempore and committee chairman Panfilo Lacson said Saturday. Lacson said he is set to deliver a privilege speech this week — possibly on May 4 or 5 — to present the committee's Chairman's Progress Report after a partial report failed to secure enough signatures for transmission to the Senate plenary. "As Blue Ribbon Chairman, I owe it to the Filipino people to update them on what happened after seven to eight hearings," he said in a radio interview in a mix of English and Filipino. He added that the report aims to correct what he described as "false narratives" suggesting bias or cover-ups in the committee's work. Lacson warned that attempts to downplay or stall the issue would not

succeed, citing strong public outrage. “Our people are angry and will not forget the issue. It will take decades before the issue is gone from the public’s memory,” he said. He described the controversy as even more serious than the earlier pork barrel scandal involving Janet Lim-Napoles, referencing alleged kickbacks in ghost infrastructure projects in the early 2010s. He said the flood control issue allegedly involves the loss of lives and livelihoods, making it a matter of greater public concern. Lacson noted that a partial Blue Ribbon Committee report prepared last February was not transmitted to the plenary due to the lack of required signatures. He expressed disagreement with some colleagues who declined to sign the report due to disagreements with portions of its content. “It is our duty as members of committees... to sign a committee report and indicate whether we will interpellate, amend, have reservations, or submit a separate report,” he said. “We should not refuse to sign just to block the report.” Once delivered, Lacson said the contents of the Chairman’s Progress Report may be forwarded to investigative agencies, including the Department of Justice and the Office of the Ombudsman, to support case build-up. He also said the privilege speech would include additional documents and evidence not previously discussed during hearings. Lacson said Senate Blue Ribbon Committee hearings may resume in the latter part of the first regular session, or before Congress adjourns sine die on June 6. He said future hearings may include key public officials and witnesses, including former speaker Martin Romualdez, former Ilocos Sur governor Luis “Chavit” Singson, and at least six former military personnel who allegedly claimed to have delivered large sums of cash to unnamed individuals. He noted that Singson has yet to submit a draft affidavit requested by the committee. Lacson acknowledged that the committee’s schedule may be affected by the anticipated impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, if the articles of impeachment are transmitted to the Senate. He said adjustments may be made to accommodate both legislative and quasi-judicial functions.

- [Ukraine unhappy PH buying Russian crude](#) (2026-05-02 16:12)

UKRAINIAN Deputy Foreign Minister Olexandr Mischenko said Ukraine was “not happy” with some countries’ move to import crude oil from Russia amid the oil crisis, but the Philippines managed to explain its situation. The Philippines has asked the United States for an extension of a sanctions waiver to allow it to buy more Russian oil and petroleum products, Energy Secretary Sharon Garin recently said. “Of course, we are not happy that some country uses Russian crude oil. We understand specific situation,” Mischenko said in an interview. “We reiterate that any cooperation with the aggressor, it brings the possibility to prolong the existence of this aggressor, because Russians gain money through this oil only for war; that means that you supply the aggressor,” he added. Mischenko said Ukraine asked their partners, or the countries that supported Ukraine, “to look for diversity and to escape from dependence on Russia because if you have a deal with the aggressor, you become theoretically part of this situation.” “But fortunately, the leadership of the Philippines fully understands the situation, and they’re looking for other possibilities,” Mischenko said. “We understand that it is a small quantity. But nevertheless, as I mentioned, Russia tried to use the conflict in Gulf to [gain funds to use in its] war with Ukraine,” he added.

- [China slams Atin Ito, justifies WPS actions](#) (2026-05-02 16:11)

CHINA said over the weekend that it is committed to defending its territorial claims following reports that a China Coast Guard (CCG) vessel shadowed a Philippine civilian mission in the West Philippine Sea on Friday morning. In a statement, the Chinese Embassy criticized the Philippine civil society coalition Atin Ito, saying it has “repeatedly attempted to carry out provocative activities under the pretext of safeguarding the Philippines’ territorial sovereignty,” adding that such efforts have “ended in failure.” The embassy said China “will continue to resolutely safeguard its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests.” The statement came after Atin Ito reported that a CCG vessel, bearing bow number 3103, was observed trailing the Philippine-flagged vessel MV Kapitan Felix Oca, which was en route to Pag-asa Island. Atin Ito spokesman Emman Hizon said the Chinese vessel was monitored at about 7:20 a.m. at a distance of about 3.2 nautical miles from the civilian mission ship. At the time of the sighting, the MV Kapitan Felix Oca was estimated to be about 90 nautical miles from Manila and about 60 nautical miles west of Mindoro. The civilian mission is part of ongoing initiatives to assert the Philippine presence and support communities on Pag-asa Island, a key Philippine-held feature in the disputed West Philippine Sea. The latest encounter underscores continuing tensions in the area, which forms part of the broader South China Sea — an increasingly contested maritime region involving overlapping claims by China and several Southeast Asian nations, including the Philippines.

- [170 Pinoy workers home from Kuwait](#) (2026-05-02 16:10)

SOME 170 Filipinos returned to the country from Kuwait, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) said Saturday. The Filipinos arrived at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 in Pasay City at 7 a.m. on Saturday, through Kuwait Airways Flight KU 417. Representatives from the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), OWWA, and other agencies assisted the returning Filipinos. “Appropriate coordination was also carried out for their return to their respective provinces through domestic flights and land transportation assistance, ensuring their safe journey back to their families,” OWWA said in Filipino. “As OWWA marks another year as an agency dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of OFWs, it continues to provide unwavering service to our fellow Filipinos — proof that even amid the celebration, promptly addressing their needs remains a priority,” they added. In a related development, the DMW late on Friday said 18 Filipino seafarers arrived home on separate commercial flights on Thursday and Friday. The seafarers were on board the Liberian ship MV MSC Ishyka. “The seafarers exercised their right to refuse sailing when the ship set sail to India, which required passage through the Strait of Hormuz. This is in accordance with DMW Advisory No. 09 issued on March 1, 2026, reiterating imposition of the seafarer’s right to refuse sailing in high-risk areas in the Gulf region,” the DMW said in a statement. All crew members met with DMW Assistant Secretary Venecio Legaspi and Al Khobar Migrant Workers Office Labor Attache Solaiman Mutia in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, who assured them of government support and assistance. The crew’s repatriation was also facilitated by their agency. The ongoing war in the Middle East has prompted many Filipinos working in the region

to return home.

- [Delayed national ID rollout affects aid distribution](#) (2026-05-02 16:09)

HOUSE Transportation Committee chairman and Quezon City Rep. Franz Pumaren said on Saturday that the delayed implementation of the National ID system should be investigated as it is stalling the delivery of assistance to transport workers affected by rising fuel prices resulting from the war in the Middle East. Pumaren added that government initiatives such as fuel discounts, per-kilometer subsidies and fare incentives hinge on accurate identification and targeting of beneficiaries. He said that because only 50 percent of national IDs were distributed, many transport workers, particularly in the informal sector, lack valid government-issued IDs, limiting their access to assistance. "They do not have passports or licenses, that's why they don't get aid," Pumaren said in a forum in Quezon City. He added that the absence of a unified ID system continues to cause inefficiencies, data mismatches and duplication. "What is important here is the correct data. If we do not have a proper identification system, the government will have problems with targeting," Pumaren said. Pumaren said he will file a resolution seeking a House inquiry into the rollout of the national ID system under the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). "I will file a resolution to investigate what is happening at the PSA; they have a huge budget, almost P700 million, but the output is lacking," he said. Pumaren called on regulators to exhaust government support for the transportation sector before approving any fare increase. While fare increases fall under the jurisdiction of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, Pumaren stressed the need to "revisit the whole scenario" amid ongoing petitions to raise fares by as high as P25 and called on maximizing the existing interventions. "With what we are currently doing — we have fuel subsidies, discounted fuel, per-kilometer payments provided to jeepney and bus operators and drivers, plus a 20-percent discount — I think we can bank on those first," Pumaren said. He warned that any untimely fare hike could have significant consequences on low-income households.

- [Expert warns of health risks during menopause](#) (2026-05-02 16:09)

A HEALTH expert warned Friday of potential health consequences of neglecting proper nutrition during menopause. Dr. Rowena Auxillos, former president of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, said women should be aware of the health challenges during menopause. "While these changes are normal, they do not have to limit a woman's quality of life. Midlife is a critical window for women to prioritize their muscle health," Auxillos said in a statement. Menopause, which often occurs around the average age of 48, is a natural biological process marking the end of menstrual cycles. In this stage, estrogen levels decline, affecting muscle mass, strength and tissue repair. Because of this, women may experience slower physical activity recovery, lower energy levels, and increased risks of osteoporosis and cardiovascular conditions. "By intentionally building and maintaining strength, women can protect their independence and mobility, even long after their reproductive years," Auxillos said, highlighting the importance of adopting better lifestyle choices. Dr. Gamaliel Tayao,

Abbott’ s head of Medical Affairs in the Philippines, emphasized that muscle health cannot be supported by physical activity alone, especially during menopause.” During this transition, women’ s nutritional needs increase, even as appetite and nutrient absorption may decline. Without adequate intake of high-quality protein and essential micronutrients, muscle loss can accelerate,” Tayao said. He added that Ensure Gold contains calcium beta-hydroxy-beta-methylbutyrate, which supports muscle repair and helps maintain muscle mass, as well as yeast beta glucan, which may help strengthen immunity when combined with proper diet and exercise.” Clinically formulated nutritional supplements such as Ensure Gold are designed to help address these nutritional gaps, supporting muscle mass and functional strength as women age,” said Tayao. Tayao said that despite the challenges women face during menopause, they should view it as an opportunity to grow into healthier, stronger versions of themselves.

- [SC voids Duterte firing of deputy ombudsman](#) (2026-05-02 16:09)

THE Supreme Court has voided the dismissal of former overall deputy ombudsman Arthur Carandang, ruling that then-president Rodrigo Duterte exceeded his authority in ordering the penalty. In a 28-page decision written by Associate Justice Maria Filomena Singh, the Court’ s Third Division affirmed an earlier ruling of the Court of Appeals declaring Carandang’ s dismissal void from the outset, describing the move as a breach of the constitutional principle of checks and balances. The tribunal held that the Office of the President has no power to impose administrative sanctions on officials of the Office of the Ombudsman, which the Constitution designates as an independent body. Carandang had been dismissed in 2018 after he was accused of disclosing alleged bank records of the Duterte family purportedly showing billions of pesos in wealth. At the time, then-ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales inhibited herself from handling complaints involving Duterte due to her relation by affinity to his daughter, Sara Duterte, leaving Carandang to act on the case. The complaint, filed on May 5, 2016, by then-senator Antonio Trillanes IV, accused Duterte of malversation, violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, plunder, and possession of unexplained wealth. “To ensure the enduring existence and effectiveness of the Office of the Ombudsman, the Constitution expressly labeled it as independent,” the Court said. The Supreme Court ruled that Carandang is entitled to full retirement benefits upon the expiration of his term, as well as back salaries covering the period of his preventive suspension and dismissal.

- [PH retirement sector an economic driver](#) (2026-05-02 16:08)

THE Philippine government is ramping up efforts to develop a more structured retirement sector, said Commission on Filipinos Overseas Secretary Dante Ang II. Ang said the country’ s emerging retirement industry should be treated not simply as a lifestyle option but as a strategic economic driver.” This is a win-win situation,” Ang said at a recent Retirement and Reintegration Forum attended by stakeholders from the United States and Australia. He noted that retirees benefit from a higher quality of life due to the Philippines’ relatively low cost of living and favorable exchange rates, while the domestic economy gains from increased

investments and job creation. Ang emphasized that expanding retirement communities could generate employment across multiple sectors, particularly in health care and eldercare services. He cited opportunities for nurses, physicians, physical therapists and caregivers, highlighting the Philippines' established reputation as a global source of health care professionals. The initiative, he said, aligns with broader government efforts to stimulate inclusive growth, especially in provincial areas where retirement developments could spur local economies through infrastructure, housing and service-related investments. Ang said the move is in line with the vision of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to make migration a matter of choice rather than necessity. "Structured reintegration programs provide a viable pathway for overseas Filipinos to return home and invest in their future locally," Ang said. Government data show that millions of Filipinos live and work abroad, making reintegration programs a continuing priority for policymakers aiming to harness diaspora resources and expertise. Ang said the country's health care workforce is a major advantage in attracting both foreign retirees and returning Filipinos. He said the Philippines offers not only highly trained medical professionals but also a level of care and hospitality that is globally competitive. This combination, he added, positions the country as an attractive destination for retirement living, particularly in Asia, where demand for affordable, quality eldercare is rising. Among the projects Ang cited was a retirement development by Atikha in San Pablo City, noting the area is ideal for active retirees because of its proximity to beaches, golf courses and other leisure destinations. The forum was organized in partnership with the Philippine Retirement Authority and the National Federation of Filipino American Associations. J

- [AI eases educational policies research](#) (2026-05-02 16:08)

THE Department of Science and Technology (DOST) said it has launched a pilot artificial intelligence (AI)-driven process of accessing institutional policies for students. The digital hub, built in partnership with the Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges (CSPC) and launched on April 30, houses a collection of documents about university policies. By using AI, students without technical or legal knowledge can access the database. The platform eliminates the need to manually sift through lengthy files by using a Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers model. Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. said the new hub will help prevent confusion among students and democratize information. "Policies that are hard to access or understand may result in confusion and inefficiency, but with the University Policy Hub, we address this challenge head on. With this new hub, we are taking a step forward in strengthening transparency, accessibility and good governance in higher education," said Solidum. The system was developed by CSPC researchers led by Joseph Jessie Oñate. It received P1 million in funding under the Good Governance through Data Science and Decision Support Systems program of the DOST's Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (Pcieerd). The project was intended as a model for other educational institutions to follow in modernizing policy management systems through AI. "We are looking forward to many HEIs (higher education institutions) and SUCs (state universities and colleges) in the Philippines to work together and adopt this innovation to improve academic

and administrative efficiency,” said DOST-Pcieerd Deputy Executive Director Niñaliza Escorial.

- [KOJC leader convicted of resisting authorities](#) (2026-05-02 16:06)

THE Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 39 found a leader of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) guilty of resisting authorities and sentenced him to jail. In a seven-page decision dated April 23, which Metropolitan Manila Development Authority general manager Nicolas Torre III made public on his Facebook page on Friday, the court, through Presiding Judge Juvenal Bella, found Eduardo Sapar Corda guilty of violating Section 13(a) of Batas Pambansa Bilang 880, or the Public Assembly Act of 1985, which bans assemblies or rallies without a permit. Corda was sentenced to four months in prison. “Constitutional liberties do not exist in a vacuum. While the State protects the right to peaceful assembly as a cornerstone of democracy, it simultaneously holds the police power to regulate such activities to safeguard public safety and order,” the ruling read. “When the exercise of free expression transcends the bounds of its legal authorization and encroaches upon the fundamental right of the public to safe and unobstructed passage, the law provides for a necessary reckoning. This case stands as a testament to that delicate balance between individual liberty and collective security,” it added. The ruling read that Corda unlawfully commanded and held a public assembly and shouted in support of KOJC leader Apollo Quiboloy along the Philippine-Japan Friendship Highway in Davao City, which led to a standoff on Aug. 26, 2024. Authorities at the time were trying to arrest Quiboloy. “Eduardo Sapar Corda testified that his presence was strictly ministerial and missionary in nature. He claimed he intended to ensure the safety of their members. He denied organizing the rally or blockade, asserting the megaphone use was limited to advising members to remain calm,” the court said. However, Patrolman Joshua Acuña said that 30 people “illegally assembled along the national highway” and identified Corda as the leader of the rally. “They identified the accused as the leader directing the group with a megaphone, commanding the protesters to stay despite dispersal orders. They further noted that the crowd threw waste at the police line,” the court said. Some policemen also said that the highway assembly was unauthorized, and members blocked the road, and burned tires. Torre, who served the arrest warrant on Quiboloy while he was Davao Regional Police Office chief, said it is neither a celebration nor revenge, but the implementation of the rule of law. “During the implementation of the warrant of arrest against Quiboloy, some people chose to break the law — setting up barricades, blocking roads and using chaos as a weapon,” Torre wrote in Filipino. “Now, the court has decided. Guilty. There is punishment. There is accountability. This is how it should be. Noise cannot be used as a defense. Volume cannot be used as an exemption. And influence certainly cannot be used as a license. If it’s illegal, it’s illegal,” he added. “And this is what everyone should understand: If ordinary citizens are required to follow the law, then those in power must do so even more,” Torre said. Quiboloy, an ally of former president Rodrigo Duterte who is wanted by the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation, was arrested on Sept. 8, 2024, and is currently facing non-bailable charges of qualified human trafficking and sexual abuse.

- [MPD condemns May Day protest vandalism](#) (2026-05-02 16:05)

THE Manila Police District (MPD) condemned the acts of vandalism committed by protesters during the May 1 Labor Day protest. In a statement on Saturday, the MPD said in Filipino, “Every trace of vandalism is not only dirt on the wall but also shows a lack of respect for our community.” Several progressive groups led by the Kilusang Mayo Uno staged their annual Labor Day protest, calling on the government to raise the minimum daily wage to P1,200. They marched through several streets in España Boulevard to Mendiola, and to Kalaw Avenue. After the protest, several spray-painted slogans were seen on different walls with calls for a wage increase, accusing the police of terrorism and justice for the victims of the Toboso encounter, among others. Following the incident, the city government immediately began repainting and restoring affected walls and public areas across the city. “Trying to keep our city neat and clean is no joke. Despite the few who want to deface our public facilities through vandalism, our beloved Mayor Francisco ‘Isko’ Domagoso and the staff of the Manila city government continue to clean and restore order,” the MPD added. In previous protests held in the city, Domagoso condemned acts of vandalism. “Those protesters say that they are fighting for you. So while they are fighting for you, it’s OK for them to pollute the environment of Manila as their way of justifying it,” Domagoso said. Domagoso noted in a separate statement that keeping the city clean and orderly is a “shared responsibility.”

- [Go pushes expanded fuel subsidy](#) (2026-05-02 16:04)

SEN. Bong Go has reiterated his call for increased government assistance to tricycle drivers, operators, delivery riders and other transport workers amid fuel price hikes because of the ongoing war in the Middle East. Go said transport workers who rely on daily earnings are among the most vulnerable to rising oil prices. He stressed that they play a vital role in providing mobility for workers, students and other everyday commuters. Go recently visited the family of the late Ismael Sevilla, former president of the National Capital Region Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association, to offer condolences and recognize his contributions to advancing the welfare of tricycle drivers. Go recalled meeting Sevilla in 2018 at a roadside eatery in Pasay City — an encounter that eventually led to the holding of the Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association Summit in 2019. The event brought together government agencies and transport groups to tackle key issues such as regulation, livelihood opportunities, skills training, licensing and access to public services. He noted that many challenges faced by tricycle operators and drivers association members extend beyond regulatory concerns, including health care expenses, children’s education and the need for stable income sources. Go has consistently advocated for measures to cushion the effects of fuel price volatility, including relief from fuel excise taxes and targeted fuel subsidies for affected sectors. He noted that rising fuel costs also drive up fares and the prices of basic goods, further affecting ordinary Filipinos.

- [SC acquits mom with schizophrenia of parricide](#) (2026-05-02 16:03)

THE Supreme Court has acquitted a mother previously convicted of parricide over the death of her 5-year-old daughter, ruling that her schizophrenia rendered her legally insane at the time of the incident and exempted her from criminal liability. In a decision penned by Associate Justice

Samuel Gaerlan, the Court's Third Division granted the mother's appeal to reverse previous rulings by lower courts, finding that her mental condition deprived her of the capacity to understand the nature and wrongfulness of her actions. The case stemmed from an incident in which the mother jumped off a bridge into a river while holding her child. She was rescued by a passerby on a makeshift banca, but the child went missing and was found dead the following day. The mother testified she had no recollection of the incident, recalling only that she had been walking with her daughter before regaining consciousness in the water. A psychiatrist from the National Center for Mental Health diagnosed her with schizophrenia. A regional trial court had convicted her of parricide and sentenced her to reclusion perpetua, or up to 40 years of imprisonment, concluding she intended to harm the child. The Court of Appeals upheld the conviction. The high court, however, ruled that the requirements for legal insanity were met under Article 12 of the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines, which exempts persons from criminal liability if they are incapable of appreciating the nature or wrongfulness of their acts at the time of the crime. Citing jurisprudence, the Court reiterated that insanity must be present during the commission of the act, medically established and sufficient to deprive the accused of discernment. The Court found these conditions satisfied, giving weight to psychiatric evaluations and testimony that the mother exhibited paranoia and delusions, including perceived threats and hostility from others, at the time of the incident. "Schizophrenia is a chronic mental disorder marked by an inability to distinguish reality from fantasy," the Court said, noting that such a condition can impair judgment and awareness of one's actions. Despite the acquittal, the Court held the mother civilly liable and ordered her to pay the victim's heirs P75,000 in civil indemnity and P200,000 in combined moral, exemplary and temperate damages. The Court also directed her transfer from the Correctional Institution for Women to the National Center for Mental Health for treatment. Her release will depend on a regional trial court order, based on the recommendation of her attending physician.

- [QC taps TikTok Shop to help MSMEs widen market reach](#) (2026-05-02 16:02)

THE Quezon City government tapped TikTok Shop to help micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) expand their market reach through digital platforms, as around 300 business owners and staff joined the Unlad Lokal Roadshow Caravan. The city government said on Saturday that the initiative enabled participants to explore platform-driven selling, including using TikTok's "Yellow Basket" feature to promote and sell products to online. The program was led by the Quezon City Small Business and Cooperatives Development and Promotions Office in partnership with TikTok Shop and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry-Quezon City. Participants underwent hands-on training in e-commerce, digital marketing and live selling, with step-by-step guidance on setting up accounts and maximizing platform tools. Product sellers focused on platform operations and best practices, service providers learned to maximize advertising tools, while affiliates and creators developed skills in content production and live selling. The program allowed real-time onboarding, enabling participants to improve their online presence, expand market reach and strengthen their online selling capabilities. Mayor Joy Belmonte said guiding entrepreneurs in adapting to the changing

business landscape remains a priority amid the growth of e-commerce platforms. “We will work together, so you will have the opportunity to progress,” she said. The city government said it has conducted 130 training sessions under the program, benefiting 6,194 participants, as part of its continued push to accelerate MSME digital transformation.

- [Marikina installs individual water meters in Tumana](#) (2026-05-02 16:01)

MARIKINA City has begun installing individual water meters directly connected to Manila Water in Tumana, with more units set to be rolled out in the coming days. Mayor Marjorie Ann “Maan” Teodoro said some households have already been fitted with direct meters as part of the city government’s intervention. “Additional individual meters, directly to Manila Water for Tumana residents,” Teodoro said. “We have already paid for all the fees so that homes can be connected to direct water meters,” she added. The mayor said the city shouldered all installation costs to remove financial barriers for residents. She said the ongoing rollout aims to give households direct billing and service access from Manila Water. Tumana residents previously relied on a shared or bulk water system through village officials instead of individual connections. The arrangement led to disputes and service disruptions after unpaid obligations ballooned to over P37 million, resulting in a water service cutoff that affected around 3,000 residents. The city government stepped in late 2025 by paying an initial P15 million to restore supply and reconnect affected households.

- [Enough votes seen to impeach VP Sara](#) (2026-05-02 16:00)

A MEMBER of the House Justice Committee said they have “high confidence” they can reach the required 106 votes in a plenary vote to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte due to the overwhelming evidence presented during the committee hearings. In a press briefing in Quezon City on Saturday, Bicol Saro Party-list Rep. Terry Ridon said reaching the 106 votes needed to elevate the articles of impeachment to the Plenary is “not difficult to surmount,” but added that they will let every House member decide for themselves based on their conscience and the evidence. “But I am quite certain, based on the evidence of unexplained wealth, confidential funds, and the threats against the president — they can just choose from those. I think they will be convinced eventually,” Ridon added. Ridon noted that the 53 members of the House Justice committee who voted for probable cause put them on track to secure an additional 53 more to reach the needed 106 votes — one-third of all House members — to impeach Duterte and send her case to trial before the Senate. Some House members told The Manila Times that the number remains fluid as some remain undecided or have already signified they will not vote for the articles to be transmitted to the Senate. The National Unity Party, the second-largest party in the House of Representatives with more than 55 members, said they will release their decision on May 5, once the congressional session resumes. One of its key officials, Manila Rep. Rolando Valeriano told The Manila Times that their original stand was a “conscience vote.” “You will eventually find out if we will take a party stand or if it will be a conscience vote; however, historically, we in the NUP have never really been dictated to,” Valeriano said. He added that no one in their party will be reprimanded if they choose to vote against the party’s stand. The

Nationalist People's Coalition, another major party in the House with 34 members, said it will wait for the committee report before making a stand. "We will await copy of final committee report and discuss soon," Quezon Rep. Mark Enverga, a senior NPC official, told The Manila Times in a text message. Meanwhile, Quezon City Rep. Bong Suntay, a known Duterte ally, said the 106-vote threshold may be "achievable" but not without effort. "A lot of factors will come into play: first, the political affiliation and political leanings of the person; [second], the sentiments of their constituency — whether they are for or against impeachment at this time, with only two years remaining and given the many controversies currently unfolding and surrounding our country," Suntay told The Manila Times. He said he believes many lawmakers will also question the articles during the plenary debates scheduled for May 11. "As we all know, not all members of Congress were able to participate in the committee hearing where the members of the Committee on Justice presented their opinions. So, if they have questions they would like to ask, those would be addressed during the plenary debates once the Committee on Justice report is moved forward," Suntay said. It is also expected that the four-member Duterte bloc in Congress — led by Davao City Reps. Paolo and Omar Duterte and Isidro Ungab, along with Pwersa ng Pilipinong Pandaragat Rep. Harold Duterte — will vote against impeachment. Another lawmaker who publicly stated he won't vote for the impeachment is Batangas Rep. Leandro Leviste, who said the proceedings are just a "waste of time." Meanwhile, Ridon said that the misuse of confidential funds, the P448 million that was being ordered to be returned by the Commission on Audit, and the P6.77 billion inflows, and the threats made by Duterte against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., first lady Liza Marcos, and former speaker Martin Romualdez will be consolidated into at least four articles of impeachment that would be approved by the committee on Monday. Ridon also said the composition of the House Prosecution Team is now being discussed, with several names being floated. Some of them were in the first team of prosecutors in the voided impeachment case of Duterte in the 19th Congress. These include House Justice Panel Chairman and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro, Reps. Joel Chua, Jonathan Keith Flores, Ramon Rodrigo Gutierrez, Ysabel Zamora, Lordan Suan, Jose Manuel Diokno, Leila de Lima, and Ridon himself. Ridon also challenged Davao Rep. Paolo Duterte to prove his claims that several lawmakers are being called to vote for the impeachment or they will be defunded. "I don't think there's any reward needed to impeach the vice president (because) the evidence is clear," Ridon said. Impeachment court Also over the weekend, Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson said the Senate may immediately convene as an impeachment court upon receipt of the articles of impeachment against the vice president, but the trial is unlikely to begin before June due to required pre-trial procedures. Lacson said Senate President Vicente Sotto III favors the immediate convening of the impeachment court once the articles are transmitted. However, he noted that standard procedures — including issuance of summons, submission of replies, and a preliminary conference — could take at least three weeks before the trial proper can begin. "Once the articles of impeachment are transmitted to us, if we follow the processes, we're talking of at least three weeks before the actual trial starts," Lacson said in a radio interview, speaking in English and Filipino. He said a preliminary conference, or pre-trial, would allow both prosecution and defense panels to define issues, stipulate facts, and mark possible evidence in

advance. Lacson cited the impeachment trial of the late Chief Justice Renato Corona as an example of why a structured pre-trial phase is necessary. He said the absence of such a process during that trial led to procedural confusion, including the introduction of so-called “surprise witnesses.” “It is better to have a preliminary conference where the prosecution and defense agree on which issues would be tackled and which would not before the trial,” he said. On the possibility of a temporary restraining order (TRO) from the Supreme Court, Lacson said the impeachment court would deliberate and decide collectively if such a situation arises. He maintained that unless a TRO is issued, the trial should proceed. However, he emphasized that any court order would be discussed and subjected to a vote among senator-judges. “The impeachment court is a constitutional body.... Its decision cannot be appealed even before the Supreme Court,” he said, while noting that compliance with legal processes would still be debated internally if needed. Lacson also disclosed that senators met last Thursday to prepare for the possible trial. During the meeting, members were reminded to act as impartial judges and avoid showing bias toward either the prosecution or the defense. Sen. Robinhood Padilla, a member of the minority bloc, attended the meeting and was asked to relay the reminder to his colleagues. “We must listen to the questions during direct and cross-examination, and base our decisions on the evidence,” Lacson said. Budget Lacson added that about P27 million may still be available for the impeachment proceedings under continuing appropriations in the 2025 national budget. Of the P27.544 million allocated for last year’s impeachment-related expenses, only about P512,000 has been spent, primarily for senator-judges’ robes, identification materials, and related items. He said unused funds may still be used this year, but will be returned to the National Treasury if not spent. The Senate, acting as an impeachment court under the Constitution, is tasked with trying impeachment cases once transmitted by the House of Representatives. Senator-judges are required to hear evidence, examine witnesses, and render a final judgment of conviction or acquittal, which is not subject to appeal.

- [Lone bettor bags ₱35M Lotto 6/42 jackpot on May 2](#) (2026-05-02 15:46)

A lone bettor won the ₱35,467,492.71 jackpot in the Lotto 6/42 draw on Saturday, May 2, 2026, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office announced. The winning combination was 22-34-42-19-03-25. Meanwhile, the Grand Lotto 6/55 draw produced the combination 48-33-17-02-37-10, with a jackpot prize of ₱77,324,854.25.

- [Quezon City taps TikTok Shop to expand MSME market reach](#) (2026-05-02 14:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City government tapped TikTok Shop to help micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) expand their market reach through digital platforms, as around 300 business owners and staff joined the Unlad Lokal Roadshow Caravan. The city government said on Saturday, May 2, that the initiative enabled participants to explore platform-driven selling, including the use of TikTok’s “Yellow Basket” feature to directly promote and sell products to online audiences. The program was led by the Quezon City Small Business and Cooperatives Development and Promotions Office in partnership with TikTok Shop and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry–Quezon City. Participants

underwent hands-on training in e-commerce, digital marketing, and live selling, with step-by-step guidance on setting up accounts and maximizing platform tools. Product sellers focused on platform operations and best practices, service providers learned to maximize advertising tools, while affiliates and creators developed skills in content production and live selling. The program also allowed real-time onboarding, enabling participants to immediately establish or improve their online presence, expand market reach, and strengthen online selling capacity. Mayor Joy Belmonte said guiding entrepreneurs in adapting to the changing business landscape remains a priority amid the growth of e-commerce platforms. “We will work together so you will have the opportunity to progress,” she said. The city government said it has conducted 130 training sessions under the program, benefiting 6,194 participants, as part of its continued push to accelerate MSME digital transformation.

- [Court ruling on KOJC blockade affirms rule of law — Torre](#) (2026-05-02 13:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Nicolas Torre III said a court ruling convicting a member of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) over a blockade during the arrest operations against Apollo Quiboloy underscores that the law applies to all. A Quezon City court recently found a KOJC member guilty of violating the Public Assembly Act after obstructing authorities during efforts to serve a warrant of arrest against Quiboloy. Reacting to the decision, Torre said it is not a cause for celebration or revenge, but a reminder that the law must prevail. “The decision is not a celebration or revenge, but a simple reminder that the law is the law,” Torre said in a social media post. Torre stressed that protest actions cannot justify illegal acts. “A protest cry cannot be used as a defense, and noise cannot be turned into an exemption,” he said, adding that influence should not be used as a license to violate the law. He added that while justice may take time, it will ultimately be served, and that both ordinary citizens and those in positions of power are equally bound by the law. Torre previously led police operations in 2024 to serve arrest warrants against Quiboloy at the KOJC compound in Davao City, which resulted in a standoff with followers who attempted to block authorities. The former PNP chief, who now serves as Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) general manager, reiterated that accountability and adherence to the law remain essential to maintaining public order.

- [OP approves VP Sara's rescheduled trips, says Palace](#) (2026-05-02 13:16)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the President (OP) has approved Vice President Sara Duterte’s rescheduled trips to several countries from May 2 to 15, Malacañang confirmed on Saturday. Duterte had earlier requested travel clearance but did not proceed with her initial plans after receiving what she described as a “last-minute” approval from the OP. The earlier approval, signed by Acting Executive Secretary Ralph Recto on April 22, authorized Duterte to visit The Netherlands, South Korea, Belgium, Germany, and the United Kingdom from April 23 to May 15 while on leave of absence and at no cost to the government.

- [Korean Air bans roosters on US-Philippine routes amid cockfighting outcry](#) (2026-05-02 12:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Animal rights advocates were crowing on Saturday after Korean Air banned transporting roosters on flights from the United States to the Philippines, which has a huge cockfighting industry. Filipinos wager tens of millions of dollars daily by some industry estimates as they watch two roosters armed with metal spurs fight to the death in clashes that can end in less than a minute. The United States is an important source of roosters for these fights, according to activists as well as local breeder Eduardo Eugenio, who told AFP shutting down US imports would have a "huge impact". The South Korean carrier said in a statement sent to AFP on Saturday that it had "suspended the transportation of roosters of all ages on routes from the United States to the Philippines". "Korean Air is committed to the lawful and safe transport of live animals, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations," it added. US campaigner Animal Wellness Action said Korean Air was "in our estimation, the biggest global air carrier of illegally trafficked fighting birds". The company did not specifically mention cockfighting roosters in its statement, but animal rights groups said the ban was the result of their campaigning against what they describe as a cruel sport. Jana Sevilla, spokeswoman for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals in the Philippines, told AFP that Korean Air's decision was "for sure" about cockfighting. "We actually hope that other airlines will follow suit... We commend Korean Air for this move." She noted the Philippines was among a number of countries where cockfighting was still allowed, saying it "should be illegal all over the world". Animal Wellness Action took credit for the airline's action "after months of investigations, and more recent inter-corporate engagement" in a statement released this week. "Korean Air... has agreed to our demand to halt all shipments of roosters to the Philippines," it said. The group said US suppliers who often pose as farmers or "benign breeders" have been sending fighting birds to the Philippines "by the tens of thousands" every year, on top of US-reared birds shipped by ground and air to Mexico. Eugenio, the Filipino breeder, said the local industry depends on US strains. "Americans are second to none when it comes to propagation of breeding materials," said Eugenio, who runs a 300-bird farm in the southern city of Tagum.

- [Mayon Volcano's southwestern slopes collapse due to lava flow — Phivolcs](#) (2026-05-02 10:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Mayon Volcano's southwestern slopes collapsed on Saturday due to a lava flow-led pyroclastic density current (PDC), according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs). On its Facebook page, a 7-second video of the laval flow was captured by the Phivolcs Quick Response Team. Another post by the agency showed the density current on the Mi-isi gully on the volcano's south-southwestern slopes. "Plume drift is currently going west-southwestward. Estimated PDC run-out is 4 kilometers," according to Phivolcs. With alert level 3 in effect over Mayon, Phivolcs said entry into its 6-kilometer Permanent Danger Zone remained prohibited.

- [Ashfall blankets Albay as Mayon Volcano spews pyroclastic materials](#) (2026-05-02 10:57)

(UPDATE) LEGAZPI CITY — Mayon Volcano erupted on Saturday, spewing a big volume of pyroclastic materials from its crater that tumbled down the southwestern slopes and spread ash to several areas in Albay as captured on videos by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) and netizens. Ashfall was evident in Camalig, Guinobatan and Ligao City. Alert Level 3 remains in effect and entry into the 6-kilometer Permanent Danger Zone is prohibited. Doreen Abelinde, Mayon Volcano Observatory officer-in-charge, said that they were closely monitoring the restive volcano and advised evacuees to remain in their temporary shelters. Albay Gov. Noel Rosal called on residents to stay indoors, specifically in areas with ashfall, as protection against possible health hazards. Rosal said that the provincial government has coordinated with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), which was preparing 250 boxes of facemasks for distribution to the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Offices (MDRRMs) of Guinobatan, Camalig, Daraga and Ligao City. Based on the OCD's initial report, Mayon's pyroclastic density current (PDC) occurred at Mi-isi Gully where ashfall blanketed 18 villages (barangay) in Guinobatan, namely Minto, Malabnig, Mapaco, Doña Tomasa, Agpay, San Rafael, Maguiron, Calzada, Iraya, Muladbuca Grande, Inamnan Pequeño, Inamnan Grande, Bubulusan, Lomacao, Maninila, Travesia, Lower Binogsacan and Ilawod. In Camalig town, at least 17 villages were affected namely Cabangan, Salugan, Anoling, Sua, Quirangay, Tumpa, Villages 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, a portion of Barangay Libod, portion of Barangay Ilawod, portion of Barangay Gapo and portion of Barangay Sumlang. In Ligao City, the OCD Bicol reported that 17 villages were affected namely Busac, Allang, Palapas, Francia, Abella, Malama, Paulba, Maonon, Balanac, Tupas, Tiongson, San Vicente, Tandarura, Pandan, Bacong, Cabarian, Pinamaniquian and Oma-Oma. Mayon Volcano has been in a state of "effusive eruption" since January 2026 but the strongest recorded was this Saturday.

- [Court convicts Quiboloy follower for resisting authorities in Davao raid](#) (2026-05-02 08:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 39 found a leader of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) guilty for resisting authorities and was given four months in jail sentence. In a seven-page decision dated April 23, 2026 but made public by Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) General Manager Nicolas Torre III on Friday on his Facebook page, the court, through presiding judge Juvenal Bella, found Eduardo Sapar Corda guilty of violating Section 13(a) of Batas Pambansa Bilang 880 or Public Assembly Act of 1985, which bans assemblies or rallies without a permit. Corda was sentenced to four months in prison. “Constitutional liberties do not exist in a vacuum. While the State protects the right to peaceful assembly as a cornerstone of democracy, it simultaneously holds the police power to regulate such activities to safeguard public safety and order,” the ruling read. “When the exercise of free expression transcends the bounds of its legal authorization and encroaches upon the fundamental right of the public to safe and unobstructed passage, the law provides for a necessary reckoning. This case stands as a testament to that delicate balance between individual liberty and collective security,” it added. The ruling read that Corda unlawfully commanded and held a public assembly and shouted in support of KOJC leader Apollo Quiboloy along the Philippine-Japan Friendship Highway in Davao City on Aug. 26, 2024.

- [SC voids Duterte order dismissing Ombudsman Deputy Carandang, cites abuse of authority](#) (2026-05-02 08:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has voided the dismissal of former Overall Deputy Ombudsman Arthur Carandang, ruling that then president Rodrigo Duterte exceeded his authority in ordering the penalty. In a 28-page decision penned by Associate Justice Maria Filomena Singh, the Court's Third Division affirmed a ruling by the Court of Appeals declaring Carandang's dismissal void from the outset, describing the move as a breach of the constitutional principle of checks and balances. The tribunal held that the Office of the President has no power to impose administrative sanctions on officials of the Office of the Ombudsman, which the Constitution designates as an independent body. Carandang had been dismissed in 2018 after he was accused of disclosing alleged bank records of the Duterte family purportedly showing billions in wealth. At the time, then Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales inhibited from handling complaints involving Duterte due to her relation by affinity to his daughter, Sara Duterte, leaving Carandang to act on the case. The complaint, filed on May 5, 2016 by then senator Antonio Trillanes IV, accused Duterte of malversation, violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, plunder, and possession of unexplained wealth. "To ensure the enduring existence and effectiveness of the Office of the Ombudsman, the Constitution expressly labeled it as independent," the Court said. The Supreme Court ruled that Carandang was entitled to full retirement benefits upon the expiration of his term, as well as back salaries covering the period of his preventive suspension and dismissal.

- [AI-powered university policy hub to simplify student access](#) (2026-05-02 05:51)

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) launched an artificial intelligence-driven university policy hub, aimed at simplifying access to institutional policies for students. The hub, in partnership with the Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges (CSPC), uses a collection of university policy documents designed to answer questions about university policies without requiring technical or legal knowledge from users. DOST Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. said the new hub would help prevent confusion among students and democratize information. "Policies that are hard to access or understand may result in confusion and inefficiency, but with the University Policy Hub, we address this challenge head on. With this new hub, we are taking a step forward in strengthening transparency, accessibility, and good governance in higher education," said Solidum.

- [House can muster required 106 votes to impeach Sara, says lawmaker](#) (2026-05-02 05:06)

MANILA, Philippines — A member of the justice committee of the House of Representatives said they have "high confidence" they could reach the required 106 votes to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte following the overwhelming evidence presented during the hearings. "That is a number that is not difficult to surmount; in the end, we will let the members decide for themselves based on their conscience and the evidence presented. But I am quite certain, based on the evidence of unexplained wealth, confidential funds, and the threats against the president—they can just choose from those. I think they will be convinced eventually," Bicol

Saro Rep. Terry Ridon said in a mix of Filipino and English during a press briefing on Saturday. Ridon also added that the misuse of confidential funds—the P448 million ordered returned by the Commission on Audit and the P6.77 billion inflows—and the threats Duterte made against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Marcos, and former speaker Martin Romualdez will be consolidated into at least four articles of impeachment approved by the committee on Monday. Ridon also said the composition of the House Prosecution Team was now being discussed, with several names being floated, some having been included in the first team of prosecutors in the voided impeachment case of Duterte in the 19th Congress. These include Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro, justice panel chairman, and Representatives Joel Chua, Jonathan Keith Flores, Ysabel Zamora, Lordan Suan, Jose Manuel Diokno and Leila de Lima. Ridon also challenged Davao Rep. Paolo Duterte to prove his claims that several lawmakers were being called to vote for the impeachment or they will be defunded. "I don't think there's any reward needed to impeach the vice president (because) the evidence is clear," Ridon said.

- [Expert warns of health risks during menopause](#) (2026-05-02 02:23)

MANILA, Philippines—A health expert warned about the potential health consequences of neglecting proper nutrition and supplements during menopause. In a statement on Friday, Dr. Rowena Auxillos, former president of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, highlighted the challenges women face during menopause, noting the importance of maintaining strength at this stage of life. "While these changes are normal, they do not have to limit a woman's quality of life. Midlife is a critical window for women to prioritize their muscle health," Auxillos said. Menopause—which often occurs around the average age of 48—is a natural biological process marking the end of menstrual cycles. In this stage, estrogen levels decline, affecting the muscle mass, strength, and tissue repair. Because of this, women may experience slower physical activity recovery, lower energy levels, and increased risks of osteoporosis and cardiovascular conditions. "By intentionally building and maintaining strength, women can protect their independence and mobility, even long after their reproductive years," she explained, highlighting the importance of better lifestyle choices.

- [PH, Olympic Council of Asia to boost sports development cooperation](#) (2026-05-02 01:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines and the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) have agreed to advance regional cooperation on sports development, Malacañang said. The commitment was made during President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s meeting with Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani, president of the Olympic Council of Asia and the Qatar Olympic Committee, in Malacañang on Friday. During the meeting, the two officials discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in sports development, including athlete training, institutional collaboration, and opportunities for the Philippines to host future regional and international competitions. Both sides underscored the importance of deepening engagement with the Olympic Council of Asia to expand access to programs and resources that support Filipino athletes. "More opportunities for Filipino athletes to train, compete and win on the world stage. I welcomed His Excellency Sheikh Joaan bin

Hamad Al-Thani, President of the Olympic Council of Asia, as we strengthen cooperation in sports development and future hosting opportunities for the Philippines," Marcos said in a Facebook post. "This shows growing confidence in the Philippines as a regional sports partner. We will keep investing in our athletes so they can carry our flag with pride and inspire the next generation," he added.

- [China reaffirms maritime claims after shadowing PH mission in WPS](#) (2026-05-02 01:14)

MANILA, Philippines — China reiterated its commitment to defending its territorial claims following reports that a China Coast Guard (CCG) vessel shadowed a Philippine civilian mission in the West Philippine Sea on Friday morning. In a statement, the Chinese Embassy criticized the Philippine civil society coalition Atin Ito, saying it has “repeatedly attempted to carry out provocative activities under the pretext of safeguarding the Philippines’ territorial sovereignty,” adding that such efforts have “ended in failure.” The embassy stressed that China “will continue to resolutely safeguard its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests.” The statement came after Atin Ito reported that a CCG vessel, bearing bow number 3103, was observed trailing the Philippine-flagged vessel MV Kapitan Felix Oca, which was en route to Pag-asa Island.

- [PH, Japan intensify energy ties amid crisis](#) (2026-05-01 16:15)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and former Japanese prime minister Kishida Fumio reaffirmed their commitment to deepen cooperation on energy security and accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, as global instability continued to disrupt supply chains. Kishida, who is now supreme adviser to the Parliamentary Association of the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC), paid a courtesy call on the president in Malacañang on Thursday. Marcos said Kishida’s visit underscored the importance of sustained cooperation with Japan in the face of global energy uncertainty driven by geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. “I understand that you are here to promote AZEC, a very important initiative, especially at this time. It was already very important before, but it has become especially pressing and critical with all of the events that are transpiring in the Middle East and the effects that it has had on the entire energy system of the world,” he said. The president said energy supply disruptions highlighted the urgency to step up the country’s shift toward cleaner and more resilient energy systems. “We hope that we can continue our work in moving our countries away from fossil fuels and absorb more of the renewables technology that we have been trying to shift to,” he added. The president also expressed gratitude for Japan’s continued support, particularly its commitment to honor and maintain existing supply contracts for various fuels. Marcos expressed hope that tensions in the Middle East would ease soon, citing the Philippines’ vulnerability, given the presence of around 2.5 million overseas Filipino workers in the region. Kishida reaffirmed Japan’s commitment to advancing the initiative of AZEC, which he proposed in 2022 to push regional decarbonization and energy cooperation across Southeast Asia and the broader Asian region. He thanked Marcos for participating in the AZEC Plus Online Summit last April 15, and emphasized the importance of strengthening economic

and energy resilience with the Philippines. Kishida also conveyed the intention of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi to work closely with President Marcos particularly on the Philippines' hosting of the 4th AZEC Leaders' Meeting in November. He said Takaichi hoped to advance joint leadership with the Philippines in promoting zero-emission initiatives. Kishida, who is in the Philippines from April 30 to May 2 as special envoy of the prime minister, will participate in high-level talks focused on advancing AZEC initiatives. His visit follows the announcement of Japan's \$10-billion energy cooperation framework, Partnership on Wide Energy and Resources Resilience (Powerr Asia), during the recent AZEC Plus Online Summit. Present during Kishida's call were Executive Secretary Ralph Recto, Finance Secretary Frederick Go, Energy Secretary Sharon Garin, Trade and Industry Secretary Cristina Roque, Presidential Communications Office Secretary Dave Gomez and Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Maria Andrelita Austria. Kishida was joined by members of Japan's House of Representatives and House of Councilors, as well as officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and key AZEC representatives. Kishida also handed over a letter from Takaichi to Marcos stating Takaichi's "desire" for closer Philippine-Japan cooperation on energy resiliency under the Powerr Asia. He told reporters he also expects that the Philippines will be one of the first countries to receive the assistance or the support from Powerr Asia. The \$10-billion Powerr Asia is a procurement and cooperation scheme aimed at supporting states in strengthening their energy supply. Japan envisions AZEC to create a new decarbonization market in Asia to attract capital from around the world. Kishida said AZEC is looking to "actually optimize" the platform to fit each of its 11-member countries' needs against the backdrop of the Middle East crisis that has disrupted the global energy market. He said there are at least 30 initiatives on renewable energy, biotechnology and liquefied natural gas in the Philippines "steadily progressing" through various public and private investments under AZEC. Garin reaffirmed Manila's full support for AZEC and Japan's vision of advancing the platform as a tool to ensure energy resilience in Asia.

- [Marcos vows better jobs, worker protection](#) (2026-05-01 16:15)

REFERRING to the country's workforce as the "backbone of our Republic," President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. vowed on Labor Day Friday to expand job opportunities and strengthen labor protections. In his message, Marcos said the working class continued to drive the country forward despite economic challenges and changing industries. "Today, we honor every member of our workforce whose hands carry the weight of our shared future—whether at sunrise, beneath the noonday heat, or in the long hours when the nation sleeps," he said. "Through your grit and sacrifice, families find stability, and the country finds strength. You are, and will always be, the backbone of our Republic," he said. Marcos stressed the need to build a system where "hard work is rewarded, and opportunity is real." He said this included protecting livelihoods, respecting honest labor and ensuring that progress reaches ordinary families. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said the president would spend most of Labor Day in General Santos City, where he was to lead government job-generation and aid distribution activities. Marcos was scheduled to return to Malacañang on Friday afternoon. In Manila, human

rights groups joining a Labor Day protest march called on the government to raise the minimum wage to P1,200 and to scrap the value-added tax (VAT) and excise tax on fuel amid the ongoing oil crisis. Thousands of marchers from the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), and other human rights groups and student organizations converged on España Boulevard and were to proceed to Mendiola Street. But Mendiola, the entry point to Malacañang, had been heavily barricaded by police, so the protesters ended their march at Morayta Street. Later in the day, they moved to Kalaw Avenue to continue their demonstration near the United States Embassy. The protesters condemned the US and Israel's war on Iran, which led to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the spike in global fuel prices. Gabriela Women's Party Rep. Sarah Elago told The Manila Times that mass action — especially the annual staging of the Labor Day demonstrations — is important, noting that many human rights gains were achieved through collective protests. Elago stressed that raising the minimum wage would help workers cope with the oil and energy crisis. Leody De Guzman, chairman of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, echoed Elago's sentiments, saying that many of the demands raised in the protests have remained unchanged since the 1970s. "What I have been shouting in protests since 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000 until now is still the same: to increase the wages and keep prices on goods low; to make the water cheap, the electricity cheap. Yet, the government has done nothing to solve this," said De Guzman. The Philippine National Police (PNP) announced it would deploy 14,000 officers to maintain peace throughout the protest. KMU Chairman Jerome Adonis had assured that the demonstration would remain peaceful. Mong Palatino, Bayan secretary-general, accused the president of allowing the expansion of US military bases in the country. "That's why today's protest will end near the US Embassy — to condemn the US' war of aggression, to condemn Marcos Jr.'s war of aggression, and to show that the Filipino people stand against imperialism," Palatino said. The protesters also assured public transport drivers that demonstrations will continue until their demands are met. During a minor altercation, Police Lt. June Abrazado confronted protesters who burned effigies of Marcos, US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu near the embassy. The protesters condemned the members of the Bureau of Fire Protection for putting out the fire. Abrazado explained that they were only trying to prevent ashes from reaching Rizal Park. "I hope you could see how big the fire was. We are concerned for the rallyists because they could get burned. They could have been injured. Their safety was our priority. That's why we prepared for the water," Abrazado said in Filipino. Police also accused a protester of stealing a cell phone from an officer. Abrazado said the individual involved will be charged. Abrazado said that some officers were punched and struck with sticks by protesters, an accusation denied by Nito Luces, a KMU official. The PNP said overall, the celebration of Labor Day nationwide was peaceful and orderly. At least nine rallies were held in different parts of the country, drawing an estimated 3,410 participants. In his Labor Day message, Speaker Faustino Dy III described Filipino workers as the "strength and life" of the country and "the true lifeblood of our nation." "Through your diligence, perseverance and sacrifice, the industries, services and development of the Philippines continue to move forward," Dy said. He also recognized the challenges workers face every day, from wages and benefits, job security and working conditions. Dy said the House of Representatives continues to uphold the welfare of the

workforce by promoting bills and measures that “strengthen the protection, opportunity and dignity of the worker.” To mark Labor Day, the Department of Education, and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) opened dedicated green lanes for senior high school (SHS) graduates at job fairs to accelerate their entry in the workforce. Education Secretary Sonny Angara said the partnership fulfills the mandate of the president to improve the lives of the underprivileged. The green lanes are part of the job fairs held by DOLE in 70 sites across the country, offering over 230,000 employment opportunities. The strategy was first showcased at the Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair rollout last March, where over 1,400 SHS and Alternative Learning System graduates were hired on the spot. “Through green lanes and removal of fees for documents, we are removing the burden for parents and give graduates the opportunity to help their families,” Angara said. Sen. Bam Aquino on Friday called on the government to expand assistance to the working and middle classes, who continue to bear the brunt of rising fuel and commodity prices while remaining largely excluded from state aid. In his Labor Day statement, Aquino said these sectors comprise about 80 percent of Filipinos and should be prioritized amid the ongoing economic strain. Aquino warned against sidelining the sector and reiterated proposals to suspend excise taxes on fuel and cut the VAT from 12 percent to 10 percent to ease costs. He cited Senate Bill 2047, which seeks to reduce VAT across goods and services, including petroleum products, by amending provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997. Aquino also co-authored Republic Act 12316, granting the president authority to suspend or reduce fuel excise taxes during emergencies. CATHERINE VALENTE, ALLEN LIMOS, IZEL ABANILLA, RED MENDOZA AND JAVIER JOE ISMAEL

• [Controlling inflation Filipinos’ most urgent concern – survey](#) (2026-05-01 16:14)

NEARLY half of Filipinos consider controlling inflation or the prices of basic goods and services as the most urgent national concern in the first quarter of 2026, according to a survey by OCTA Research. The survey, conducted from March 19 to 25, found that 45 percent of the respondents pointed to inflation as their biggest concern, an increase of 4 percentage points from the fourth quarter of 2025. The second most urgent concern at 33 percent is increasing wages of workers, down 12 percentage points from the previous quarter, when it topped the list. Fighting graft and corruption in government came in third at 26 percent, a 6 percentage points drop, and access to affordable food such as rice, vegetables and meat at 24 percent. Other notable concerns include reducing poverty (20 percent) and providing free quality education (17 percent). OCTA noted that the findings reflect sentiments before the oil price shock due to the war in the Middle East set in. It said the findings should be understood as a pre-shock baseline that captured public sentiment before high costs exerted pressure on household welfare, purchasing power and food security. Inflation is the highest concern among respondents in the Visayas (54 percent) and Mindanao (51 percent), as well as for socioeconomic Class E (56 percent) and ABC (54 percent). Wages are also among the highest concern among respondents in the Visayas, the National Capital Region and Mindanao, with Visayas respondents the highest at 46 percent. NCR respondents are worried most about corruption in government (36 percent), while food affordability is the biggest concern in the Visayas (32 percent). OCTA said the results

suggest that public sentiment in the first quarter of 2026 are being shaped primarily by economic strain and the rising cost of living. “Inflation has once again emerged as the dominant national issue, indicating that day-to-day affordability has become the most immediate pressure facing Filipino households,” it said. It also noted that public concern has shifted away from longer-term structural issues such as education and poverty, and toward more immediate cost-of-living pressures, particularly inflation and purchasing power of income. Meanwhile, 67 percent of respondents said staying healthy is their most urgent personal concern, followed by having enough to eat daily (46 percent), having a secure and well-paying job (42 percent), having able to have savings (41 percent), and finishing schooling or being able to provide schooling for children (39 percent). The survey polled 1,200 respondents and has a nationwide margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

- [Diesel, gasoline prices up next week](#) Diesel, gasoline prices up next week (2026-05-01 16:13)

THE price of fuel will go up yet again next week following a series of rollbacks as uncertainty over when the war between the United States and Iran continues. Local oil industry sources said on Friday they see diesel going up by P1 to P2 per liter, and gasoline by P2 to P3 per liter. The estimates are based on the trading of Mean of Platts, Singapore, the pricing basis of refined goods in Southeast Asia. The sources said that geopolitical risks are pushing up the price of oil again as the Strait of Hormuz remains closed, and the US and Iran struggling to reach a peace deal. This week, the per-liter price of diesel dropped by P12.94, and gasoline by 53 centavos per liter.

- [US issues alert after Negros clashes](#) (2026-05-01 16:12)

THE United States Embassy in Manila has issued a security alert to American citizens in the Philippines following intensified military operations against communist rebels in several parts of the country. In an advisory posted on its website, the embassy said recent offensives by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) against the New People's Army (NPA) have led to violent encounters, including an April 19 clash that resulted in the deaths of two US citizens. “US citizens have been present during recent military actions against the NPA,” the embassy said. The NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, is designated as a foreign terrorist organization by both the US and Philippine governments. The embassy identified rural and mountainous areas in Leyte, Mindoro, Negros and Samar as areas of heightened concern, citing recent fatal clashes between government troops and insurgents. It advised Americans to avoid any association with insurgent or terrorist groups and to immediately leave areas where armed individuals not affiliated with police or military are present. It also cautioned that some nongovernmental organizations may have links to insurgent groups. US citizens planning to do humanitarian or volunteer work were urged to partner only with organizations registered with the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency and to coordinate with local government units for security guidance. “Foreign terrorist organizations actively recruit Americans to participate directly in terrorist activities and/or

provide financial support,” the embassy said. On Friday, a ranking official of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) said the US Embassy security alert warning is a recognition that Americans are drawn into violence by organizations linked to the communist insurgents. “This is perhaps the first direct and explicit recognition by the United States government that its own citizens are being drawn into violence by organizations linked to the CPP-NPA-NDF (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People’s Army-National Democratic Front),” NTF-Elcac Executive Director Undersecretary Ernesto Torres Jr. said in a statement. Torres said the warning highlights a “critical reality” that has long been denied or downplayed, which is “foreign terrorist organizations actively recruit Americans to participate directly in terrorist activities and/or provide financial support.” “This acknowledgment affirms what Philippine authorities have consistently exposed — that the insurgency is not merely a domestic security concern but part of a broader transnational network of recruitment, radicalization and terrorism,” he said. Torres expressed the NTF-Elcac’s appreciation to the National Federation of Filipino American Associations for its statement on the loss of lives, including of US citizens Lyle Prijoles and Kai Dana-Rene Sorem. “This development strengthens the shared commitment of the Philippines and the United States to combat terrorism in all its forms. It also sends a powerful signal to those who continue to enable, justify or obscure the activities of the CPP-NPA-NDF: the international community is taking notice, and the truth is becoming undeniable,” he added. Former members of the government’s exploratory and negotiating teams in past peace talks with communist rebels called for an independent investigation into the intense fighting in Toboso, Negros Occidental, which left 19 people — including the two Americans — dead. In a joint statement on Friday, former Transportation secretary Hernani Braganza, lawyer Efren Moncupa, economist Jaime Aristotle Alip, academic Francisco Lara Jr. and Roberto Ador said the clash highlighted the urgency of resolving the decadeslong communist insurgency. The signatories, who were involved in back channel and formal negotiations from 2014 to 2020 under the administrations of former presidents Benigno Aquino III and Rodrigo Duterte, said a “functioning and serious peace process” had made significant progress. They said negotiations at the time were close to securing a truce and an interim peace agreement, including the possible return from exile of CPP founder Jose Maria Sison, who died in 2022. “The Toboso tragedy compelled us to break our silence,” the group said. The military said the encounter dealt a major blow to the Northern Negros Front. However, the former negotiators said the killings could deepen the cycle of violence, particularly as public reaction — especially among younger Filipinos — has been marked by grief and heightened concern. They called for the creation of a fact-finding commission by Congress, with participation from executive agencies and independent civil society groups, to investigate what they described as the deadliest incident involving civilians in recent years. The group said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s statement that he would not obstruct an investigation by the Commission on Human Rights was a positive development. “Accountability and justice... is not optional, it is imperative,” they said, stressing that addressing human rights violations must go hand in hand with tackling the root causes of armed conflict, including landlessness, poverty and lack of access to basic rights. The group also urged the administration to resume peace talks with the communists “without precondition,” saying a comprehensive and final peace

agreement remains achievable. “We know, from our own experience at the table, that a lasting settlement is possible,” they said.

- [Sonza arrest ‘warning’ to fake news peddlers](#) (2026-05-01 16:11)

MALACAÑANG on Friday said the arrest of former broadcaster Jay Sonza should serve as a warning to those spreading fake news. In a statement, Acting Presidential Communications Secretary Dave Gomez said the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) acted promptly in filing charges and arresting Sonza over posts with alleged false information about the health of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. “It shows the government’s continuing effort to guard the truth, protect the public from deception and preserve a free but responsible democratic space,” Gomez said. He said the case sent a strong signal to those spreading false information online. “Misinformation undermines public trust, endangers lives and will be met with swift, lawful consequences,” he said. Gomez said the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) would continue its crackdown on fake news peddlers to ensure they were held accountable under the law. “We will continue to work with law enforcement, the media and responsible online platforms to identify, investigate and prosecute those who disseminate falsehoods,” Gomez said. The PCO recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Information and Communication Technology to stop the spread of fake news. The PCO has already submitted several cases of fake news to the DOJ for prosecution. According to NBI Director Melvin Matibag, Sonza was arrested Thursday night after being charged with violating Article 154 of the Revised Penal Code, in relation to the Cybercrime Prevention Act, for spreading a fake medical bulletin about the president. Sonza, a veteran media figure, had yet to issue a statement. In April, Gomez personally filed complaints against those behind the Facebook page “Malasakit News Pilipinas” for allegedly posting false stories about a supposed energy lockdown while the country was under a state of energy emergency.

- [‘No payoff in unanimous votes on probable cause’](#) (2026-05-01 16:10)

DEPUTY Speakers Paolo Ortega V of La Union and Janette Garin of Iloilo on Friday dismissed as baseless and diversionary the claim that the House Committee on Justice’s finding of probable cause in the impeachment complaint against Vice President Sara Duterte was the result of any “payoff” or political inducement. A report from a news website claimed that members received the funds in two tranches of P650 million each in an office at the basement of the Batasang Pambansa complex. The report’s source also claimed that there will be another fund release once the articles of impeachment are voted on at the House plenary once session resumes May 4. “What payoff? The record speaks for itself. The Committee’s unanimous vote was anchored on overwhelming documentary evidence — official records, sworn testimonies, and verifiable financial documents presented in open hearings,” Ortega said in a statement. He said the proceedings of the House Committee on Justice were transparent, with members from political parties independently assessing the evidence laid before them. “No amount of spin can erase the fact that congressmen, regardless of affiliation, were confronted with hard numbers, official audit findings, and financial trails that demand accountability. The vote was

not coerced; it was compelled by evidence,” he added. Ortega said allegations of bribery or coercion are a “disservice to the institution and an affront to the integrity” of House members. “To suggest that lawmakers abandoned their oath for a ‘payoff’ is not only false, it is an insult to the collective judgment of the Committee. These are elected representatives who understand the gravity of impeachment. They voted based on what was proven, not on what was peddled outside the halls of Congress,” he said. Ortega challenged opposition lawmakers and critics repeating the bribery narrative. “If you have evidence of a ‘payoff,’ then name names. Identify the members. Present the proof. Execute sworn statements. File the appropriate charges. Otherwise, stop maligning the entire House with reckless accusations,” Ortega said. The House leader, meanwhile, reminded that a finding of probable cause does not determine guilt, but merely affirms that sufficient basis exists to elevate the matter to the plenary and, ultimately, to the Senate for trial. “This is the constitutional process at work. The House determines probable cause. The Senate tries the case. That is the rule of law. That is accountability,” Ortega said. In a separate statement, Garin categorically declared there were no payoffs and no coercion in the move by the House panel, saying the unanimous vote of its 53 members was driven by evidence against the country’s second-highest official. The Iloilo lawmaker issued the statement in response to a report alleging a supposed 1.3 billion peso “appearance fee” fund for Justice panel members. “There is no truth to the appearance fee, nor any coercion,” Garin said. “The evidence presented against the Vice President was strong and she didn’t answer it because she chose to remain absent in all the hearings, so, it’s not surprising that the vote was unanimous for probable cause,” she added. Garin said the unfounded allegations against committee members were an attempt to discredit the outcome and shift attention away from the evidence on record. “This narrative is meant to distract from the evidence. But the record is clear — the vote was based on facts, documents, and sworn testimony,” Garin said. “There was no pressure, no directive, and no money involved. What we saw was an independent body doing its constitutional duty,” she added. Voting 53-0 with zero abstentions, the Justice panel found probable cause to impeach Duterte after weeks of hearings that built a detailed evidentiary record on alleged fund misuse, unexplained wealth, and threats against top officials. The committee is set to approve its report recommending impeachment, which will be submitted to the plenary before possible transmittal of the articles of impeachment to the Senate for trial. Meanwhile, the vice president’s elder brother, Davao City Rep. Paolo Duterte, claimed that the Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN) is now being used “not for the sake of transparency, but for the sake of timing.” “Supposedly, some of my colleagues in Congress only ‘remember’ these records when someone isn’t following the script. Coincidence? Of course, a ‘coincidence.’ If these stories are true, it seems we have a new system: vote wisely... or we’ll look closely at your SALN,” Duterte claimed. He also said that even in the Senate, people are being approached to fix votes to convict his sister. “An impeachment vote is not a raffle ticket, it is not a command, and it certainly should not be the product of pressure. It is a mandate from the people,” Duterte said. He called on his fellow lawmakers to “stand on principle” rather than to “follow whispers.” “Listen to the cries of your constituents... if you were promised any aid, remember the people who contributed to those funds,” Duterte said.

- [Lacson vows to escalate flood control scam probe](#) (2026-05-01 16:09)

SENATE President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson said Friday he would elevate flood control scam investigation to the plenary. Lacson, who chairs the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, said he plans to deliver a privilege speech outlining the panel's accomplishments after seven to eight hearings. The move comes as the committee's partial report has yet to secure enough signatures for formal filing and sponsorship. "The Filipino people not only deserve to be updated but more so properly and accurately informed amid the false narratives being floated," Lacson said, adding that presenting the findings in plenary would allow debate, amendments, and eventual adoption. He emphasized that signing a committee report does not necessarily mean full agreement, and acknowledged differing views among senators. "While I disagree with those who do not want to sign, I respect and understand their individual decisions," he said. Lacson credited the hearings with surfacing evidence that contributed to case buildups and ongoing investigations by agencies such as the Ombudsman, Department of Justice, Sandiganbayan, and Anti-Money Laundering Council. He said the probe was partly driven by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s call in his previous State of the Nation Address to hold erring officials accountable. Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano called for a more comprehensive approach to the investigation. He warned that focusing too heavily on the draft risks narrowing the scope of the inquiry, which he emphasized is still in progress. Cayetano noted that several senators have already reviewed the document but expressed disagreements over certain portions. "In fact, many of us have read it, and we don't agree with the report. It's not that we don't want to sign it, we just have a lot of disagreements there," he said, adding that differing views among lawmakers are part of the legislative process. Cayetano stressed that the investigation is ongoing, with more testimonies, evidence, and potential cases expected in the coming hearings. He raised concerns about early narratives surrounding the probe, saying initial claims that all questioned projects were "ghost projects" have since been qualified. "Not all of them were ghost [projects]," he said, warning that premature conclusions based on partial findings could distort the broader picture. Cayetano emphasized that the Senate inquiry should ultimately expose systemic issues. "Corruption is systemic. It is not isolated," he said.

- [4 Filipino crew members of MT Aqua 1 repatriated](#) (2026-05-01 16:08)

FOUR Filipino crew members of MT Aqua 1 returned to the country Wednesday, the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) said. On April 1, 2026, the Panama-flagged oil tanker MT Aqua 1 was struck by an Iranian cruise missile approximately 17 nautical miles north of Qatar's Ras Laffan Industrial Hub, resulting in damage above the waterline but no environmental leaks or oil spills. Despite the strike and a subsequent onboard fire, all 21 Filipino crew members remained uninjured and successfully extinguished the flames. The DMW said in a statement Friday that the four seamen arrived via an unspecified commercial flight at Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1 in Pasay City. They were the final batch of Filipino crew members to be repatriated. The four were greeted by staff of the DMW and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration. The first batch of repatriated crew members arrived April 15, followed by

another batch a week later. “A total of 21 Filipino crew members were aboard a Panama-flagged oil/product tanker that was hit by a missile near the Ras Laffan Industrial Hub in Qatar on April 1, 2026. Despite the incident, none of the crew members were injured,” the DMW said. “The government, led by the DMW, assured that the crew members will continue to receive the necessary support to help them restart their lives,” it added. The DMW said around 1,200 seamen aboard various ships have already crossed out of the Strait of Hormuz. “The DMW also continues to ensure the safety and welfare of Filipino crew members on vessels that remain in the Persian Gulf due to the closure of the said passage,” it added. ARIC JOHN SY CUA

- [Go honors Filipino workers on Labor Day](#) (2026-05-01 16:07)

SEN. Bong Go paid tribute Friday to Filipino workers as the country commemorates Labor Day. In a statement, Go recognized the vital role of workers in sustaining families, communities, and the country’s ongoing development. He highlighted the contributions of employees across various sectors, including laborers, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), transport workers, farmers, fisherfolk, informal workers, and small entrepreneurs. “This Labor Day, I salute every Filipino worker. You are the strength of our families, our communities, and our country,” Go said in Filipino. The senator emphasized that beyond symbolic recognition, workers need concrete support, particularly amid rising living costs and economic uncertainty. He underscored the importance of accessible government programs that address basic needs, healthcare, and stable livelihood opportunities — especially for vulnerable sectors that often struggle to access aid during emergencies. Go is currently advocating measures aimed at improving workers’ welfare in the 20th Congress of the Philippines. Among these is Senate Bill (SB) 175, which proposes a nationwide daily minimum wage increase of 100 pesos. The measure seeks to cushion Filipino families from the effects of inflation and the increasing cost of essential goods. Labor groups have long pushed for wage adjustments, citing that current minimum wages in several regions fall short of the estimated family living wage. Economic analysts note that while wage hikes may provide immediate relief to workers, they must be balanced with support for small businesses to mitigate potential impacts on employment. “Work is not just a job. For many Filipinos, it is a way to support their families every day. That is why we must continue to ensure that public service cares for our workers,” Go added. Labor Day in the Philippines is traditionally marked by rallies and calls from labor organizations for higher wages, job security, and stronger protections for workers’ rights.

- [NLEX moves May 4 reopening of QC road project](#) (2026-05-01 16:05)

NORTH Luzon Expressway Corp. pushed back the May 4, 2026 reopening of a road in Quezon City that would have eased traffic in the area where construction works on the NLEX-C5 project were ongoing. The Quezon City government announced that the Katipunan Kaliwa Street/Lokaria Street from Mindanao Avenue to King Alexander Street would not reopen as scheduled to allow for the four-day curing process to ensure road integrity. Under the traffic scheme, Class 1 vehicles will be allowed to pass through the affected stretch only under a stop-and-go setup. Class 1 vehicles usually include cars, vans, motorcycles, and sport utility

vehicles. Motorists passing through the area near Mindanao Avenue and King Alexander Street were advised to take alternate routes and plan their trips. Traffic enforcers will be deployed to help manage vehicular traffic, while directional signs will be placed to guide motorists. The Northlink Segment 8.2 Section 1A is the first 2-kilometer section of the China-funded NLEX-C5 project serving as an east-west 24/7 truck route to decongest Mindanao Avenue and Quirino Highway. It will add entries and exits in the Quirino Avenue area. Its construction started on Feb. 15, 2025, and was targeted for completion on Feb. 14, 2026. The NLEX-C5 North Link Project is part of the Strategic Projects under the 10-point Agenda of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC) Road to 100B Revenue by 2030.

- [11 NCR policemen sacked over ‘kidnappings’](#) (2026-05-01 16:05)

THE National Police Commission (Napolcom) has dismissed 11 police officers from the National Capital Region Police Office’s Regional Drug Enforcement Unit (RDEU-NCRPO) over alleged kidnapping cases. In a news release Friday, Napolcom said the officers were found administratively liable for two counts of grave misconduct and two counts of conduct unbecoming of a police officer. The commission identified the 11 as LtCol. Ryan Jay Orapa, Maj. Mark Phillip Almedilla, SMS Mark Anthony Manrique, SSgt. Edmon Muñoz, SSgt. Robert Allan Raz Jr., SSgt. Denar Roda, Cpl. Alric Natividad, Cpl. Reynaldo Seno Jr., Cpl. Ronald John Lanaria, Pat. Rufino Miguel Panghulan, and Pat. Develyn Tapalla. Orapa, Almedilla, Manrique, and Muñoz have been linked to the missing “sabungeros” (cockfight enthusiasts) case and were charged and dismissed from service in January. The 11 officers were accused of involvement in two abduction incidents on Feb. 17 and March 24, 2021, allegedly under the guise of anti-drug operations. The case stemmed from complaints filed on Sept. 3, 2025. “The respondents’ actions, carried out while they were in active service and acting under the color of authority, seriously dishonored the Philippine National Police (PNP) and demonstrated a corrupt and unworthy moral character incompatible with public service,” Napolcom said. Given the gravity of the violations, Napolcom imposed the maximum penalty of dismissal, with accessory penalties. Napolcom Commissioner Rafael Vicente Calinisan stressed that due process was observed in handling the cases. “May due process tayo dito sa Napolcom. Hindi natin puwedeng paghaluin ang mga kaso. Kailangan nating tingnan nang hiwa-hiwalay, base sa ebidensya (We have due process here in Napolcom. We can’t combine the cases. We have to look at them separately based on evidence),” he said.

- [SHS grads hired at Marikina job fair on Labor Day](#) (2026-05-01 16:03)

SENIOR high school graduates were among those hired on the spot during the Marikina City Labor Day job fair, with officials urging them to continue their education even after entering the workforce, on Friday, May 1. Marikina City Mayor Marjorie Ann “Maan” Teodoro said the first applicant hired during the fair was a senior high school graduate from Jesus Dela Peña National High School. She said she talked with several newly hired applicants and observed that many had not yet pursued a college education. Teodoro urged them to continue studying while working to improve their long-term career prospects. “To those hired on the spot,

congratulations. I was able to talk to many of you. Many of them are senior high school graduates. And what I always say is, go to college. Your learning should not end once you already have work,” she said. Teodoro, a former educator, said continued education helps workers expand their knowledge and enhance their skills, which can lead to better employment opportunities. She said the city established the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Marikina to provide residents with access to free college education. “That is why we established the Pamantasan to allow you to receive free college education,” she said. The Marikina City government organized the job fair, in partnership with the Department of Labor and Employment and SM Supermalls, as part of 2026 Labor Day 2026 activities. A total of 45 public and private-sector partners joined the event, which also featured a one-stop shop for government services.

- [DOTr halts onboarding of new TNVS, riders](#) (2026-05-01 16:02)

THE Department of Transportation (DOTr) has ordered an immediate suspension of onboarding for new Transport Network Vehicle Service (TNVS) and motorcycle taxi drivers after regulators uncovered widespread violations of fleet caps, prompting a broader probe into ride-hailing firms. Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez issued the directive following findings that several Transport Network Companies (TNCs) and Motorcycle Taxi Platform Providers (MTPPs) had exceeded the number of drivers allowed under government regulations. In a memorandum, Lopez instructed the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to stop all onboarding activities for new drivers and riders, except those already holding valid franchises or provisional authority. The move came after President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered an investigation into alleged abuses by ride-hailing firms, including their failure to comply with limits set on accredited drivers. Authorities said discrepancies surfaced during the distribution of government cash aid to transport workers, when the number of individuals claiming benefits exceeded the official lists submitted by companies. Subsequent checks revealed deeper irregularities, including the presence of so-called “ghost riders” — unregistered drivers included in subsidy records. The DOTr estimated about 30,000 questionable entries in four-wheel services and more than 200,000 in motorcycle taxi operations. Lopez said some firms continued onboarding drivers despite already reaching their authorized caps, effectively bypassing LTFRB rules. He also flagged reports that applicants were being charged onboarding fees ranging from P25,000 to P90,000 even without proper permits. The DOTr has likewise banned on-the-spot or same-day onboarding conducted without prior LTFRB approval, citing weak screening processes and compliance lapses. Officials said the agency is evaluating possible sanctions, including fines and other penalties, against companies found to have violated regulations. The review also covers potential accountability among regulators who may have allowed the practices to continue. Meanwhile, the DOTr and LTFRB are studying a possible amnesty program for so-called “tempo drivers” — those operating without full authorization — to help them regularize their status and continue earning a livelihood. Lopez said the suspension forms part of efforts to restore order in the ride-hailing sector, enforce franchise limits, and safeguard both drivers and commuters from risks associated with an unregulated system.

- [MOA roads to close for ‘Star Wars’ run](#) (2026-05-01 16:01)

MAJOR roads around the SM Mall of Asia complex in Pasay City will be closed overnight on Saturday, May 2, for the “Star Wars Night Run 2026,” affecting traffic flow in the area. The Pasay Traffic and Parking Management Office said the road closures would run from 10 p.m. until 4 a.m. the following day to ensure the safety of participants. Affected roads are SM MOA Blocks 16/20, Seaside Avenue, Diokno Avenue, Buendia Extension, Jalandoni Street, and Sotto Street with a zipper lane on the Philippine International Convention Center and Star City side. Portions of Roxas Boulevard heading toward Manila, as well as Atang Dela Rama Street with a zipper lane near the PICC area, will also be closed. Motorists were advised to expect congestion and take alternative routes during the six-hour closure window. Event organizers said participants claimed their race kits at the SM Mall of Asia Main Atrium ahead of the run, with no distribution allowed on race day. The themed night run, organized by Runrio, is known for drawing runners in costume and staging activities around the MOA bay area.

- [Sonza arrest ‘warning’ to fake news peddlers](#) (2026-05-01 16:00)

MALACAÑANG on Friday said the arrest of former broadcaster Jay Sonza should serve as a warning to those spreading fake news. In a statement, Acting Presidential Communications Secretary Dave Gomez said the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) acted promptly in filing charges and arresting Sonza over posts with alleged false information about the health of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. “It shows the government’s continuing effort to guard the truth, protect the public from deception and preserve a free but responsible democratic space,” Gomez said. He said the case sent a strong signal to those spreading false information online. “Misinformation undermines public trust, endangers lives and will be met with swift, lawful consequences,” he said. Gomez said the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) would continue its crackdown on fake news peddlers to ensure they were held accountable under the law. “We will continue to work with law enforcement, the media and responsible online platforms to identify, investigate and prosecute those who disseminate falsehoods,” Gomez said. The PCO recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Information and Communication Technology to stop the spread of fake news. The PCO has already submitted several cases of fake news to the DOJ for prosecution. According to NBI Director Melvin Matibag, Sonza was arrested Thursday night after being charged with violating Article 154 of the Revised Penal Code, in relation to the Cybercrime Prevention Act, for spreading a fake medical bulletin about the president. Sonza, a veteran media figure, had yet to issue a statement. In April, Gomez personally filed complaints against those behind the Facebook page “Malasakit News Pilipinas” for allegedly posting false stories about a supposed energy lockdown while the country was under a state of energy emergency.

- [Expanded private education subsidy eyes 2.4M beneficiaries](#) (2026-05-01 16:00)

THE Department of Education (DepEd) will continue providing subsidies for underprivileged learners in private schools for the upcoming school year, with more than 2.4 million beneficiaries targeted under the Expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in

Private Education (E-Gastpe). Nearly 990,000 junior high school students will be covered by the Educational Service Contracting (ESC) program, while around 1.47 million senior high school learners will benefit from the Senior High School Voucher Program (SHS-VP) for school year (SY) 2026-2027. Education Secretary Sonny Angara said the program will allow families to enroll their children in private schools, easing financial pressure while helping to decongest public classrooms. “President Bongbong Marcos’ priority is to ease the burden of Filipino families when it comes to tuition and other school fees,” Angara said, as quoted in a news release Friday. “A child’s education should not stop just because of lack of money. Government assistance should reach the families who need it most. These subsidies are meant to keep children in school,” he added. DepEd has also rolled out revised guidelines for the E-Gastpe, which now unifies the implementation of ESC, SHS-VP, and the Teachers’ Salary Subsidy under a single framework. The new rules place stronger emphasis on prioritizing learners from disadvantaged backgrounds, including those in low-income households, Indigenous peoples communities, and geographically isolated areas — groups that are often most vulnerable to dropping out due to financial constraints. While the bulk of beneficiaries are learners, DepEd said support for private school teachers through the TSS, which has increased from P18,000 to P24,000, remains part of the overall system to sustain education delivery, particularly in schools serving subsidized students. Angara said the changes respond to a persistent problem: The cost of staying in school — including transport, uniforms, and private school fees — continues to strain household budgets, particularly among families just above the poverty line. The department also linked the subsidy program to broader system pressures, noting that congestion in public schools often forces students into overcrowded classrooms, affecting learning outcomes. By supporting enrollment in private schools, the government not only redistributes students but also preserves education quality across both sectors. The revised policy introduces a more systematic targeting approach, including stricter screening and monitoring systems to ensure subsidies are directed to learners who need them most, particularly those from low-income and vulnerable sectors. DepEd maintained that the role of private schools remains critical in this effort, describing the partnership as a practical way to expand access without overextending public infrastructure. The updated guidelines under DepEd Order 11, s. 2026, will take effect in SY 2026–2027.

- [NTF-ELCAC backs US warning on alleged NPA recruitment of Americans](#) (2026-05-01 15:27)

The National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) on Friday welcomed a security alert issued by the United States Embassy in Manila warning American citizens about alleged recruitment efforts by the New People’s Army (NPA). In a statement, the task force described the advisory as a “timely and significant” development, saying it marked one of the first explicit acknowledgments by US authorities that American nationals may be drawn into activities linked to the Communist Party of the Philippines–New People’s Army–National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF). The US Embassy advisory reiterated that the NPA is designated as a foreign terrorist organization by both the United States and the Philippine governments. It also warned that such groups “actively recruit Americans to

participate directly in terrorist activities and/or provide financial support.” NTF-ELCAC said the alert reinforced long-standing concerns about recruitment and alleged links between insurgent groups and some civil society organizations. The Embassy, in its notice, cautioned that certain non-governmental organizations may have affiliations with armed groups, though it did not name specific entities. The advisory urged Americans in the Philippines and elsewhere to comply with local laws and avoid high-risk areas, particularly rural and mountainous locations in Leyte, Mindoro, Negros, and Samar. These areas, it noted, have seen recent clashes between government forces and suspected NPA fighters. It also cited a reported April 19 incident in which two Americans were killed during an armed encounter, warning that individuals in proximity to NPA elements face risks of arrest, injury, or death. The task force expressed condolences over the deaths, including those of US nationals identified as Lyle Prijoles and Kai Dana-Rene Sorem. It also acknowledged the statement of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA), which called for clarity, justice, and respect for the dignity of all lives affected. NTF-ELCAC said the incident highlights the risks posed by what it described as “deceptive recruitment and ideological manipulation,” adding that foreign nationals are not immune to being drawn into violent extremism. The group backed the Embassy’s directive for individuals to avoid affiliating with insurgent or terrorist organizations, stressing that the warning applies to both foreign nationals and Filipinos. It added that the advisory highlights what it described as the transnational dimension of the insurgency, involving recruitment and support networks beyond Philippine borders. The NTF-ELCAC called for continued vigilance and cooperation, saying recruitment into armed groups leads to violence and exploitation.

- [No winners in Ultra Lotto 6/58, Mega Lotto 6/45 draws for May 1](#) (2026-05-01 15:13)

There were no winners in the Ultra Lotto 6/58 and Mega Lotto 6/45 draws on Friday night, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said. The winning combination for the Ultra Lotto 6/58 was 53-37-16-45-05-29, with a jackpot prize of P75,000,000.00. There were also no winners in the Mega Lotto 6/45, which had the winning combination 19-08-23-41-04-11 and a jackpot prize of P15,000,000.00.

- [PH to donate 40 generator sets to Ukraine as humanitarian aid](#) (2026-05-01 13:51)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines is donating 40 generator sets to Ukraine as humanitarian aid as some of the country's infrastructure were damaged in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. Visiting Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Olexandr Mischenko on Friday expressed gratitude to Sen. Erwin Tulfo for his assistance to supply Ukraine with 40 generator units. In an interview with select group of reporters, Mischenko said the generator units would be used “for heating in time when Russia shell our critical infrastructure.” Ukrainian Ambassador to Manila Yuliia Fediv said the embassy and Tulfo's office are “finalizing the process of shipment.” “So, hopefully within the second half of May they will be leaving Manila for Ukraine. So, we are really thankful as a country for this generous support,” Fediv said. “And it's a good timing because it will arrive end of summer. So, it's beginning of autumn when the cold season will start,” she added. Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro met with Mischenko wherein

they held the second political consultations between the two countries."We hope to continue the positive trajectory of our bilateral relations and move forward concrete initiatives in sectors of mutual interest," Lazaro wrote on X.

- [SHS graduates to benefit from job fair "green lanes"](#) (2026-05-01 13:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) have opened dedicated green lanes for Senior High School graduates at the government's Labor Day job fairs to accelerate their entry in the workforce. The collaboration of the two agencies, according to DepEd, aims to provide SHS graduates with immediate employment pathways to help more Filipino families rise out of poverty. Education Secretary Sonny Angara said that the initiative fulfills the mandate of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to uplift the lives of the underprivileged. "It is our duty to bring government services and genuine opportunities closer to our students, in line with President Bongbong Marcos's dream of lifting every Filipino family out of poverty," Angara said. The green lanes are part of the ongoing job fairs held by DOLE in 70 sites across the country with over 230,000 employment opportunities. The strategy was first showcased at the Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair (BPSF) rollout last March, where over 1,400 SHS and Alternative Learning System (ALS) graduates were hired on the spot.

- [Labor day rallies proceed peacefully - PNP](#) (2026-05-01 13:28)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Friday provided an initial assessment of the nationwide observance of Labor Day that as of 9 AM, activities remain generally peaceful and orderly, with no major untoward incidents recorded across monitored areas. Initial reports show that at least nine rallies were held in different parts of the country, drawing an estimated 3,410 participants. Of these, eight are ongoing while one has already concluded. Activities largely centered on labor-related concerns, including wage adjustments, fuel prices, and worker protection, reflecting the continuing dialogue between sectors on socio-economic issues. More than 106,000 police personnel were deployed nationwide supported by force multipliers and partner agencies. Police presence has been focused on maintaining visibility, managing traffic, securing key entry points, and ensuring orderly conduct of public assemblies. Coordination with rally organizers remains active to uphold the right to peaceful assembly while keeping communities safe. PNP Chief, Police General Jose Melencio C. Nartatez Jr., commended the public and participating groups for their cooperation. "As of now, our Labor Day activities nationwide are peaceful and orderly. We are thankful to our countrymen for being," he said. He added, "The PNP will remain on full alert throughout the day. We will continue to watch—not just to ensure security, but to support the safe and peaceful expression of our people's concerns."

- [SHS grads hired on Labor Day at Marikina job fair, urged to pursue studies](#) (2026-05-01 13:20)

MANILA, Philippines — Senior high school graduates were among those hired on the spot during the Marikina City Labor Day job fair, with officials urging them to continue their education even after entering the workforce, on Friday, May 1. Marikina City Mayor Marjorie Ann “Maan” Teodoro said the first applicant hired during the fair was a senior high school graduate from Jesus Dela Peña National High School. She said she was able to speak with several newly hired applicants and observed that many had not yet pursued college education. Teodoro urged them to continue studying while working to improve their long-term career prospects. “To those hired on the spot, congratulations. I was able to talk to many of you. Many of them are senior high school graduates. And what I always say is, go to college. Your learning should not end once you already have work,” she said. Teodoro, a former educator, said continued education helps workers expand their knowledge and enhance their skills, which can lead to better employment opportunities. She said the city established the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Marikina to provide residents with access to free college education. “That is why we established the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Marikina to give you the opportunity to receive free college education,” she said. The job fair was organized by the Marikina City government in partnership with the Department of Labor and Employment and SM Supermalls as part of Labor Day activities. A total of 45 public and private sector partners joined the event, which also featured a one-stop shop for government services. The Marikina job fair is one of 18 sites across the National Capital Region for the Labor Day celebration led by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

• [Ukraine 'unhappy' with crude importation from Russia, but understands Philippines' situation](#) (2026-05-01 13:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Olexandr Mischenko said Ukraine is “not happy” with some countries’ move to import crude oil from Russia amid the oil crisis but the Philippines managed to explain its situation. The Philippines has asked the United States for an extension of a sanctions waiver to allow it to buy more Russian oil and petroleum products, Energy Secretary Sharon Garin recently said. “Of course, we are not happy that some country uses Russian crude oil. We understand specific situation,” Mischenko said in an interview with a select group of reporters. “We reiterate that any cooperation with aggressor, it brings the possibility to prolong the existence of this aggressor, because Russian gain money through this oil only for war, that means that you supply aggressor,” he added. Mischenko said Ukraine asked their partners, or the countries which support Ukraine “to look for diversity and to escape from dependence with Russia because if you have deal with aggressor, you became theoretically part of this situation, supporting.” “But fortunately, the leadership of Philippines fully understand the situation and they’re looking for other possibilities,” Mischenko said. “We understand that it is a small quantity. But nevertheless, as I mentioned, Russia tried to use conflict in Gulf to increase benefit and use it only for war with Ukraine,” he added. Garin said the Department of Energy has coordinated with the Department of Foreign Affairs for the request of an extension or another window for the Philippines to import oil from Russia. “They have communicated this with our ambassador in the US. We are awaiting their response, but we are very positive on

getting this other window,” she said. The Philippines’ sole oil refinery, Petron, secured nearly 2.5 million barrels last month after seeing at least four million barrels in shipments canceled since the start of the US-Israeli war on Iran. Washington in March eased some sanctions tied to Russia’s war on Ukraine to allow countries to purchase Russian oil that was already at sea until April 11 to stabilize energy markets, following the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway for the world’s crude trade.

- [Chinese forces jam media drone ops in Pagasa Island - report](#) (2026-05-01 13:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Drone operations by members of the media as well as volunteers were reportedly jammed by Chinese forces as Atin Ito Coalition makes its fourth voyage to Pagasa Island across the West Philippine Sea (WPS) from April 30 to May 5. Atin Ito, a civilian-led coalition asserting Philippine sovereignty and conducting supply missions to the WPS, made a series of Facebook posts detailing how they were shadowed by Chinese maritime forces all throughout their trip. “Pati ba naman ang airspace natin, inaagaw ng Tsina?” (Is our airspace being invaded by China as well?), Atin Ito said. “Chinese presence is reportedly jamming drone operations used by media and volunteers of the Atin Ito during their 4th civilian mission to the West Philippine Sea. Currently, the civilian mission is 310 nautical miles away from Pag-asa Island. “We are still well within our EEZ (exclusive economic zone), yet China’s illegal presence is now felt not only in our seas but also in our airspace,” they said. In an earlier post, the Atin Ito coalition said that at 7:20 am, they were being shadowed by a Chinese Coast Guard vessel (3103) about 3.2 nautical miles away from their vessel MV Kapitan Felix Oca. “This mission sends a clear message to Asean leaders: the West Philippine Sea is an integral part of our nation and a zone of peace and solidarity, not one of military aggression,” David said aboard the vessel MV Kapitan Felix Oca. “It is also an act of bayanihan, as we extend much-needed support to the residents of Pag-asa Island and its fishers, who are reeling from the effects of the global oil crisis,” David said. The advanced party, led by ML Chowee, has already arrived at the island and reported encountering a Chinese vessel bearing bow number 525, believed by the crew to be a Chinese navy ship estimated to be about an hour away from Pag-asa Island. The mission also coincided with the Multinational Maritime Events happening in the WPS as part of the ongoing Exercise Baliaktan 41-2026 which heavily focuses on defending the Philippine territory from external threats. Present during the send-off were Akbayan Reps. Perci Cendaña and Dadah Kiram Ismula, as well as former Mamamayang Liberal Party-list Rep. Erin Tañada. Atin Ito will also hold a symbolic jet ski flag ride - a famous promise of former President Rodrigo Duterte to assert Philippine sovereignty amid continuing tensions in the disputed waters. “The promised jet ski ride that never happened—we will be the ones to fulfill it. Where one Mindanaoan failed and betrayed the West Philippine Sea, I, another Mindanaoan and a woman, will step forward to deliver,” Ismula said. .

- [Pasay to close MOA roads for 'Star Wars' night run](#) (2026-05-01 07:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Major roads around the SM Mall of Asia complex in Pasay City will be closed overnight on Saturday, May 2, for the “Star Wars Night Run 2026,” affecting traffic flow

in the area. The Pasay Traffic and Parking Management Office said the road closures would run from 10 p.m. until 4 a.m. the following day to ensure the safety of participants. Affected roads are SM MOA Blocks 16/20, Seaside Avenue, Diokno Avenue, Buendia Extension, Jalandoni Street, and Sotto Street with a zipper lane on the Philippine International Convention Center and Star City side. Portions of Roxas Boulevard heading toward Manila, as well as Atang Dela Rama Street with a zipper lane near the PICC area, will also be closed. Motorists were advised to expect congestion and take alternative routes during the six-hour closure window. Event organizers said participants claimed their race kits at the SM Mall of Asia Main Atrium ahead of the run, with no distribution allowed on race day. The themed night run, organized by Runrio, is known for drawing runners in costume and staging activities around the MOA bay area.

- [Arrest of ex-broadcast journalist Jay Sonza should serve as warning to fake news peddlers](#)
(2026-05-01 07:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Friday welcomed the arrest of former broadcaster Jay Sonza, saying it should serve as a warning to those spreading fake news. In a statement, Acting Presidential Communications Secretary Dave Gomez said the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) acted promptly in filing charges and effecting Sonza's arrest over posts alleging false information about the health of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Gomez said the NBI's actions showed the administration's firm and lawful response to alleged online abuse, especially where false information was published and circulated as legitimate news. "It shows the government's continuing effort to guard the truth, protect the public from deception, and preserve a free but responsible democratic space," Gomez said. Gomez said the case sent a strong signal to those spreading false information online. "Misinformation undermines public trust, endangers lives, and will be met with swift, lawful consequences," the Palace official said. "Public discourse must remain free, but it must also be truthful, fair, and orderly. Speak freely, but not falsely," he added.

- [Govt stops onboarding of new TNVS, motorcycle taxi drivers over cap violations](#)
(2026-05-01 06:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez has ordered an immediate halt to the onboarding of new drivers and riders by Transport Network Companies (TNCs) and Motorcycle Taxi Platform Providers (MTPPs) after several firms were found to have exceeded government-imposed limits. The directive came following reports that some companies had gone beyond the maximum number of accredited drivers, leading to the emergence of so-called "tempo drivers" — individuals operating without proper authorization under the system. In a memorandum, Lopez directed the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to enforce the suspension of onboarding activities for Transport Network Vehicle Service (TNVS) and motorcycle taxi drivers, except for those with valid franchises. The order also prohibits on-the-spot and same-day onboarding activities conducted without prior approval from the LTFRB. Lopez said the Department of Transportation (DOTr) is studying possible penalties and fines against TNCs and MTPPs that will be proven to have violated onboarding

limits. The DOTr has yet to release details on the number of companies involved and the extent of the alleged violations.

- [Controlling inflation most urgent concern of Filipinos in 1st Quarter — survey](#) (2026-05-01 05:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Nearly half of Filipinos say that controlling inflation is the most urgent national concern in the first quarter of 2026, according to a survey by OCTA Research. In its Tugon ng Masa survey conducted from March 19-25, 45 percent cited inflation, followed by increasing wages of workers at 33 percent, fighting graft and corruption in government at 26 percent, and access to affordable food such as rice, vegetables, and meat at 24 percent. Other concerns include reducing poverty at 20 percent and providing free quality education at 17 percent. However, OCTA noted that the findings reflected household conditions prior to the inflationary effects of the oil price shock due to the war in the Middle East and stated that these findings should be understood as a pre-shock baseline before high costs exerted pressure on household welfare, purchasing power, and food security. Inflation is the highest concern among respondents in the Visayas at 54 percent and Mindanao at 51 percent, as well as socioeconomic class E at 56 percent and ABC at 54 percent. Meanwhile, wages are also among the highest concerns among respondents in the Visayas, National Capital Region and Mindanao, with Visayas respondents the highest at 46 percent. NCR respondents had the highest concern about corruption in government at 36 percent, while Visayas led in food affordability at 32 percent. OCTA said that these results suggested that public sentiment in the first quarter of 2026 were shaped primarily by economic strain and the rising cost of living. "Inflation has once again emerged as the dominant national issue, indicating that day-to-day affordability has become the most immediate pressure facing Filipino households," it said. Meanwhile, 67 percent of respondents said that staying healthy was their most urgent personal concern, followed by having enough to eat daily at 46 percent, having a secure and well-paying job at 42 percent, having savings at 41 percent, and finishing schooling or being able to provide schooling for children at 39 percent. The survey had 1,200 respondents and has a nationwide margin of error of plus or minus three percent.

- [Workers demand P1,200 wage hike, tax relief in Labor Day protests](#) (2026-05-01 02:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Labor groups and human rights organizations staged their annual Labor Day protest in Manila on Friday, calling on the government to raise the minimum wage to P1,200 and to scrap the value-added tax (VAT) and excise tax on fuel amid the ongoing oil crisis. The groups, led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and Kilusang Mayo Uno, converged along España boulevard to unite for the mass action. During the protest, Gabriela Women's Party Representative Sarah Elago told The Manila Times that sustaining mass action was important, noting that many human rights gains were achieved through collective protests.

- [Diesel, gasoline prices up next week over supply worries](#) (2026-05-01 02:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Diesel and gasoline prices are expected to increase again next week due to supply worries as a result of the war between US and Iran, local oil industry sources said on Friday. They said that diesel prices would go up by around P1 to P2 per liter, while gasoline will increase by around P2 to P3 per liter. These estimates are based on the 3-day trading of Mean of Platts, Singapore, the pricing basis of refined goods in Southeast Asia. Sources had said that geopolitical risks were being cited as a reason behind the rise in oil prices as the Strait of Hormuz remained closed and that both US and Iran have yet to reach an agreement. Diesel prices dropped this week by P12.94 per liter, while gasoline prices slightly went up by P0.53 per liter.

- [Philippines, Japan forge energy cooperation amid global crisis](#) (2026-05-01 01:41)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and former Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio reaffirmed their commitment to deepen cooperation on energy security and accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, as global instability continued to disrupt supply systems. Kishida, now serving as Supreme Adviser to the Parliamentary Association of the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC), paid a courtesy call on the president in Malacañang on Thursday. During the meeting, Marcos stressed the growing urgency of energy security, citing the war in the Middle East that continued to affect the global energy system. "It has become especially pressing and critical with all of the events that are transpiring in the Middle East and the effects that it has had on the entire energy system of the world," the President said. "We hope that we can continue our work in moving our countries away from fossil fuels and absorb more of the renewables technology that we have been trying to shift to," he added. For his part, Kishida reaffirmed Japan's commitment to advancing the initiative of AZEC, which he proposed in 2022 to promote regional decarbonization and energy cooperation across Southeast Asia and the broader Asian region. He thanked Marcos for participating in the AZEC Plus Online Summit held last April 15 and emphasized the importance of strengthening economic and energy resilience with the Philippines. "We would like to promote cooperation with the Philippines on economic and energy resilience," Kishida said. Kishida, who is in the Philippines from April 30 to May 2 as special envoy of the Prime Minister, will participate in a series of high-level engagements focused on advancing AZEC initiatives and strengthening Philippines-Japan bilateral relations.

- [Marcos vows better jobs, worker protection on Labor Day](#) (2026-05-01 01:11)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. vowed to expand job opportunities and strengthen labor protections, as he led the nation on Labor Day in paying tribute to the contributions of Filipino workers to the development of the country. In his message on Friday, Marcos called the Filipino workforce the "backbone of our Republic" who continued to drive the country forward despite economic challenges and changing industries. "Today, we honor every member of our workforce whose hands carry the weight of our shared future—whether at sunrise, beneath the noonday heat, or in the long hours when the nation sleeps," Marcos said. "Even as technology advances and industries transform, one truth endures: it is the Filipino

worker who drives the Philippines forward and keeps the world in motion," he added. For the part of the government, the President said his administration was working to generate jobs and providing more opportunities for success. "Together, let us fulfill this promise by fostering an environment that respects honest labor, safeguards livelihoods, and ensures that progress is accessible to ordinary families," Marcos said. "As we face changing economic pressures, rest assured that this administration stands firm in defending the dignity of every Filipino by creating more and better jobs, boosting worker protection, and broadening pathways for all to succeed," he added.

- [PH, Singapore ink landmark carbon credits deal](#) (2026-05-01 00:59)

MANILA, Philippines – The Philippines and Singapore have formally signed a landmark agreement creating a legal framework for the generation and transfer of carbon credits, the Singapore Embassy in Manila announced Thursday evening. The embassy said project developers could soon leverage this deal to develop high-quality carbon credit projects that were aligned with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Carbon credits are units obtained from entities that remove or reduce greenhouse gas emissions. One tradable carbon credit equals one ton of carbon dioxide or the equivalent amount of a different greenhouse gas reduced. The United Nations Climate Change said companies or individuals could purchase and use carbon credits to compensate for their greenhouse gas emissions or to simply support climate action. The Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry said adjusted carbon credits authorized under the deal could be used to offset up to 5 percent of a company's taxable emissions. Singapore, it said, would then channel 5 percent share of proceeds from authorized carbon credits towards climate adaptation measures in the Philippines. Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna and Singaporean Minister for Sustainability and the Environment Grace Fu signed the deal during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Climate Week in Manila on April 30, in a virtual ceremony. Cuna said Manila's entry into this agreement is a "strategic decision," and is grounded on national priorities, development goals, and "commitment to global climate action." Fu said the deal signals the strong partnership between Singapore and the Philippines, and their commitment to develop and implement regional and bilateral initiatives. "This Agreement will deepen collaboration between our two countries, channel climate finance towards impactful projects in the Philippines and unlock new opportunities in carbon markets for businesses and local communities," she said. "Together, Asean can lead the way in building a low-carbon future that delivers tangible benefits across the region," she added. Singaporean Ambassador to the Philippines Constance See added that there was "strong interest" from Singapore companies in the Philippines, and that the embassy looks to work closely with Filipino partners to bring good projects and investment to market. "The Philippines is one of the most mega-biodiverse countries in the world. It is richly endowed with natural capital, and the Philippine government has shown clear leadership and commitment to climate action. The Philippines is exceptionally well-positioned to be a major player in the global carbon market," she said. "It is especially meaningful that this signing comes during the

Philippines' Asean Chairship, which underscores the Philippines' leadership on climate action issues and the region's growing focus on practical cooperation in sustainability and resilient growth," she added. Projects facilitated under the deal, the embassy said, would create more jobs in local communities, and drive innovation in the growing carbon market ecosystem. The embassy said the process for authorization of projects and eligible carbon crediting methodologies under the deal would be announced in due course.

- [NLEX pushes back May 4 reopening of Quezon City road project](#) (2026-05-01 00:14)

MANILA, Philippines — North Luzon Expressway Corporation pushed back the May 4, 2026 reopening of a road in Quezon City that would have eased traffic in the area where construction works on the NLEX-C5 project were ongoing. The Quezon City government announced that the Katipunan Kaliwa Street/Lokaria Street from Mindanao Avenue to King Alexander Street would not reopen to the public as scheduled to give way to the curing process that would take about four more days to ensure road integrity. Under the traffic scheme, Class 1 vehicles will be allowed to pass through the affected stretch only under a stop-and-go setup. Class 1 vehicles usually include cars, vans, motorcycles and sport utility vehicles. Motorists passing through the area near Mindanao Avenue and King Alexander Street were advised to take alternate routes and plan their trips ahead. Traffic enforcers will be deployed to help manage the flow of vehicles, while directional signs will be placed to guide motorists. The Northlink Segment 8.2 Section 1A is the first 2-kilometer section of the China-funded NLEX-C5 project serving as an east-west 24/7 truck route to decongest Mindanao Avenue and Quirino Highway. It will add entries and exit at the Quirino Ave. area. Its construction started on Feb. 15, 2025 and was supposed to have been completed on Feb. 14, 2026. The NLEX-C5 North Link Project is part of the Strategic Projects under the 10-point Agenda of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC) Road to 100B Revenue by 2030.